

**Western Equal Suffrage Movement.**

A two-days' session of woman suffrage representatives from thirteen Mississippi Valley States met at Chicago on the 21st. Mrs. Alice T. Hall, State president of Minnesota, was chairman. The conference was devoted to methods for securing equal suffrage laws. Incidentally the case of Mrs. Pankhurst, just convicted of conspiracy in connection with the violence policy in England, was considered under a resolution which, as presented by Miss Editha Phelps, was as follows:

Resolved, that the Mississippi Valley Suffrage Conference, although realizing our political spirit and organization are so greatly different from those prevailing in the British Isles, and that it is difficult to judge needs and requirements for the women's cause there, hereby join the great labor leaders in the House of Commons in protesting against the treatment of Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst and her associates, who were today sentenced as criminal malefactors, when they should have the rights and privileges from immemorial times granted to political prisoners in the British kingdom.

With an amendment declaring against "militant methods in this country," moved by Mrs. Catharine Waugh McCulloch, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 45 to 17. An annual convention of the woman suffragists of the Mississippi Valley was decided upon by this initial conference, and the chairman was empowered to appoint a committee of three to make arrangements to that end. [See current volume, page 491.]

**Conviction of Mrs. Pankhurst.**

Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, principal leader of the physical force wing of woman suffragists in great Britain, was brought to trial at the Old Bailey sessions, London, on the 21st, upon an indictment charging her with conspiracy to cause malicious damage to property. The charge related to the recent crusade of window-breaking in London. Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence were tried on the same indictment at the same time. All the defendants were found guilty by the jury on the 22d, in a verdict recommending leniency in the punishment. Each was thereupon sentenced by Justice Coleridge to nine months' imprisonment (without hard labor) and the costs of prosecution. The Justice is reported as saying, when passing sentence:

If the prisoners had shown contrition I should have acted on the jury's recommendation, but as they have openly declared that they mean to continue to break the law I cannot make them first-class misdemeanants. They are guilty of an offense which they are liable to two years' penal servitude. [See current volume, page 324.]

**The "Friars' Lands" in the Philippines.**

The lower house of Congress passed on the 22d

an amendment to the Philippines civil government act with reference to the "Friars' lands." Under the act thus amended, should this amendment pass the Senate and be signed by the President, all these lands are to constitute—

a part and portion of the public domain of the government of the Philippine Islands and shall be held, sold and conveyed, or leased temporarily, under the same limitations and restrictions as are provided in this act for the holding, sale, conveyance, or lease of the public lands in said islands, unless the Philippine government shall hereafter provide otherwise by appropriate legislation; but such legislation shall not go into effect or have the force of law until it has received the approval of the President, and when approved by the President it shall be submitted by him to Congress at the beginning of the next ensuing session thereof, and unless disapproved or amended by Congress at said session it shall, at the close of such period, have the force and effect of law in the Philippine Islands. Provided, that all deferred payments and the interest thereon shall be payable in money prescribed for the payment of principal and interest of the bonds authorized to be issued in payment for said lands by the preceding section, and said deferred payments shall bear interest at the rate borne by the bonds. All moneys realized or received from sales or other disposition of said lands, or by reason thereof, shall constitute a trust fund for the payment of principal and interest of said bonds, and also constitute a sinking fund for the payment of said bonds at their maturity. Actual settlers and occupants at the time said lands are acquired by the government shall have the preference over all others to lease, purchase, or acquire their actual holdings within such reasonable time as may be determined by said government without regard to the extent of their said holdings. But nothing herein contained shall be construed to increase the amount of friar land which any corporation may hold.

[See vol. xiv, pp. 226, 251, 418, 604, 656, 882; current volume, page 347.]

**Negro Insurrection in Cuba.**

The trouble of last winter in Cuba over the question of displacing the Spanish element among the officeholders in favor of the "veterans," a large proportion of whom are Negroes who participated in the war for independence, has broken out into a revolt which has taken on the character of a Negro uprising. In addition to insisting upon their claims to official positions, the Negroes are demanding the abrogation of the Morua law, which forbids the organization of the Negroes into a political party. The peace of the island has seemed to be threatened, and the United States has taken steps which have appeared to augur intervention. A regiment of marines has been sent to the United States station at Guantanamo, and battleships have been sent to Key West. President Gomez on the 26th telegraphed President Taft, protesting against any intervention, with assurances that it is not needed. President Taft re-

sponded promptly that no intervention was contemplated, and that the troops and warships sent to the scene of action were merely for the protection of American citizens if needed. [See current volume, pages 82, 159.]



