

that the Congress pass a declaratory act stating its real intention.

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Election of Senators by Direct Vote.

By Washington dispatches of the 12th it appears that the House Committee on the election of President, Vice President and Congress has acted favorably upon a resolution introduced by Representative Norris, of Nebraska, amending the Constitution so as to make the terms of Representatives four years instead of two and to provide for the election of Senators by direct vote of the people. Proposed amendments having the latter object in view have been adopted almost unanimously by the House at four different times, but none of them has ever got through the Senate.

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Campaign Contributions.

A sharp discussion of the subject of campaign contributions by national banks (vol. viii, p. 874) took place in the Senate on the 17th. Calling for information, Senator Tillman said, as reported by the Chicago Tribune of the 18th, that three weeks previously he had complained that the Committee on Elections had not acted on the bill regarding banks and campaign contributions which he had introduced in December, although Senator Foraker had promised speedy action. "Still that bill of mine hangs fire," said Mr. Tillman. "We cannot get it on the calendar and send it on to the House and they have use for more campaign money in a very short time." Senator Foraker interrupted to say that the subcommittee, consisting of himself, Senator Knox and Senator Bailey, had had several conferences and would be ready to report to the full committee as soon as the opportunity offered. He explained that they were of one mind that there ought to be legislation, but there was some difference of opinion as to the extent to which they should go. He was willing to show Senator Tillman the form of bill proposed which he had in his desk. "I would like to stop this source at least before the next election," Mr. Tillman replied, "and I would much rather see the bill reported than see the form in which it is in the Senator's desk. The longer I am in the Senate I learn more and more that there are ways of how not to do things when committees don't want to do them, and some persons are more expert in knowing how not to do them than others. The question is absolutely one of whether the bill is wanted or not." When Senator Foraker had promised a report at the earliest possible moment and declared there would be a bill, Senator Tillman said he was satisfied with Mr. Foraker's pledge.

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The New York habeas corpus proceedings in behalf of George W. Perkins, charged with larceny in transferring insurance funds to the Republican national committee (vol. viii, p. 868, 873), have been dismissed by Judge Greenbaum, who holds that the act was larceny if the criminal intent shall be found by a jury.

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Political Conventions.

Preparations for the Fall elections began in Indiana on the 12th, when the Republican convention

met at Indianapolis and nominated to head the party ticket Fred Sims as candidate for secretary of state.

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The Prohibition convention of Illinois met at Springfield on the 17th, but have not yet nominated candidates.

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The Direct Primary Movement.

After a brief recess the Illinois Legislature began the consideration in the lower house on the 18th of the Democratic bill for direct primaries. This bill responds fully to the emphatic referendum demand of 1904 (vol. vii, p. 535), by doing away altogether with nominating conventions. According to its provisions candidates for State offices could have their names placed on the primary ballot by filing petitions containing the signatures of not less than 1 per cent of the party vote in not less than ten counties of the State, the total to aggregate not less than 1 per cent of the entire party vote in the State. Other than State candidates could have their names placed on the ballot merely by filing an application with the county clerk. No petition is required. All nominations, the bill provides, shall be made by a plurality vote, and State, Congressional and senatorial candidates of the respective parties would meet at Springfield within fifteen days after the primaries at which they had been successful and there draw up a party declaration of principles to serve as a platform in the campaign. The adoption of the measure for municipal elections would be left to local referendum in each municipality. This bill will be opposed by pending bills which preserve the convention custom and require full majorities at the primary in order to force nominations on the conventions. The question of nominating by a majority or a plurality of the primary vote is the key to the controversy. This question was decided by the Senate on the 18th, tentatively at least, by the adoption of a resolution declaring for plurality nominations of such candidates as are to be directly voted for at primaries. But the vote was close. It stood 22 to 20.

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Lynching of Negroes in Missouri.

The latest outbreak of the brutal spirit of the white mob occurred in Springfield, Missouri. A white woman and her escort had been attacked by two Negroes, the young man being pounded to insensibility and the young woman outraged. On suspicion two Negro boys, about 21 years of age, were arrested and placed in jail. The young woman being called upon to identify them, declared positively that they were not her assailants. Nevertheless, the authorities retained them in custody; and just before midnight of the 14th, the day on which the assault occurred and the arrests were made, a mob surrounded the jail, captured these two Negro prisoners, hanged them both in the public square of the city, and saturating their clothing burned them while they hanged and were still alive. Maddened with the lust of killing and their murderous hatred of the Negro, the mob then turned back to the jail and capturing another Negro prisoner, held under vague suspicion of having some time before aided in the murder of a white man, they hanged and burned him

with the others. The brutal scene is reported to have been witnessed by 5,000 persons.

