

return to the "battlefield." Previous to this incident, the Premier, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, in his address of welcome, had given especial attention to the Russian crisis, closing with a sudden access of enthusiasm in which he shouted: "La Douma est morte! Vive la Douma!" ("The Russian parliament is dead! Long live the Russian parliament!"), upon which the 500 delegates rose to their feet, and a storm of cheering continued for a couple of minutes. The conservative press has characterized the Premier's action, in thus taking sides in a foreign controversy, as "a gross blunder." The liberal organs speak of it as a blend of high courage and deep caution, nothing over which diplomacy can stumble.

+

The especial subject of discussion at the conference was the proposed model treaty of arbitration offered at the meeting of the Union last year at Brussels (vol. vii, p. 342), by the American delegates, and left during the interim in the hands of a commission. The commission offered the model treaty, with some amendments, to the Union for adoption, with a recommendation to the Powers that when arbitration is impossible, recourse should be had, singly or jointly, to the mediation of a third Power before declaring war. William J. Bryan, who was a member of the conference by invitation, offered an amendment to the commission's report, saying that he did so "that there shall be no more shedding of human blood." On the session of the following day Mr. Bryan's amendment was adopted in slightly different form from that in which it was offered, reading as follows:

If a disagreement should arise which is not included in those to be submitted to arbitration the contracting parties shall not resort to any act of hostility before they separately or jointly invite, as the case may necessitate, the formation of an international commission of inquiry or mediation of one or more friendly Powers, this requisition to take place, if necessary, in accordance with Article VIII. of The Hague convention providing for a peaceful settlement of international conflicts.

In speaking to the amended resolution, Mr. Bryan said that his

amendment was intended to widen the scope of arbitration so as to include questions of national honor, the chances being a hundred to one that the proposed investigation of facts also would settle any question of national honor. If the hand of war could be stayed till the conscience awakened, wars would become more remote. The amendment therefore was a long step in the direction of peace.

Mr. Bryan's speech is reported to have aroused great enthusiasm.

+ +

#### The Pan-American Conference.

While the Interparliamentary Union was holding the first session of its present conference, the third Pan-American Conference, composed of American republics, was opened at Rio Janeiro, Brazil. The first of these conferences was held in Washington in October, 1889, in accordance with a plan for the development of close relations between the governments of North, Central and South America, conceived by James G. Blaine, then Secretary of State. Among other subjects discussed at the first confer-

ence were arbitration; the survey for the intercontinental railway, now nearing completion; provisions for uniformity of customs regulations, and reciprocity. A result of that conference was the creation at Washington of the Bureau of American Republics, of which the late Clinton Furbish was the most noted director. The second conference was held in the City of Mexico in 1901-2, and brought about agreements on the basis of The Hague instruments (vol. vii, p. 41). Prominent on the program for the discussions of the present conference is what has come to be known as the "Drago Doctrine" (vol. v, pp. 577, 580), from its exponent, Dr. Luis M. Drago, a learned publicist of Argentina. Reduced to its simplest terms, this doctrine is stated to be a declaration that no nation has a right forcibly to undertake to collect debts owing to its citizens by another nation. And the proposition before the Pan-American conference which it is asked to submit to the great Hague tribunal is to what extent, if at all, the use of force is justifiable in the collection of such debts.

+

At the first session of this conference, held in the evening of the 23d, Joaquim Nabuco, Ambassador of Brazil to the United States, was chosen permanent president of the congress; and on the following day Baron de Rio-Branco, the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Secretary Elihu F. Root, of the United States, were elected honorary presidents.

+ +

#### Peace in Central America.

The sudden little war between Guatemala, Salvador and Honduras, which we reported last week (p. 369), has been brought to a close. A treaty of peace between the three states was signed on the 20th on the United States cruiser Marblehead on the high seas off the coast of Guatemala. Following is a condensation of the principal articles of the agreement:

Article 1. Peace established; withdrawal of armies within three days; disarmament in eight days.

Art. 2. Exchange of prisoners; the release of political prisoners; general amnesty recommended.

Art. 3. Vigilance of emigrados to prevent abuse of asylum.

Art. 4. To negotiate treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation within two months.

Art. 5. Any difficulties over treaty and all future concrete complaints between the three countries shall be submitted to arbitration by the President of the United States and the President of Mexico.

Art. 6. This treaty made with the moral sanction of the mediating nations and others assisting at the conference—Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Press reports state that the recognition of the articles by Costa Rica and Nicaragua as constructive parties to the peace conference is regarded by the State Department as being very significant, in that it really makes all five Central American governments parties to the peace negotiations.

+ +

#### Labor in American Politics.

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at Washington on the 22d, a decisive step was taken with a view to throwing the influence of organized labor into political contests. The action of the council was based upon

the following resolution adopted at the Nashville Convention of the Federation of Labor in 1897:

Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor most firmly and unequivocally favors the independent use of the ballot by the trade unionists and workmen, united regardless of party, that we may elect men from our own ranks to make new laws and administer them along the lines laid down in the legislative demands of the American Federation of Labor, and at the same time secure an impartial judiciary that will not govern us by arbitrary injunctions of the courts, nor act as the pliant tools of corporate wealth.

