

Ownership ticket for comptroller, with J. G. Phelps Stokes as candidate for president of the Board of Aldermen.

Republican nominations were made on the 6th. The candidate nominated for Mayor was Charles E. Hughes, who has distinguished himself as counsel for the Armstrong legislative committee in the insurance scandal investigations (p. 427). The platform makes no further declaration regarding public utilities than this:

We believe that in the future development of the subways there should be secured the freest opportunity for competition in their construction and equipment, and that such subways should at all times be under the absolute control of the city government. The fact has been established by a legislative inquiry that it is permitted by the city authorities to operate franchises that have expired, and that the price of gas to the private consumer is extortionate. In view of the fact that the lighting trust is an absolute monopoly and of its failure to render to the people fair service at fair rates, we are in favor of the establishment of a municipal lighting plant for the use of the municipality and of its citizens, and of its operation by the city.

Mr. Hughes positively declined his nomination on the 9th, on the ground that he could not accept without betraying the trust reposed in him by the policy-holders of the insurance companies which are now under investigation. Frank Moss has been substituted.

New England politics.

At the Republican convention of Massachusetts on the 6th. Curtis Guild, Jr., was nominated for governor. Eugene N. Foss, of Boston, leading a tariff revision faction, demanded a declaration for free hides, iron ore, lumber and wood pulp, but owing to concessions in the platform he refrained from making a contest, giving notice however that next year his faction would expect the party convention to acquiesce in his demands. The tariff plank as adopted declares:

The Republican party of Massachusetts reaffirms its devotion to the principle of protection, and is opposed to tariff changes tending to depress or destroy any of our industries, or to lower the wages of American labor. But we recognize the fact, as declared by the national Republican convention at Chicago, that rates should be changed when conditions have so

changed that the public interest demands the alteration of schedules. The time at which revision of the tariff should be undertaken must be determined by the representatives of the party from all parts of our country. We approve the position taken by our senators and representatives at the last session of Congress in favor of present action, and we urge that they should continue to press upon their party associates in Congress from other States the wisdom of a consideration of the tariff for the purpose of revision and readjustment.

The Democratic convention followed, on the 7th, with the nomination of C. W. Bartlett for governor, Gov. Douglas having refused to be again a candidate, and adopted a platform declaring that—

the paramount issue at this time before the people of Massachusetts is relief from tariff restrictions. The effect of this policy, forced upon the dominant Republican party by the greed of great and selfish interests, has been to cut Massachusetts off from its natural markets of sale and purchase, and to push the State toward the danger line of industrial decline.

We believe that a sensible relief from these evils could be obtained without disturbance to business by placing upon the free list a number of raw materials of our industries, such as coal, iron, lumber, hides, wood pulp, and by the immediate enactment of a dual tariff law, which, while having the present tariff as its maximum, would give liberal reductions in duty rates to those nations that will accord to us favorable trade opportunities.

We believe that legislation should be enacted giving to cities and towns broader powers in the conduct and control of business which derives its profits from the necessities of the community, experience having demonstrated that under favorable conditions and proper management the business of public utilities can be conducted by municipal corporations with profit to the people, both in price and in service.

The Prohibitionists of Rhode Island nominated Bernon E. Helme for governor on the 7th.

The life insurance scandals.

Further exposures of embezzlement of life insurance funds for political purposes (p. 427) have been made before the Armstrong committee at New York during the week. Vice President Gillette of the Mutual Life, testified that with the concurrence of the president, Richard A. McCurdy, he had

contributed out of the treasury of that company to Republican campaign funds, \$15,000 in 1896, \$35,000 in 1900, and \$40,000 in 1904. At previous sessions of the committee, the associate auditor of the Equitable, Alfred W. Maine, was forced to reveal an alliance of many years' standing between the New York Life, the Equitable Life and the Mutual Life for the purpose of promoting favorable and opposing unfavorable legislation in the various States. The States were grouped territorially in three divisions, each company being responsible for a division, and large sums of corruption money were contributed jointly by the allied companies for the purposes of this alliance.

Pursuant to his announcement of a week ago (p. 427) the Superintendent of Insurance of Missouri, W. D. Vandiver, notified the New York Life Insurance Company on the 7th that the sum of \$148,702, which President McCall had confessed to having contributed out of the funds of the company to the Republican national campaign committee for the years, 1896, 1900, and 1904, must be replaced in the treasury of the New York Life Insurance company within the next thirty days, and that—

unless this requirement is met, or assurance given that it will be met without unnecessary delay, I, as superintendent of insurance for the State of Missouri, will proceed under the provisions of section 8,022, revised statutes of Missouri, to cancel or revoke the license of the company to do business in this State. From the facts already disclosed it is evident that the interests of the policy-holders in the New York Life Insurance company, as well as the public generally, demand a change in the management of the company. This department will, therefore, insist that a new president and vice president and financial committee be put in charge of the affairs of the company as soon as the board of directors may be able to effect the change.

On the 6th Thomas W. Lawson took steps to organize representative men throughout the country to secure the restitution of funds embezzled by insurance officials and the punishment of those guilty. He telegraphed as follows:

Will you, with other governors and the strongest representative men of the country, serve on a policy-holders' pro-