

declare the public officials involved were not culpable, being guided by the best available interpretations of the law. The majority members, however, deny that the land was obtained by the sugar trust, while the minority assert that if the sugar trust did not acquire it "the next door neighbor to the sugar trust" did, and that there is apparent "a community of interest," evidencing a holding by one person of upward of 56,000 acres of land.

The minority accepts the situation as unavoidable, but holds the incident up as a warning against "further exploitation of the lands by American capitalists," and suggests that no more sales of large tracts of the "friar lands" be consummated pending the action of Congress or the outcome of court proceedings that might be instituted by the Philippine officers.

The majority report was signed by Representative Olmstead of Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee, and Representatives Crumpacker of Indiana, Hamilton of Michigan, Fuller of Illinois, Graham of Pennsylvania, Parsons of New York, McKinlay of California, Douglas of Ohio and Fornes of New York. The minority report was submitted by Representatives Madison of Kansas, Hubbard of Iowa and Davis of Minnesota.

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Chicago Mayoralty Campaign.

The official count of the votes cast for mayoralty candidates at last week's Democratic primaries gave E. F. Dunne a gain of 183 votes, and Carter H. Harrison a gain of 47 votes, over the police reports published in last week's Public (p. 201). This left Mr. Harrison with a plurality of 1,420 votes, as against the 1,556 police report plurality. Believing that frauds had been perpetrated, and that the rights of the fifty-odd thousand Democrats who had voted for him should be conserved, Mr. Dunne on the 3rd gave formal notice of demand for a recount of the ballots. Mr. Harrison announced that he would not only interpose no obstacle to a recount, but would join his opponent in the request that it should be made. Mr. Dunne's petition was filed on the 6th, and was granted by Judge Owens, and on the same day the recount was begun. By the evening of the 7th the count had proceeded sufficiently far to satisfy Mr. Dunne and his attorneys and managers that the official count had been essentially correct; therefore, to save the election officers further trouble and the city further expense in the matter, they requested that the count be discontinued. Mr. Dunne stated that he was satisfied that Mr. Harrison had been fairly nominated, and "as the choice of the Democratic party at the primary," he was "entitled to the votes of the Democrats of Chicago." Judge Owens issued a court order stopping the recount at the end of the 15th ward. This court order fixed the plurality of Mr. Harrison at 1,420, the figures of the official count of the ballots,

Nominations in Springfield.

Springfield, Illinois, having adopted the commission form of government (p. 11), nominations for Mayor and four commissioners were made by direct primary on the 28th. The present Mayor, J. S. Schnepf (vol. xii, p. 373), was re-nominated, with Roy Seeley to contest the election with him; and for the four commissioners the following nominations were made: George E. Coe, Frank H. Hamilton, Willis J. Spaulding, Roy R. Reece, Emil Smith, Frank H. Hatch, H. B. Davidson and Joseph Farris. Spaulding and Farris have long been identified with the group of single taxers at Springfield which includes Frank D. Bode and George Lee, wholesale grocers of that city. Bode distinguished himself as an alderman—a democratic Democrat elected from a Republican district—and he polled a heavy vote four years ago as independent candidate for Mayor (vol. x, p. 8). Spaulding, as head of the water works department under Mayor Schnepf (vol. xii, p. 1035; vol. xiii, p. 111), has made a strong record and a fine reputation, as has Farris (vol. xi, p. 54; vol. xiii, p. 377), who is in the present board of aldermen as a democratic Democrat from a normally Republican district.

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Land Value Taxation Bill in New Jersey.

A bill for land value taxation in municipalities upon a referendum vote, was introduced in the lower house of the New Jersey Legislature on the 27th, by Assemblyman Arthur P. Jackson, Progressive Republican from Passaic. In an interview reported in the Passaic Daily News Mr. Jackson thus described his bill:

It goes into effect only after it has been submitted to the people in any municipality. If it is adopted by the people it provides that in such municipality thereafter all personal property and all buildings or other improvements upon land shall not be taxed, but the entire amount of the taxes to be raised in said community, other than excise taxes, shall be levied upon land alone, according to its value.

Provision is made in the bill for the valuation and return to the County Board of Taxation and to the State Board of Assessors of the valuation of all the personalty and the buildings and other improvements thus exempt, so that in ascertaining the amount of money to be paid by the municipality to the county, and in ascertaining the average tax rate to be applied to the assessments of the railroads, the municipality shall arrive at such results by treating the valuations of said exempted property as though the same were listed for taxation.

This prevents any disturbance of the railroad tax or the abolishment of the county tax, and makes it sure that the effects of the experiment under this bill will be confined entirely to the municipality which tries the experiment.