Resolved, That as our efforts are centered against all forms of industrial slavery and economic wrong, we must also direct our utmost energies to remove all forms of political servitude and party slavery, to the end that the working people may act as a unit at the polls at every election.

Pursuant to these resolutions, the council issues a circular appealing to organized labor throughout the country to resort to the ballot for self-protection. The circular explains:

At times we have met with partial success, yet within the past few years claims and promises made in platforms or on the hustings by political parties and politicians, and especially by the present dominant party, have been neither justified nor performed. Little attention has been paid to the enactment of laws prepared by us and presented to Congress for the relief of those wrongs and the attainment of those rights to which labor and the common people are justly entitled and which are essentially necessary for their welfare. Several Presidents of the United States have, in their messages to Congress, urged the passage of equitable legislation in behalf of the working people, but Congress has been entirely preoccupied looking after the interests of vast corporations and predatory wealth. Congressmen and Senators in their frenzied rush after the almighty dollar have been indifferent or hostile to the rights of man. They have had no time and as little inclination to support the reasonable labor measures the enactment of which we have urged, and which contained beneficent features for all our people, without an obnoxious provision to anyone. Patience ceased to be a virtue, and on March 21, 1906, the representatives of labor presented a bill of grievances to the President and those responsible for legislation or the failure of legislation in Congress, reciting the failure or refusal of the party in power to adopt or enforce legislation in the interests of the tolling millions of our country.

After quoting from the document mentioned above as having been submitted to the President and Congress (p. 31), the statement that "if perchance you may not heed us, we shall appeal to the conscience and support of our fellow-citizens," the circular proceeds:

The relief asked for has not been granted. Congress has turned a deaf ear to the voice of the masses of our people; and, true to our declaration, we now appeal to the working people, aye, to all the American people, unitedly to demonstrate their determination that this Republic of ours shall continue to be of, for and by the people, rather than of, for and by the almighty dollar. The tolling masses of our country are as much, if not more, interested in good government than our fellow citizens in other walks of life. In line with the contention herein stated, the American Federation of Labor made its declaration of political policy as already quoted above. And in line therewith we hope, and have the right to expect, to arouse the citizenship of our common country, interested in good government, to the apathy or hostility of the party in power to the real interests of the people, so that men more honest, faithful and progressive may be elected as the people's representatives. Attention is

called not only to Congressional and legislative indifference and hostility to the interests of labor, but also to the interests of the large mass of all our people. The press for months has been burdened with exposures of the corruption and graft in high circles. The great insurance companies, the trusts, the corporations, the so-called captains of industry, have indeed become the owners of the legislators of our country. Public officials, many of whom have the cry of "stop thief" nearest the tip of the tongue, have been elected through these very agencies and the contributions from them. If it has come to a condition in this, the greatest and wealthiest nation on earth, that the almighty dollar is to be worshiped to the extent of forgetting principle, conscience, uprightness and justice, the time has arrived for labor and its friends to raise their voices in condemnation of such degeneracy, and to invite all reform forces to join with it in relegating indifference to the peoples' interests, corruption and graft to political oblivion; to raise the standard of legislation by the election of sincere, progressive and honest men, who, while worshiping money less, will honor conscience, justice and humanity more.



Following are the specific recommendations which the executive council of the Federation puts forth in the circular quoted from above, namely:

We recommend that central bodies and local unions proceed without delay by the election of delegates to meet in conference, or convention, to formulate plans to further the interests of this movement, and in accordance with the plan herein outlined at the proper time and in the proper manner nominate candidates who will unquestionably stand for the enactment into law of labor and progressive measures.

The first concern of all should be the positive defeat of those who have been hostile or indifferent to the just demands of labor. A stinging rebuke to them will benefit not only the toilers but the people of the entire country.

Wherever both parties ignore labor's legislative demands a straight labor candidate should be nominated, so that honest men may have the opportunity in exercising their franchise to vote according to their conscience instead of being compelled either to refrain from voting or to vote for the candidate and the party they must in their innermost souls despise.

Where a Congressman or State legislator has proven himself a true friend to the rights of labor he should be supported and no candidate nominated against him.

In conclusion, the circular advises that—

This movement must not degenerate into a scramble for office. It should be a determined effort free, absolutely, from partisanship of every name and character, to secure the legislation we deem necessary and essential to the welfare and happiness of all our people. As the present objects of this movement are purely in the line of legislation, all efforts should be concentrated upon the election of members of Congress and the various State legislatures. To make this—our movement—the most effective, the utmost care should be taken to nominate only such union men whose known intelligence, honesty and faithfulness are conspicuous. They should be nominated as straight labor representatives and stand and be supported as such by union men and their friends and sympathizers, irrespective of previous political affiliation. Wherever it is apparent that an entirely independent labor candidate can not be elected, efforts should be made to secure such support by indorsement of candidates of the minority party in the districts and of such other progressive elements as will insure the election of labor representatives.

