

A liquor license clause adopted by the convention on the 6th by a vote of 91 to 18, to be submitted separately to popular vote, provides for—retention of all present temperance laws and preservation of all dry territory; elimination of the brewery-owned saloon; a limit of one saloon to each 500 of population; the saloon keepers must be citizens of the United States and of good character; home rule for cities and townships on statutory regulations, and licenses automatically revoked on second conviction for violating regulatory laws.



The full form of Initiative and Referendum agreed upon by a majority of the delegates, the Crosser bill modified in detail with Mr. Crosser's co-operation, provides in substance that—

legislative power is vested in the legislature "but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose laws [legislative Initiative] and amendments to the Constitution [Constitutional Initiative], and to adopt or reject the same at the polls independent of the legislature, and also reserve the power, at their own option, to adopt or reject any law, item, section or part thereof passed by the legislature [Referendum]." A legislative Initiative petition signed by 8 per cent of the voters must be submitted at the next regular election occurring 90 days after filing; a Constitutional Initiative petition signed by 12 per cent of the voters must be submitted at the next regular election occurring 90 days after filing. Either legislative or Constitutional Initiative petitions signed by only 4 per cent of the voters must be enacted or rejected by the legislature within 60 days; if enacted they must be approved by the people on Referendum; if rejected or ignored by the legislature they go to the people for enactment or rejection, along with any different or competing proposal which the legislature may submit. Both legislative and Constitutional Initiatives, when approved by a majority of the people voting on them, are thereupon in force; and if conflicting provisions receive a majority at the same election the one receiving the highest number of votes is the law. A Referendum petition signed by 6 per cent of the voters must be submitted to the people with reference to any act of the legislature if filed within 90 days after adjournment. No act of the legislature can take effect until 90 days after adjournment (unless it is emergent), nor until approved by the people if a Referendum petition be filed within that time. Emergency measures are limited to tax levies for current expenses, and the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety; and in order to make these emergent they must be enacted by a three-fourths yeas and nays vote of each House; one section of the bill must declare it to be emergent with a statement of the facts making it so, which section separately must be passed by a yeas and nays vote.

Like powers of legislative Initiative and Referendum for local purposes are reserved to the voters of each village, city, county, township, school district and other political subdivision of the State. Among the general provisions proposed are the following:

One-half of the total number of counties of the State are each required to furnish the signatures of voters equal in number to one-half of the designated percentage of the voters of such county to all Initiative and Referendum petitions of State-wide scope. An official pamphlet containing proposed laws or Constitutional amendments, and arguments (not exceeding 300 words each) for and against, must be distributed in advance of Initiative or Referendum elections "to each of the voters of the State as far as reasonably possible." All the proposed sections are self-executing without legislation, but legislation may be enacted to facilitate their operation provided it in no way limits or restricts them.

Out of the 119 members of the Constitutional Convention 66 have agreed to support the measure outlined above. [See current volume, page 227.]



#### Municipal Election in Seattle.

At the election in Seattle on the 5th, George F. Cotterill was elected Mayor by a majority of 748, the vote reported being 31,287 for ex-Mayor Hiram C. Gill and 32,035 for ex-Senator Cotterill. Although the Mayor-elect is a well-known and active Singletaxer, he was largely supported by others than Singletaxers. His identification with the temperance movement brought him support from Prohibitionists; he was also supported by "good government" voters, their own candidate having been defeated at the direct primary; and while some Socialists followed the instructions of leaders among them to refrain from voting for Mayor, their candidate having been defeated at the primary, it is evident that Mr. Cotterill drew a strong Socialist vote. The Mayor-elect stands for a "closed town" with reference to vice, for the municipal street railway already authorized, and for public ownership of wharves and harbor facilities.



A large vote was polled for the Socialist candidates who at the primaries had won a place on the ballot. Dr. E. J. Brown, Socialist candidate for corporation counsel, got 27,157 to 35,196 for James E. Bradford. George W. Scott, Socialist candidate for treasurer, got 25,192 to 36,265 for Ed. L. Terry; C. L. Jacobs, Socialist candidate for the Council, got 14,882 votes, and David Burgess, Socialist candidate for Council, got 26,577. These votes were not due to Socialist voters alone, the voting at the direct primary which eliminates all but the two highest having shown a much smaller Socialist vote than the lowest here. For Mayor the Socialist vote was less than 11,000 at the primary.



