

The Democratic platform, adopted by the regular Democratic convention at Peoria on the 19th, as drawn by the Democratic candidate for Governor, Edward F. Dunne, contains the following plank on direct legislation:

We demand legislation which will provide for an amendment to the State Constitution permitting the enactment of laws for the establishment of the Initiative and Referendum as the only effective remedy for jackpotism and corruption in public life.



Woman Suffrage in Illinois.

Representatives of the woman suffrage movement in Illinois appeared on the 19th before the Democratic convention at Peoria and the Republican convention at Springfield. They were given hearings by the resolutions committee of each convention, but neither platform contains any demand for extending the suffrage to women. Such a demand was rejected by the Republican resolutions committee by a vote of 16 to 9 and was ignored by the Democratic committee.



The Ohio Constitutional Convention.

Adjournment *sine die* of the Ohio Constitutional Convention has been set for May 11, a recess until May 6 to be taken on the 26th of April. The time between May 6 and May 11 is to be devoted to the reports of the committee on phraseology. [See current volume, page 347.]



Meanwhile the Convention has added to the amendments it purposes submitting to the people of Ohio, one for the reform of the courts, one to abolish the death penalty, and one for direct primaries (including the direct election of delegates to national conventions), and is considering one on municipal home rule. An amendment for the recall of public officials by popular vote was defeated on the 23rd.



The Tom L. Johnson Memorial.

On the 18th of next July, Tom L. Johnson's fifty-eighth birthday, the subscription list to the proposed Memorial to him will close. This was decided by the Memorial Committee at a meeting at Cleveland on the 16th of the present month. The Committee is to meet again at Cleveland, on the last day for subscriptions, for the purpose of taking up the question of the kind of Memorial to adopt. At the meeting of last week the Committee expressed its strong and unanimous feeling that no active or widespread solicitations for the Memorial fund be made, the sentiment being clear that Mr. Johnson would have shrunk from this, but that opportunity ought to be afforded for voluntary

subscriptions. It was for the latter reason that the committee decided to keep the subscription list open until the next anniversary of Mr. Johnson's birth. The fund is now approximately \$10,000, contributed by a large number of persons and mostly in small amounts. [See vol. xiv, pp. 369, 1198].



A National Newspaper Conference.

Evolving from a paper by Livy S. Richard, editor of the Boston Common, read last fall at the Social Center Conference at Madison, Wis., a national newspaper conference has been organized. Mr. Richard's paper started a discussion on the limitations upon newspaper freedom. "Are newspaper and magazine writers free to tell the truth?" "If not, why not?" and "What can we do about it?" These are types of the questions that arose. By way of promoting the discussion and giving it practical direction and effect, the Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin has now called a national conference for July 29, 30 and 31 and August 1, at which papers by distinguished newspaper men will be read and discussed. Among the persons who have signified their intention of attending are William J. Bryan, Melville E. Stone, William Allen White, Fremont Older, Norman Hapgood and Charles H. Grasty. The subjects announced include the following:

Tuesday morning, July 30: Is the newspaper-reading public getting all the truth it is entitled to? Tuesday evening, July 30: Can the impartiality of the news-gathering and news-supplying agencies be fairly challenged?

Wednesday morning, July 31: How is news service affected by—(1) The constantly increasing cost of the newspaper plant? (2) The increasing proportion of total newspaper revenue derived from the advertisers? (3) The non-journalistic interests of the capitalist-owner? Wednesday evening, July 31: If the newspaper is to play its due part in social advance, can it be run as simply a business proposition?

Thursday morning, August 1: Can the professional spirit be promoted among newspaper men? If so, how? Thursday afternoon, August 1: Can commercial journalism make good or must we look for the endowed newspaper or the public newspaper?

In connection with the Conference there will be a historical exhibit of the evolution of the newspaper, in the collection and arrangement of which the Curator of the Wisconsin State Museum is co-operating with the University Department of Journalism.



Mexico Replies to Warning From the United States.

President Madero's government replied on the 17th to the warning note delivered by the American representatives at Mexico City on the 14th, as reported last week. According to the report of the Chicago Inter Ocean the reply denies the right of the Washington government to admonish Mexi-

co, since the warning was not based on any justifiable incident. It denies responsibility by the constituted government for acts committed in territory in rebellion, while accepting full responsibility for every loss or damage sustained for foreigners legally chargeable to the government. A caution has been issued to leaders of the Federal forces to insure proper treatment of foreigners who may be taken as prisoners of war, at the same time it is asserted that no basis exists for supposing that any other course would be pursued. Orozco is held to be answerable for his offenses only to the Mexican courts, and therefore should not have been made the recipient of a diplomatic communication. [See current volume, page 370.]

