

The contract system of street cleaning has been abandoned, the city doing its own work by civil service day laborers and individual teamsters, working union hours at union wages under the supervision of a civil service ward superintendent, and all are required to be residents of the district where their work is done. Police magistrates are now paid fair salaries for honest service, the vicious fee system has been abolished, and raids of unfortunates of both sexes are a thing of the past.

Other improvements in administration are mentioned in the platform, and thereupon the traction question is discussed in the following terms:

The platform clamor of the recent Republican city convention for an immediate settlement of the traction question comes burdened with suspicion, when citizens reflect that this clamor is raised by the same political machine which less than six years ago was urging upon the State legislature the infamous Humphrey and Allen bills. We insist that it is more important that the traction question be settled right than that it be settled speedily. In his message to the city council in 1899 Mayor Harrison closed the discussion of the street railway question with the following words: "One hears occasional criticism of the failure of the present city administration to pass constructive street railway legislation. Whenever the traction companies are ready to take up a settlement of the question upon the foregoing lines constructive legislation may readily be had. Until they express a willingness to approach the question with due regard for the rights of the citizens no honest-minded critic can find fault with the city administration for its neglect to pass constructive legislation." The terms then proposed by Mayor Harrison, and of which we now approve as necessary to a proper settlement of the traction question, are as follows: The passage by the legislature of a municipal ownership enabling act, this to be an absolute prerequisite to any consideration of the traction question. The reference of all proposed extension ordinances to a vote of the people for their sanction and indorsement. An improvement of accommodations which will do away with the present uncomfortable, unwholesome and indecent overcrowding of cars. Adequate compensation in the form either of a percentage of gross receipts paid into the treasury as a trust fund, to be expended solely on the public streets, a reduction of fares or a combination of both forms. An express waiver of all alleged rights under the 99-year act. Provision for municipal ownership at the earliest possible date. The simultaneous expiration of all franchises on or before 20 years from date of grant, and the express prohibition of the transfer of

a franchise to a foreign corporation. The use of the underground trolley within certain boundaries; the re-alignment of terminals that transportation may be rapid and street congestion avoided; the use of modern grooved rails in all paved streets, and the paving of rights of way by the traction companies with asphalt or dressed granite block. A universal system of transfers. Full publicity of accounts. A system of arbitration for the settlement of disputes arising between traction companies and their employes. A single car service instead of the present train service.

The other demands of this platform are for municipal ownership and operation of gas and electric lighting plants, telephone systems, and other public utilities; a municipal initiative and referendum; preservation of the water power of the drainage canal for municipal purposes; extension and enforcement of the civil service law; legislation allowing employment of day labor for construction; immediate lowering of tunnels, but not as compensation for franchise extensions; removal of center pier bridges; a deep water way to the Mississippi; abolition of grade crossings; completion of intersecting sewers; consolidation of taxing bodies; bond issues for permanent improvements; home rule, and guarantees of "the largest personal liberty for all citizens which may be compatible with peace and order."

One object of the special session of the United States Senate (p. 774) has been accomplished, namely, the ratification of the treaty with Colombia (p. 680) for the construction of the Panama canal. The Senate had come to a vote in executive session on the 16th upon an amendment proposed and supported by the Democrats. It was a substitute for the provision of the treaty placing the defense of the canal primarily in the hands of the government of Colombia. The substitute would have given the initiative under all circumstances to the United States, and it was defeated by a party vote—24 to 46. Other amendments were also voted down. Without amendment, therefore, the treaty was ratified on the 17th by 73 to 5, the senators voting in the negative being Daniel and Martin of Virginia, Morgan and Pettus of Alabama, and Teller of Colorado.

The other principal object of the special session, the ratification of the

Cuban reciprocity treaty, has made some progress. A report was authorized on the 12th by the committee on foreign relations recommending ratification with an amendment providing that the treaty shall not take effect until approved by the lower House as well as the Senate. The amendment had been offered by Senator Bacon, who intended thereby to recognize the constitutional right of the lower House to control all revenue legislation, even when regulated by treaty. It was unanimously agreed on the 18th that the question of ratification should come to vote at 3 o'clock on the 19th.