Although a pronounced Singletaxer was elected Mayor of Seattle on the 5th, the Singletax amendments to the city charter were defeated. Mr. Cotterill got many votes from non-Singletaxers, and

doubtless lost some from Singletaxers. He was not making a Singletax campaign. His small majority was therefore an almost certain indication of defeat for the amendments. When the vote on these had been counted, the result was announced as follows:

Griffith amendment (progressive exemption of improvements and increase of land value taxation):

Against .....	31,450
For .....	8,032

Adverse majority.....	23,418
-----------------------	--------

Erickson amendment (immediate abolition of all municipal taxation except upon land values):

Against .....	27,820
For .....	12,191

Adverse majority.....	15,629
-----------------------	--------

An interesting report upon the campaign and its result will be found in Editorial Correspondence over the signature of Margaret A. Haley of Chicago. [Also see current volume, page 225.]



#### Another Singletax Campaign in Seattle.

Immediately after the defeat of the Singletax amendment to the city charter of Seattle by 27,820 to 12,191 on the 5th, the active workers for the amendment organized for submitting the same amendment at the councilmanic election next year. The name of the organization is The Singletax Club. Councilman Oliver T. Erickson is president; Thorwald Siegfried is secretary, and Mary O'Meara is treasurer. The identical amendment of this year is to be proposed next year, and a comprehensive personal canvass of the polling list is to begin at once.



#### The Singletax in Vancouver.

Owing to the defeat of Mr. Taylor for reelection as Mayor of Vancouver, it was widely reported a few weeks ago that the Singletax, which gave world-wide distinction to his administrations, had been repudiated. There has never been any reason for such an inference, and the inference is now discredited by the action of the City Council. On motion of Alderman Ramsey, and without a dissenting vote, although tories control the Council, that body adopted a by-law or ordinance on the 4th which exempts real estate improvements from taxation for 1912. To understand the limitations of this action, it must be remembered that the fiscal method in Vancouver is unlike that in the United States, under which the sources of taxation once decided upon continue until altered. In Vancouver the sources as well as the expenditures of public revenues are decided upon anew each year. What the Vancouver Council has done, therefore, is to reenact the Singletax. Explaining it, the Vancouver World (ex-Mayor Taylor's paper) says:

This means that the progressive policy inaugurated in 1910 and the plank to cover which figured so prominently in former-Mayor Taylor's platform on both the occasions when he was elected, will be continued. Consequently, as far as city taxes are concerned, Vancouver retains the position of being one of the few metropolitan cities of the American continent to derive its general revenue entirely from a tax on land, and continues to be "a city set upon a hill—whose light cannot be hid," as a well known politico-economic writer declared last year.

[See current volume, page 127.]



#### In Memory of Altgeld.

At Orchestra Hall, Chicago, on the 10th, the tenth anniversary of the death of John P. Altgeld, Governor of Illinois from 1892 to 1896, was observed by a large audience assembled under the auspices of the Altgeld Memorial Association at a meeting arranged and managed by Governor Altgeld's friend, Joseph S. Martin, who organized and managed all the preceding memorial meetings. Daniel Cruice presided; Father Cox made the invocation; the singing was by the Sinai Congregation choir; addresses were made by ex-State Senator Samuel Alschuler, ex-Mayor Edward F. Dunne, Herbert S. Bigelow (president of the Ohio Constitutional Convention), and William Jennings Bryan. [See vol. ix., pp. 1154, 1163, 1177, 1183, 1191; vol. x., 97; vol. xiii., pp. 853, 857; and current volume, pages 206, 219.]



#### The Mexican Insurrection.

The vanguard of the insurrectos in Mexico left Chihuahua on the 8th, headed southward as a beginning to General Pascual Orozco's threatened campaign against the City of Mexico. The Madero government is sending troops northwest to Torreón to meet the insurrectos. Shaken by the growing strength of opposition, the government has obtained confidence from a monster demonstration in favor of peace and in support of the constituted government held in the City of Mexico on the 10th. [See current volume, page 228.]



The United States war department is strengthening its forces on the Mexican frontier, sent there for the enforcement of the neutrality laws. [See current volume, page 159.]



#### China Reorganizing.

Looting and rioting on the part of the unpaid soldiery of north China, lately of Imperial affiliation, continues, and is only partly controlled by Yuan Shi Kai's government. Also a revolt of 8,000 soldiers at one point in south China—Canton—is reported, on what ground is not stated.