

The hearing of this action by the Federal Supreme Court may be better understood from the following report in the Chicago Record-Herald (a franchise extension paper) in its issue of October 17:

The United States Supreme Court yesterday advanced the hearing of the Chicago cases relating to traction matters, as appealed from Judge Grosscup's decree, to January 2, 1906. This early date of hearing will have an important bearing on the ninety-nine-year rights in Chicago, and may result in a decision by the Federal court of last resort, before the Spring election in Chicago, at which the ordinances proposed by the traction companies will go before the people. It may be possible also to get a decision by the Federal Supreme Court before the final hearing by the Illinois Supreme Court, which has been counted on by the city's attorneys to give a decision that would form a precedent for the Federal Supreme Court. The action of the United States Supreme Court caused much satisfaction in New York and Chicago yesterday, so far as traction officials and financiers interested in ninety-nine-year rights were concerned.

A New York dispatch published in the same paper of October 18, contributes still further to an understanding of the significance of this action by the Federal court, while indicating also the policy of the companies with reference to franchise extension:

A reorganization and consolidation of the Chicago City Railway company and the Chicago Union Traction company will take place, according to financiers interested in the companies, as soon as new franchises shall have been secured from the Chicago City Council and confirmed by a referendum vote. Since the ruling of the United States Supreme court, advancing the hearing of the traction cases to January 2, bankers identified with the controlling financial interests of the two companies have discussed frankly the plans that are under way to bring about the reorganization, which, it is said, will be accomplished within six months. The traction financiers are confident that the Federal Supreme Court will give the companies much more in the way of 99-year rights than Judge Grosscup gave them, and that a decision by the court will be given before the city election next Spring, when the voters are to pass upon the ordinances. In the event of a favorable decision, it is figured, the rights of the companies will be so apparent to the public that there will be no question about an overwhelming vote in favor of the franchises.

Officials of the City Railway company denied on the 18th the correctness of the foregoing report,

attributing it to stock-jobing interests in New York.

The municipal campaign in Cleveland.

One more debate between Mayor Johnson and his adversary, Mr. Boyd (p. 440) has taken place in Cleveland. This came off on the 14th and is reported to have been attended by a far greater crowd than either of the other two. Apart from the debates, the excitement has intensified with the holding of ward meetings on both sides, and the calling into service of Mayor Johnson's large circus tent within which Mayor Johnson and his supporters have done much of their effective campaign speaking heretofore.

New York city Republican politics.

The substitution of Frank Moss for Charles E. Hughes as the Republican candidate for mayor of New York (p. 440) was not carried through, and on the 16th this nomination was offered to William M. Ivins. Mr. Ivins was formerly a partner in business and adviser in politics of Mayor Grace, under whom he once held a high financial office in the New York municipal government. A leader in the movement for the Australian ballot in the late '80s, which was opposed by the Democrats under the leadership of Gov. Hill, and supported by some of the stronger Republicans, Mr. Ivins gradually transferred his political allegiance to the Republican party. Upon accepting the present nomination of that party for Mayor Mr. Ivins made this statement of his position on the question of municipal ownership:

On the question of municipal ownership I wish to make clear my position. I believe that every franchise that has lapsed should at once be acquired by the city. I believe that every franchise that has been forfeited should be at once put into the way of acquisition by the most relentless pursuit of the parties who acquired that franchise unrighteously. I believe that there should be no new grants of franchises in perpetuity whatsoever. I believe that all the wealth created by our community should be held in perpetuity by the community and for the use and benefit of our community, and not for the aggrandizement of large numbers of individuals.

Nomination of Hearst for mayor of New York.

The formal nomination of Wil-

liam Randolph Hearst as the candidate for mayor of the Municipal Ownership League for mayor of New York (p. 440) was made on the 12th at Carnegie Hall. In accepting the nomination he briefly summarized the principles of the movement as follows:

Honesty and efficiency in office.

Prosperity and progress for the people of this city.

Public ownership of public utilities to the end that taxes may be reduced, the service improved, and the conditions of employes bettered.

To this Mr. Hearst added:

I am running for Mayor of this city and not for Governor or any other position. If I have any business ability I shall devote it all to the conduct of the business of the city. If I have any other qualities that may be of use they shall be placed entirely at the service of the people of this city.

Following is the platform upon which Mr. Hearst was nominated:

The platform upon which the Municipal Ownership League appeals to the public is honesty. Honesty in politics, which means government in the interest of the people that cast the votes and pay the taxes. Honesty in administration, which means expenditure of the city's revenue for the benefit of the citizens and not for the benefit of trusts or private interests. Honesty in administration of all matters affecting the welfare of the people, and especially honesty in the administration of life insurance, that most sacred of all trusts. This platform is put before the people because honesty is now lacking in practically every department in the city's affairs.

The Municipal Ownership League is absolutely and permanently committed to the advocacy of municipal ownership. Public necessities and public values created by the people should be owned by the people. We demand the immediate establishment and operation by the city of a plant for the sale and distribution of gas to all citizens. We denounce the signing of the dishonorably planned and passed Remsen Gas bill, which would have put the city permanently and hopelessly at the mercy of the Gas Trust. We demand for the people gas at half the price now charged, at a price that will make heating by gas in the humblest homes cheaper than heating with coal at the present extortionate coal prices. In the coming mayoralty term of four years the city will grant subway franchises, the value of which is so great that it can scarcely be estimated. It runs into hundreds of millions of dollars. All of this should remain the property of the people. We demand the construction of these subways by the city, and their operation by the city, as soon as the

city shall be legally and financially able to undertake their operation. We protest against the impertinence of that bossism which has actually nominated for re-election the man who signed the Remsen Gas bill. Municipal ownership of public franchises would mean a benefit to all honest citizens and a menace to none. We demand the nomination of candidates for city and state offices directly by the people instead of by party convention controlled by political parties. We recognize the supply of water as one of the principal duties of the municipality. We demand that no citizen of Greater New York be left longer in the hands of private water companies. We pledge ourselves to the expenditure of all money required by the Board of Education for the benefit of pupils and teachers in the public schools. We demand home rule for New York city, protection against abuse of power by the legislature. We denounce the present administration.