NEWS NOTES

—The city of Lincoln, Nebraska, adopted the commission form of government on the 19th, by a majority of 69.

—Cyclones were reported from Western States on the 20th, and on the 21st tornadoes swept across the southern and central parts of Illinois and Indiana, killing 32 persons and wounding many more.

—The Senate finance committee on the 18th, ordered an adverse report on the House chemical tariff revision bill. The Republican members voted against it and the Democrats for it—8 to 6. [See current volume, page 324.]

—Morocco is in revolution against the recently consummated French protectorate. At Fez 68 French officers, soldiers and civilians were killed between the 17th and the 22nd, and from 50 to 100 Jews. [See current volume, page 349.]

—A statue of John Paul Jones, the Revolutionary naval commander, and victor in the fight between the Bon Homme Richard and the Serapis off the English coast in 1779, was unveiled in Washington on the 17th. [See vol. viii, pp. 234, 266.]

—The Mississippi floods, having reached Louisiana and Mississippi, have caused much loss of life and property. It was reported on the 20th that 200 persons had been drowned in Bolivar county, Miss. Thousands of whites and Negroes are homeless in the two above mentioned States and in Arkansas. [See current volume, page 371.]

—Miss Julia C. Lathrop of Chicago, now and for many years a colleague of Jane Addams in Hull House, has been appointed chief of the recently created Children's Bureau of the national government. Her nomination was confirmed by the Senate on the 23rd. Miss Lathrop is the first woman ever selected to direct a Federal bureau. [See current volume, page 371.]

—The beautiful old bell tower of Venice, known as the Campanile, which after standing for 900 years collapsed on July 12, 1902, has been reconstructed with infinite patience and labor from the fragments, so that the tower now complete is nearly identical in every part with the ancient tower—one of the most beautiful examples of the art of the renaissance.

The work is being rededicated this week, on the 25th. [See vol. v, p. 233.]

—Representative Bulkley of Ohio introduced in Congress on the 13th a bill for the coinage of 3-cent pieces with a hole in the middle. The coin is needed in Cleveland, Ohio, where the street car companies charge a three-cent fare, and is in the shape of the metal tickets originally devised by Tom L. Johnson for that purpose. It would be made of copper and nickel, be slightly larger than a cent, and be legal tender up to thirty cents.

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States (current volume, page 371), for the first eight months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, as given by the statistical sheet of the Department of Commerce and Labor for March, were as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
Merchandise	\$1,711,329,733	\$1,203,113,137	\$508,216,596 exp.
Gold	43,889,598	36,086,353	7,803,245 exp.
Silver	48,177,431	33,636,190	14,541,241 exp.
Total	\$1,803,396,762	\$1,272,835,680	\$530,561,082 exp.

—Italy has carried her war with Turkey over Tripoli to the gates of the Dardanelles. On the 18th 27 Italian warships bombarded the Turkish forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles for two and a half hours, and then withdrew, without having effected anything. As a result, Turkey has proclaimed a blockade of the famous straits, to the disturbance of commerce, and the consequent annoyance of Europe—an annoyance for which Italy is held responsible. [See current volume, page 278.]

—The Supreme Court of Illinois decided on the 22d that, under the recently enacted employers' liability statute of that State, the old law under which an employe could not recover if he knowingly worked with unsafe machinery is a dead letter. Although the employe knows he is likely to be hurt, yet the employer, if he has not used every means to prevent it, is now held to be liable in damages, if the employe is injured and the injury could have been prevented by the employer through obedience to the statute.

—Alfred Landon Baker was elected and inaugurated president of the Chicago City Club on the 20th, with Frederick Bruce Johnstone as vice president, Laird Bell as secretary, Harold Hastings Rockwell as treasurer, and Robert M. Cunningham, Dr. Henry Baird Favill, Edwin Stanton Fecheimer, George H. Mead and Thomas Walter Swan as additional members of the board of directors. This club, since beginning the erection of its new club house a year ago, has increased in membership from 930 to 2,270. It is devoted strictly to promoting civic work in a broadly progressive spirit. [See current volume, page 60.]

—The committee of general managers of the Eastern railroads, after a further consideration of renewed demands by the engineers of the fifty railroads in the Eastern territory for increased wages, sent on the 18th a communication to Grand Chief Stone, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, that "it is not possible to accede to your wage requests and those certain to follow"; whereupon officials of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers stated on the 20th that they would order a general strike on the 22d unless the railway companies make