Sensational reports dated at St. Petersburg have, during the past week, made it appear that revolutionary reforms (religious freedom and local self-government), have been decreed by the Czar of Russia. But the reported text of the Czar's decree hardly justifies all the good things that are said of it. It appears to have been issued in commemoration of the birthday of Alexander III., and in language far from lucid it declares, as to religious tolerance, that—

we are irrevocably decided to satisfy the needs for which the state has become ripe, and have deemed it expedient to strengthen and decree the undeviating observance of the principles of tolerance laid down by the fundamental laws of the Russian empire, while recognizing the orthodox church as the ruling one, to grant to all of our subjects of other religions and to all foreign persuasions freedom of creed and worship in accordance with other rites; and we are further resolved to continue the active carrying out of measures for the improvement of the material position of the orthodox clergy while enabling them to take a larger share in intellectual and public life.

On the subject of local self-government, all that the Czar is reported as saying is this:

In accordance with impending measures for the consolidation of the national economy the efforts of the state credit institutions and especially the nobles' and peasants' banks should be directed to strengthening and developing the welfare and fundamental pillars of Russian village life, and that of the local nobility and peasantry. These principles marked out by us for the revision of the laws of the rural population are, when formulated, to be referred to the provincial government councils, so that with the assistance of persons enjoying the public's confidences they may be further developed and adapted to the special con-

ditions of individual localities. In this work the fundamental principle of the inviolability of communal property is to be maintained, while at the same time means are to be found to render it easier for the individual to sever connections with the community to which he belongs, if he so desires.

The decree further ordains:

Without delay measures must be taken to release the peasants from the present burdensome liability of forced labor.

Also:

Thorough reform is to be effected in the provincial governments and district administrations by the local representatives, while attention will be devoted to securing closer cooperation between the communal authorities and parochial trustees of the orthodox churches wherever possible.

The Czar's decree closes as follows:

Calling upon all our subjects to cooperate in strengthening the moral foundations of a family, school and public life, under which alone the wellbeing of the people and the confidence of everyone in the stability of his rights can develop, we command our ministers and chief officials concerned in this matter to submit to us their views regarding the execution of our intentions.

When the Russian consul at Chicago was told of the Czar's decree of religious toleration, he indicated his surprise and explained that the Russian government always has tolerated all religions, and that the devotees of various faiths have their churches the same as in the United States. "There are minor regulations regarding the citizenship of an heir born of parents one of whom is not of the Greek orthodox religion," he added. "but, aside from such lesser details, the main idea of a religious freedom order is puzzling."

This suggestion that the decree does not grant religious freedom beyond what already exists is confirmed by a revolutionary manifesto emanating from Moscow and reported from London on the 17th which declares:

The promised religious toleration gives no right to the orthodox Russian to adopt any other Christian creed. Hereafter, as formerly, apostates will be liable to deprivation of civil rights and deportation to Siberia.

Relative to local self-government the same manifesto observes that—the Czar does not even reestablish the independence of the active provincial councils and town councils founded by Alexander II. in 1864 and 1870 and sub-

sequently curtailed and partly abolished by Alexander III. and Nicholas II. Indeed, strict critics might pronounce the manifesto a masterpiece of Von Plehwe's policy of reaction.

Von Plehwe is the conservative leader in the Russian ministry.

NEWS NOTES.

—The parliament of the Dominion of Canada was opened at Ottawa on the 12th by Lord Minto, the governor general.

—The coal strike arbitrators (p. 760) made their formal report to President Roosevelt on the 18th. It will not be published before the 21st.

—Joseph Chamberlain, colonial secretary in the British cabinet, who made an official visit to South Africa last Fall (p. 617), returned on the 14th.

—The members of the Chicago "coal combine" who were indicted for conspiracy earlier in the Winter (pp. 663, 692) have been tried before Judge Chetlain, of Chicago, who instructed the jury to find a verdict of "not guilty" on the ground that the acts charged were transactions in inter-State commerce and therefore cognizable criminally only by the Federal courts.