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Upon requisition from the sheriff, Gov. Folk promptly ordered State troops to Springfield to prevent a probable race war as a result of this wanton attack upon Negroes, and at the same time he gave out a statement in which he said:

Lynching is murder, cowardly murder. It is murder, regardless of the guilt or innocence of the accused. Every person charged with a crime is entitled to be tried by the law, not by a mob. The Springfield affair was fiendish and revolting. The extreme penalty should be administered to some lynchers by law. It would have a salutary effect. Assistant Attorney General Gentry has been instructed to go to Springfield and aid the prosecuting attorney in investigating this disgraceful occurrence, to the end that proper punishment may be meted out to those who took a hand in the crime. I shall offer a reward of \$300, the limit allowed by law, for information given to the prosecuting attorney leading to the arrest and conviction of any person engaged in this dastardly offense—not against the wretches mobbed—but against the State of Missouri. The sheriff and prosecuting attorney and mayor of Springfield having informed me this afternoon that the city is in imminent danger of mob violence, and that they are powerless to control the situation, I have honored their request for the State troops to preserve peace and protect the lives and property of citizens there.

Four leaders of the mob which committed these murders have been arrested and admitted to \$10,000 bail. All but one have given the required bail and been released. A special grand jury is investigating the crime.

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Municipal Ownership in Buffalo.

The referendum vote in Buffalo, N. Y., in favor of a municipal lighting plant to compete with the private company (p. 8), has been disregarded by the city council. That body has overruled the city controller who obeyed the referendum mandate by inserting in the estimates an item of \$250,000 for beginning the construction of a municipal lighting plant. His action was approved by Mayor Adam. But on the 14th the item was struck out by the council. Four of the nine councilmen were pledged to support it and two did so; but the other two were won over, thereby giving the two-thirds majority required. An extension of city contracts with the private company is now under negotiation.

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Land Values Taxation in Great Britain.

Within a month after the deputation from British municipalities committed to land values taxation had waited upon the Ministry (vol. viii, p. 838), the first step in support of that policy was taken in Parliament. The measure related only to Scottish burghs, and is known as "the Glasgow bill," it having been formulated and adopted by the Glasgow council in 1898. It came under discussion on the 23rd of March, when petitions from Scottish municipalities to the number of 471 were introduced in support of it. In explaining it Mr. Sutherland, member from Elgin Burghs, is reported by the People's Journal of Dundee, as saying that—

It was intended to include in the measure the application of the principle to counties, and also to empower local authorities to acquire compulsorily land at fair value. At a later season, however, it was thought that the embodiment of these clauses would unnecessarily overburden the bill, and also, keeping in view the fact that some of these

might be incompetent, it was resolved to limit the scope of the measure, and he presented what was generally known as "The Glasgow bill." By so doing the House had a straight issue on which to divide—namely, the taxation of land values. The bill, which applied only to Scottish burghs, provided for the separate valuation of the sites of buildings, and for the imposition of a tax not exceeding two shillings in the pound upon the value of land. It also provided for the taxation of feu-duties, but upon this point a great difference of opinion existed, and it could be thrashed out in committee. One great advantage of the bill would be that it would provide for the taxation of unoccupied land, and would thus tend to kill speculation in land. With regard to feu-duties, they derived their value from the presence of the community, and they ought therefore to contribute to the burdens of the community. There existed no real sort of freedom of contract between the few landowners and the great number of people who wanted to purchase or feu land from them; therefore, the measure would not interfere with freedom of contract. One particular reason among many others Mr. Sutherland had for recommending the bill was because it would deal a heavy blow at the slum landlords.

The second reading of the bill, continues the same report, was—

seconded by Mr. Laidlaw (East Renfrew), who declared that industry and labor created the land values which the monopolists swooped down upon. The bill would prevent the squeezing of the poor man by the land monopolist, would give to labor and industry a due share in their earnings, and also bring idle land into the market.

In opposing the measure Mr. Harold Cox is reported by the same paper as having—

denounced the measure on the ground that it was a direct attack on the rights of property. The whole effect of the bill would be to put a special income tax on land, and it was therefore a direct attack on private property. Dealing with the proposal from the point of view that under the present system land was not a monopoly, the honorable member attempted to persuade the House that the measure was an iniquitous one, but, as subsequent results showed, without success. He contended that the government should devote its efforts to something more substantial, and the ideal to be aimed at was that they should devise a system of taxation by which every citizen should contribute to the expense of the State in proportion to his means.

Sir Henry Craik, another opponent, seems to have—

pleaded the cause of the many charities, the friendly societies, the trades unions, and the poor investors who had their funds invested, and who would be badly hit were the bill to become law. He thought landowners could be left to judge by self-interest what was the most useful purpose to which they might turn their lands. There was no doubt left as to the purposes of the bill. Its real vice was not merely changes in the incidence of taxation, but that it rested on confiscation and robbery.

In voicing the opinion of the Ministry, the Lord Advocate is reported by the same authority to have—

scoffed at the idea put forward by Sir H. Craik that the measure was for confiscation and robbery, and remarked on the fact that it had been approved by a Conservative House of Commons. In the opinion of the Ministry, the time was ripe for the bill. It was a measure not of social expediency, but of social necessity. In language which went home to the hearts of the Opposition like a knife thrust, he asserted that the owners of the land it was proposed to tax were not partners in, but parasites on, the community, and described the present system as one which legalized plunder. He urged the House to accept the bill, because it was an attempt to reach the heart of their social trouble and to alleviate it, if not cure it.

Of the 59 Scottish members who entered the division lobby, 52 voted in favor of the bill and the remaining seven voted against it. The total majority in favor of the bill was 258. In 1905 this bill passed the second reading by a majority of only 20.