

Illinois State committee of the Progressive Party, held on the 9th at Chicago, this resolution, offered by Charles E. Merriam, was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the strong support given the Progressive candidates and principles in State and nation at the recent election demonstrated the necessity and demand for a new party, under new leadership, guided by the spirit of social and industrial justice and directed against the alliance of privilege and politics, be it resolved, that the Progressive Party of Illinois be made permanent and the executive committee be instructed to proceed at once to perfect the organization, to establish permanent headquarters and to begin now the campaign of 1914.

Specifically, the executive committee was instructed to appoint sub-committees on legislation with reference to people's rule, social and industrial justice, corporation control, graft and waste, and agriculture.



#### Telephone Service in Chicago.

In a report made public on the 30th, Edward W. Bemis, public-utility expert in the employment of the Chicago City Council, showed that telephone users of Chicago are charged excessively for telephone service to the amount of \$700,000 a year. The report has come officially before the Council committee on gas, oil and electric light and at a hearing before this committee on the 7th, Mr. Bemis said that he valued the company's Cook County property at \$32,000,000, including \$4,500,000 in stock dividends, and that he had taken account of this stock dividend item in arriving at his conclusion that 7 per cent would be a fair return upon the total. [See vol. x, pp. 771, 779; current volume, page 159.]



#### Liberal "Defeat" on the Irish Home Rule Bill.

Expanded reports of a "defeat" of the Liberal Party in the British Parliament on the 11th, by a vote of 226 to 206 in favor of an amendment offered by the Conservatives to the Irish Home Rule bill, have appeared in the American papers, and emphasis is given to the fact that upon the declaration of this result the Conservatives demanded that the Liberal Ministry resign. In fact, there was no substantial defeat. The amendment came to a vote on a Monday, a day when many members of all parties are absent from the House. There was no contest over the amendment, but upon its coming to a vote some 60 Conservatives were rushed into the House from a nearby Torv club where they had been waiting for the signal. Thereby they caught the Liberals napping. The demand that the Ministry should resign is horse play. The Ministry resigns when it loses a majority of the House, not when there happens to be a government minority accidentally. The vote took place "in committee of the whole," as it would be called in the American Congress, and the Con-

servative amendment thus adopted will be eliminated when the bill comes before the House itself.



#### Divorces in Great Britain.

The British Royal Commission on divorce, which was appointed in 1909, is stated in dispatches of the 11th to have issued its report. The report is signed by the chairman of the Commission, Baron Gorell, former president of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice, and also by eight other members of the Commission, including two women. The Archbishop of York and two other members sign a minority report. The majority report, as outlined by cable, recommends equal rights of divorce for both sexes, some extension of the grounds for divorce, and some restrictions regarding separations. It is based on the idea that government should not regard the conventional marriage tie as necessarily indissoluble, nor as dissoluble only for one cause. The grounds recommended as a basis for dissolution are: (1) adultery, (2) willful desertion for three years and upwards, (3) cruelty, (4) incurable insanity after five years' confinement, (5) habitual drunkenness found incurable after three years, (6) imprisonment under a commuted death sentence.



#### The Balkan War and After.

With the Balkan allies advancing from one extraordinary victory to another, with every important city of European Turkey, except Constantinople, invested or captured, and with the Bulgarian army in sight of Constantinople, the intentions of the great Powers to deny to the Balkan allies any right to alienate territory from Turkey have had to undergo revision, and all of Europe is trembling with dread or aflame with greed over the adjustment of a new balance of power. [See current volume, page 1066.]



The Greek squadron continues to capture islands in the Aegean which have been under Turkish rule, and Greek ships are now carrying troops eastward to take part in an expected attack on Constantinople. On the 8th the city of Saloniki, on the Macedonian coast of the Aegean, after making stubborn resistance for a week, was occupied by the Greeks. Before the Greeks entered the city there was a massacre of the non-Moslem population by the Mohammedans. The Greeks have 27,000 Turks as their prisoners in the city. The Greek minister of justice has been appointed Governor of Saloniki, the fall of which was celebrated in Athens with great rejoicing. It was to the Christians of this city, anciently called Thessalonica, that Paul addressed his Epistles to the Thessalonians.