This appeal is signed by the following officers of

the American Federation of Labor: President Samuel Gompers, First Vice-President James Duncan, Second Vice-President John Mitchell, Third Vice-President James O'Connell, Fourth Vice-President Max Morris, Fifth Vice-President Dennis A. Hayes, Sixth Vice-President Daniel J. Keefe, Seventh Vice-President William D. Huber, Eighth Vice-President Joseph F. Valentine, Secretary Frank Morrison and Treasurer John B. Lennon. Samuel Gompers, Secretary Frank Morrison and James O'Connell have been appointed a labor representation committee to manage the work of the campaign.

+ +

#### Republican Politics.

After a conference with President Roosevelt at Oyster Bay on the 23d, Republican leaders of national reputation have decided, according to reports published in Republican papers, to go before the country on a "stand pat" platform in the coming Congressional campaign. This policy, it is stated, will govern the preparation of the Republican campaign book, and the cry of "Stand pat!" will soon resound from the stump in Massachusetts, Iowa, Wisconsin and other sections of the country in which a tendency of Republicans away from protection has been exhibited. Speaker Cannon was quoted in the dispatches, when asked at Oyster Bay for an explicit statement of the party's plans, as saying: "What will the Republican party do? What can it do but stand on its reputation?"

+

In Ohio the Republican Central Committee decided on the 18th to hold the State convention of the party at Dayton on the 11th and 12th of September. The committee selected as temporary chairman Ex-Governor Myron T. Herrick.

+ +

#### Democratic Politics.

The Democratic State committee of Ohio decided on the 19th to order the Democratic State convention at Columbus on the 21st and 22d of August. Mayor Johnson of Cleveland, who held the proxy of one of the members of the committee from his county, proposed September 18 and 19 as the dates. He argued that good party policy demanded that the convention should be held after the Republican convention and upon the very eve of beginning an active campaign, but he was voted down. He was also voted down on his motion to select Mayor Dempsey of Cincinnati as the temporary chairman of the convention. Judge B. F. McCann of Dayton was selected for this office, and upon receiving a majority of the votes of the committee he was chosen unanimously, upon the motion of Mayor Johnson.

+

Preparations for an active Congressional campaign are being made by the Democratic Congressional campaign committee, especially in the Western States, for which headquarters are to be opened in Chicago. The Chicago headquarters are to be under the charge of Congressmen Henry T. Rainey of Illinois and James T. Lloyd of Missouri. Rooms se-

cured at the Palmer House will be opened on August 1st.

+ +

#### The Cleveland Traction Controversy.

At the meeting of the Cleveland City Council on the 24th, the contest for franchises between the old company and the 3-cent fare company (p. 348) was fairly opened by presentation of counter proposals from the companies. The old company made an application for an extension of its franchises for 25 years on the basis of a 5-cent fare, with 7 tickets for 25 cents. Its representatives argued that this proposal offers practically a 3½-cent fare, entitling passengers to the present transfer privileges and to additional transfer privileges to all new lines constructed. In submitting their application the company suggested that if the council should be in doubt as to its popularity, it should find "some fair method to submit the same to the public for its approval or disapproval at the next general election." At the same meeting of the council the 3-cent-fare company made proposals to take over all the old company's rights of way as fast as their franchises expire and operate them on a straight 3-cent-fare basis. Mayor Johnson is reported by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of the 19th as having said of the old company's proposal, before its presentation to the council, but after its authoritative publication by the old company:

I am glad to see them come down from six to seven tickets for 25 cents. I think, though, that this idea of submission to the people is just what they voted on in my campaign for the mayoralty with Harvey D. Goulder. It seems to me that the Republican battle cry in that campaign was eight tickets for 25 cents. So, you see, the question has been submitted once. I am glad to see some action though. The company may get in a hurry after while. I think that if an ordinance providing for a franchise on such terms were granted, the stock of the company would go up 25 points in a week. Within a year or two there would be an appreciation of from 74 to 150, an increased valuation of \$15,000,000, while thereafter it would steadily rise.

Mayor Johnson also called attention in this interview to the fact that he had already vetoed an 8 tickets for a quarter ordinance. This ordinance was introduced into the Council by Hitchens (Republican) on April 24, 1905. It was referred and was recommended for passage by a Republican committee consisting of Pears, Robinson and Wright, all of whom are members of the present Council. It was passed by a Republican Council on June 26, and on July 1 the Mayor wrote his veto of it, which was received by the Council July 3, and after it had lain over the necessary length of time the Council on August 14 sustained the objections of the Mayor, thereby killing the ordinance. In the veto message the Mayor said in part:

I am under the most solemn pledge to the people of this city to work for real 3-cent fare (not 5-cent fare disguised as three), with a provision for ultimate municipal ownership if they shall vote for it. That pledge I will keep. If this ordinance, amended so as to safeguard the people, is acceptable to the company I will agree to submit it to the people for their verdict and will sign or refuse to sign, as the people may elect. I agree to secure such an expression within thirty days after the railroad has agreed to accept the same.