All parties have refused to nominate District Attorney Jerome for reelection, and an independent campaign is being carried on in his behalf by the Citizens' Union (p. 440).

Gubernatorial campaign in Rhode Island.

At the Democratic convention of Rhode Island, held in Providence on the 12th, ex-Gov. L. C. F. Garvin was nominated for governor by acclamation. Gov. Garvin has been twice elected, in 1902 and 1903, while in 1904 he was but barely defeated. The platform on which he is nominated this year deals with national, as well as local questions. On the tariff question it places the Democrats of Rhode Island in line with those of Massachusetts "in demanding freer trade for natural markets of sale and purchase across the Canadian border."

The question of international peace.

The rumors of last month (p. 391) of a reconvening of The Hague conference were confirmed from Washington on the 14th, when the State Department disclosed the notes that had been exchanged on the subject between the Czar of Russia and President Roosevelt. After acknowledging the Czar's note of September 13, intimating a desire to reconvene the Powers, and outlining previous diplomatic interchanges on the subject, the President's note declares that—the President most gladly welcomes the offer of his Imperial Majesty to

again take upon himself the initiation of the steps requisite to convene a second international peace conference, as the necessary sequence to the first conference, brought about through his Majesty's efforts.

So far, then, as the United States is concerned, the conference now awaits only the naming of time and place by the Czar.

Dissolution of the Norway-Sweden union.

The statement of last week (pp. 442-43) that the Swedish Riksdag had ratified the Karlstad agreement for dissolution was erroneous in that only one house had then ratified. But on the 16th the other house voted for ratification, and Norway is now recognized by Sweden "as a State separate from the union with Sweden."

With her independence Norway immediately confronts the question of monarchy or republic. The republicans believe that public sentiment is opposed to monarchy and are struggling for a referendum on the issue. The monarchists, who appear to be of the same opinion, are determined to prevent a referendum. As they are in the majority in the Storting they may use their power to establish a monarchy without consulting the people, but it is hinted that if the republican minority in the Storting is strong no acceptable prince will consent to take the throne. The republican strength in the Storting is estimated at 30 in a membership of 117.

NEWS NOTES

—President Roosevelt began a tour of the Southern States on the 18th. His first important stop was at Richmond, where he spoke on the 18th.

—The organizing officials of the Protestant inter-church conference (p. 346), which is to meet in New York next month, have decided to exclude the Unitarians.

—Mrs. W. Fleming of Cambridge, Mass., is reported by the New York Herald to have discovered more stars than any other astronomer in the history of the world.

—John Edward Taylor, proprietor of the Manchester Guardian and son of its founder, died at Eastbourne, England, on the 5th, at the age of 75. He had been connected with the Guardian for 50 years.

—All Souls church of Iowa City, Ia. (Duren J. H. Ward, chairman commit-

tee of arrangements) is unique in one respect. It concedes to each of its members the right of coincident membership in any other church.

—Sir Henry Irving, the British actor, died suddenly at Bradford, England, early in the morning of the 7th, after having played before a large audience the night before, as Becket in his own stage adaptation of Lord Tennyson's play of that name. The body was cremated on the 18th.

—Edmund James James was formally installed on the 17th as president of the University of Illinois at Champaign. The ceremonies were imposing but democratic. The democracy of President James's speech was pronounced and significant. Among the scholars upon whom the degree of LL. D. was conferred were Frank A. Vanderlip, Daniel H. Burnham, Edwin G. Cooley and David Felmy.

—Bryan's Commoner announces that William J. Bryan, on his trip around the world, intends writing to his paper letters, interesting to men and women regardless of political prejudice, from Hawaii, China, the Philippine islands, India, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Holland and the British Isles.

—The monthly statement of the United States treasury department (see p. 393) for September, 1905, shows the following for three months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906:

Gold reserve fund.....	\$150,000,000.00
Available cash	138,823,692.85
Total	\$288,823,692.85
On hand at close of last fiscal year, June 30, 1905.....	292,490,322.87
Decrease	\$5,666,630.02

—The monthly treasury report of receipts and expenditures of the Federal government (see p. 428) for September, 1905, shows the following for the three months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906:

Receipts:	
Tariff	\$75,015,578.10
Internal revenues	61,442,792.92
Miscellaneous	10,556,354.08
Total	\$147,014,725.10
Expenses:	
Civil and Misc.....	\$33,373,843.60
War	28,231,635.39
Navy	30,176,442.11
Indians	3,919,201.23
Pensions	37,515,852.93
Public works	17,485,593.75
Interest	5,886,397.65
Total	\$156,588,966.66

Deficit

—An injunction was granted by Judge Holdom in connection with the printers' demand for an eight-hour day in Chicago (p. 391), on the 17th, restraining Typographical Union No. 16, from "picketing" printing firms belonging to the Typothetae, from hiring strike breakers to quit, and from sending boycotting circulars to customers. In granting the injunction,