

tion are assisting the Harriman lines and the Illinois Central, they cannot be blamed for the action contemplated. The seriousness of this matter can be measured by the effect of the one now in progress. Boiler explosions are becoming more frequent and the non-enforcement of the safety appliance law is endangering public safety. Permit us to assure you of our esteem and regard.



Negro Citizenship.

At the fourth annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, which opened at Sinai Temple, Chicago, on the 28th, Miss Jane Addams presided and Oswald Garrison Villard of New York—grandson of William Lloyd Garrison the Liberator—was the principal speaker. Mr. Villard explained the object of the Association to be “the combating of the spirit of persecution which confronts the colored people of this land,” and “to assure them every right, privilege and opportunity which every citizen is entitled to.” Proceeding, he said:

Ours is a battle for democracy, pure and undefiled. It isn't for us to compromise, however much others may. It is not for us to withhold our scorn and indignation when we see colored men and women outraged, robbed, maimed or burned in Pennsylvania, or in Illinois, in Mississippi, or in Georgia. Looking back on the thirteen months that have elapsed since the last annual conference, it cannot be said that the cause of the colored people has done else than advance rapidly, both from the political and material point of view. Politically we have reason to be grateful for the Root-Borah debate in the Senate on disfranchisement, for the fight for Negro suffrage in Oklahoma, the winning of civil rights suits in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and elsewhere, and for another and overwhelming defeat of disfranchisement in Maryland. The blow at peonage in Alabama, struck by the Supreme Court in 1911, is a cause for widespread rejoicing. The efforts to draw the color line in Cornell University have failed; the appointment of a colored Assistant United States Attorney General in Washington and the election of the first colored legislator in Pennsylvania are auspicious omens of the future, and but two of many instances which might be mentioned. But most significant and striking of all of the advances has been the defeat for appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States of Judge William C. Hook of Kansas as a result of his intolerable “Jim Crow car” decision.



At the meeting in Handel Hall on the 29th the principal speakers were Prof. W. E. B. DuBois (editor of the Negro magazine “The Crisis”) and Judge Edward Osgood Brown of Chicago. [See current volume, page 348.]



The Titanic Disaster.

The committee of the United States Senate which, under the chairmanship of Senator William

Alden Smith, began investigating the causes of the loss of the steamship Titanic immediately upon the arrival of the survivors at New York, as reported last week, is still in session in Washington. J. Bruce Ismay, managing director of the White Star line and president of the International Mercantile Marine Co., who was a passenger on the Titanic, surviving officers and members of the crew, the captain and officers of the Carpathia which rescued the survivors, officers and passengers of steamships which were at some moment in the vicinity of the sinking ship, and William Marconi, inventor of wireless telegraphy and head of the Marconi Co., have testified before the committee during the past week. [See current volume, pages 385, 393.]



The White Star liner Olympic, which was to have sailed from Southampton on the 24th, was obliged to cancel her sailing and refund passenger money, owing to a strike of her firemen and seamen originating in protests against her inadequate and unseaworthy lifeboat equipment.



The cable-ship Mackay-Bennett, which has been scouring the seas in the neighborhood of the point where the Titanic went down, arrived at Halifax on the 30th, bearing the bodies of 190 of the dead. Among those reported from London as being among the lost is the name of Mrs. E. C. Carter, a daughter of Thomas Hughes, author of “Tom Brown's Schooldays,” and a sister of George Hughes, well known among the democratic Democrats of Kansas, and to readers of The Public.



A Woman Candidate for the Bohemian Parliament.

The Munich “Neueste Nachrichten,” which is the most widely circulated paper in south Germany, states in its issue of April 14 that “in place of the deceased representative in parliament of the Bohemian party of the Young Czechs, Dr. Skarda, the National Socialists and Young Czechs now present a woman, the writer, Mrs. Byk-Kuneticka, as candidate for parliament. Mrs. Kuneticka will certainly be elected and so be the first woman in the Bohemian parliament, the Constitution of which does not expressly exclude the election of a woman. It is, however, doubtful whether the government will accept this interpretation of the Constitution.”



New Zealand Politics and Policies.

The Liberal government in New Zealand, which has been in power for more than twenty years but which lost its working majority at the recent elections, succeeded on the 28th of February in defeating a no-confidence motion, by the bare casting