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States for the eight months ending February 28, 1903, as given by the February treasury sheet, are as follows (M standing for merchandise, G for gold and S for silver):

M...	\$982,019,569	\$650,725,759	\$301,293,810	exp.
G...	17,346,675	24,788,582	17,441,907	imp.
S...	34,189,316	17,343,762	16,845,553	exp.
	\$1,033,555,569	\$732,858,103	\$300,697,456	exp.

—A movement among non-union mechanics is reported from Indianapolis, the purpose of which is to organize unorganized labor in opposition to organized labor. The new organization declares in its constitution against the strike as a means of settling questions between employers and employes, denounces the boycott as un-American, and opposes the "unfair list" and all kindred means of inducing obedience to labor unions. A national organization is contemplated and local organizations elsewhere in Indiana and also in New York are already reported.

PRESS OPINIONS.

THE CLEVELAND ELECTION.

Cleveland Plain Dealer (ind. dem.), Mar. 18.—The Republican platform proposes a compromise with the public service companies on a basis which it is understood they approve. The Democratic platform reaffirms the policy on which the present administration started out, but which it has been prevented carrying into effect by interferences through the courts and legislature. Mr. Harvey Goulder fairly represents

the one. Mayor Johnson is the embodiment of the other.

Cleveland Leader (Rep.), Mar. 15.—The man was found and the man was nominated. Harvey D. Goulder can beat Tom Johnson. . . . If the Republican party elects its ticket in April, there will be no more deceit in respect to the street railway issue. If that question is taken up it will be discussed and settled on business principles, and in the interest of all concerned. Universal transfers, that is, one system of street railways throughout the city, and a continuous ride from the eastern limits to the southern limits for one fare, and seven tickets for twenty-five cents, is the best bargain that the railway corporation can get.

Cleveland Recorder (Dem.), Mar. 16.—The Republicans have put up a Hanna ticket from end to end. . . . The one thing which is significant in this whole business is the fact that the Republicans have placed in their platform exactly what the street railroad people want. They have come out squarely and fairly for the very offer which the street railroad men have been making to the people for the past six months. . . . It is a clear-cut issue. The democrats will stand for three-cent fare just as they have been doing. Who has brought the railroads to the point where they are willing to accept an ordinance calling for seven tickets for a quarter? Who will bring them the rest of the way if he is given a chance? Why, Tom L. Johnson, of course. They have fought the thing at all stages and have resorted to the courts to prevent the people of Cleveland from getting what they ought to have. They are now in their last ditch. The fight ought to be short and decisive. Why should the three-cent fare men surrender?

GORMAN'S LEADERSHIP.

Springfield Republican (ind.), Mar. 13 (weekly ed.)—There is a very untruthful phase of the current laudation of Senator Gorman as an astute or great party leader. His record, during his 18 years of senatorial service down to 1899, reached a fitting culmination in the party wreck that came in 1896. Always a straddler and balancer, if nothing worse, he had an open quarrel with President Cleveland on the tariff issue, which alone was enough to demoralize the Democratic party; while in the whole history of the free silver movement he steadily coquetted with the silver men, and helped prepare for the party cataclysm that finally came when men of strong convictions, like Cleveland and Bryan, came into collision. Mr. Gorman can doubtless manage a bill and rig a Senate, but as a leader he never could rise above the multiplication table of politics.

THE DEMOCRATIC "FACE FRONT."

Milwaukee News (Dem.), March 17.—The attitude of the rank and file of the Democratic party offers little consolation to those that would Republicanize the party or that would have it stand still, but it gives promise of the future, meeting new issues and new problems in the spirit of the present and holding fast to that which is good.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Woman's Journal (Boston), Mar. 14.—The vote on the woman suffrage amendment in New Hampshire is most encouraging to the friends of equal rights for women. It is the largest proportional vote ever given for this reform in a New England State. In Rhode Island the woman suffrage amendment received only about one vote in five. In Massachusetts, on the so-called referendum eight years ago, less than one male voter in three favored giving women even the municipal ballot. In New Hampshire more than one voter in three favored giving them full suffrage. These figures speak for themselves. They show clearly the growth of public opinion