### The Disorders in Mexico.

Guadaloupe, the capture of which by the Mexican Federal troops was reported last week, again fell into the hands of the revolutionists a day or two later, during the absence of the Federals. Elsewhere the Federals are gaining. After a severe battle on the 23rd Reliano was taken by the Federal General Huerta, and the revolutionists retreated. The fighting is drawing closer to Chihuahua, the largest city in northern Mexico, and the headquarters of the present revolution. Zapata, the brigand leader in the south, with whom the revolutionists are allied, threatens to advance on the City of Mexico if President Madero does not resign before the 31st. [See current volume, page 491.]

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## NEWS NOTES

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—Eight wall-paper manufacturers and jobbers, tried in the Federal court at Cleveland on the 24th for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, were acquitted.

—The Senate of Massachusetts is the first State legislative body to ratify the proposed Amendment to the Federal Constitution providing for direct election of United States Senators. The vote, taken on the 22nd, was 30 to 0. [See current volume, page 469.]

—Congressman Joseph E. Ransdell and Robert F. Broussard of Louisiana were elected by the legislature of Louisiana on the 21st as United States Senators, Mr. Ransdell to succeed Senator Foster, whose term expires in 1913, and Mr. Broussard to succeed Senator Thornton in 1915.

—Professor Frederick Starr, of the University of Chicago, goes to Liberia as Special Commissioner of the San Diego Exposition of 1915 to arrange for a Liberian exhibit. He is to be accompanied by Harry Dean, the Negro explorer of Africa, and Campbell Marvin, a senior student at the University. [See current volume, page 38.]

—Another burning of a Negro in Texas came off on the 25th at Tyler in the public streets. The victim's name was Dan Davis. He was taken from the Sheriff's custody at Athens without difficulty by a mob, and made a confession at the stake (as reported) of assaulting and nearly murdering a farmer's daughter. In the presence of 2,000 people he was burned to charred bones and ashes. [See vol. xiv, p. 1306.]

—The National Manufacturers' Association, of which John Kirby, Jr., is president, appointed a committee on the 22nd to prepare plans for organizing a new political party. The committee consists

of O. H. L. Wernicke of Michigan, W. A. Baker of New Jersey, H. C. Hawk of Michigan, A. B. Farquhar of Pennsylvania, Henry B. Joy of Michigan, James Maynard of Tennessee, Carlyle Mason of Pennsylvania, Ludwig Lissen of New York, James Fenton of New York, R. B. Reasoner of Iowa and A. Parker Nevin of New York.

—An amendatory clause for their party constitution, adopted by the Socialist convention at Indianapolis by a vote of 191 to 90, and now awaiting a referendum vote of the party membership for its final adoption, is as follows:

Section 6. Any member of the party who opposes political action or advocates sabotage or other methods of violence as a weapon of the working class to aid in its emancipation shall be expelled from membership of the party. Political action shall be construed to mean participation in elections for public office and practical legislative and administrative work along the lines of the Socialist Party platform.

[See current volume, pages 484, 487.]

—A Chinese wedding was for the first time celebrated in public, at Shanghai, on the 21st. Says a dispatch to the Chicago Inter Ocean: "Instead of the bride being carried in a closed sedan chair to the bridegroom's house and remaining in absolute seclusion throughout the festivities, both parties came forward publicly in the presence of their friends and relations and were united with elaborate ceremony, which included music rendered on a piano, the reading of the marriage covenant and the public exchange of troth and rings. The ceremony concluded with presentation of flowers to the married couple by all present and a banquet in which the bride participated, sitting beside the bridegroom. No more striking evidence of the change from the old to the new order in China has yet been recorded."

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## PRESS OPINIONS

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### The Progressive Victory in Denver.

The Denver Post, May 23.—This complete and utter repudiation of "Boss" Evans and "Sub-Boss" Speer and all the crooks and plunderers that held official position under them, means that finally the "old man of the sea" has been thrown from our shoulders and that we are now practically left free to work out the magnificent destiny of this city.



The Denver Express, May 22.—Denver, good-natured and long-suffering, wrote a new declaration of independence yesterday when it cast into outer darkness the old bi-partisan machine that has ruled and robbed it for eight years.



The (Denver) Daily News, May 23.—The Citizens' victory puts an end to the reign of terror that has kept clean men out of politics, and has made cowards, sycophants and knaves of those in politics. . . . Men and women, as is their duty, can henceforth take an intelligent concern in public business without running the risk of being besmirched.