

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

vote of the Speaker. The victory, such as it is, seems to have been won by the Governor's speech at the opening of Parliament. Realizing that to retain power they must win the support of the wavering Labor and Independent voters, the Government, in the Governor's customary speech, brought forward numerous popular proposals. They promised to introduce legislation to make the Legislative Council (the upper house) elective; to break up more large estates by compulsory purchase by the government for re-selling "to small settlers under a deferred payment system"; to increase the graduated land tax on properties of \$30,000 (unimproved values) and upward; to distinguish, for taxation purposes, between earned and unearned incomes, and between incomes of parents who are educating and maintaining a family and those who have no such responsibility. The creation of a standing commission of industrial investigation, consisting of two representatives of labor unions and one each of the industrial, commercial and landed interests, is also promised, this commission to report to Parliament. A scheme of industrial profit-sharing is suggested for "suitable industries"; also a reduction in the duties on tobacco and "on many articles in daily use," the deficiency in revenue caused thereby to be made good from the altered graduated land tax. Railway fares for children are to be lowered—children to travel free up to five years of age, and at quarter rates from 5 to 14. The age at which women can claim the old-age pension is to be reduced to 60, in the case of widows to 55, and without any restriction as to children. This program seems, however, to have done little to allay the present political unrest in New Zealand. Put forward as political strategy rather than political principle, it is received somewhat coldly by the people. Yet as it runs along the lines of public sentiment, it has taken the wind out of the sails of the conservatives, who fought their election campaign under the name of the Reform Party. Later news is to the effect that Sir Joseph Ward has resigned the Premiership and that Mr. Thos. Mackenzie has been elected to lead the Liberal Party. At the caucus at which this election was made, a resolution passed unanimously re-affirming the policy indicated in the Governor's speech. [See current volume, page 199.]

NEWS NOTES

—Justin McCarthy, M. P., the novelist and historian, died at Folkestone, England, on the 24th at the age of 82.

—The Senate bill in Congress for amending the Federal Constitution so as to provide for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people, was reported on favorably by the House committee on elections, and will come before the House

for final action next week. [See *The Public*, vol. xiv, p. 560; current volume, p. 300.]

—Frederic C. Howe has been appointed Managing Director of the People's Institute of New York City in place of the late Charles Sprague Smith. [See vol. xiii, pp. 315, 322.]

—The convention of the Irish Nationalist Party at Dublin, Ireland, on the 23rd, voted unanimously to accept and indorse the Asquith home rule bill. [See current volume, page 395.]

—Tornadoes creating great devastation were reported from Oklahoma on the 25th and 27th. Three persons were killed on the 25th, and 41 on the 27th, when half a dozen towns were entirely destroyed.

—The ancient city of Damascus, now one of the holy cities of the Mohammedans and capital of Syria, suffered severe loss in its business districts by fire on the 26th and 27th. The damage is estimated at \$10,000,000.

—Woman suffrage was defeated in the Arizona Senate on the 23rd by 7 to 11, following an adverse report by the committee on Constitutional amendments to which the measure as passed by the House had been referred.

—Power "to modify the qualification of electors by extending the elective franchise to women," was inserted by amendment in the bill for the government of Alaska by a vote of 81 to 35 in the lower house of Congress on the 24th.

—The National Chamber of Commerce was organized at Washington on the 24th, Henry A. Wheeler, of the Union Trust Company of Chicago and ex-president of the Chicago Association of Commerce, being elected the first president.

—The birthday of Shakespeare on the 23rd was celebrated by the school children of Chicago with a pageant and fête in Lincoln Park. Nearly two thousand children in costume impersonated Shakespeare's characters, or noted persons of his time.

—A banquet reception to Henry George, Jr., Congressman from New York, is to be given by the American Free Trade League at the Twentieth Century Club, Boston, on the 4th, at which Harvey N. Shepard will preside and Roger Sherman Hoar will be the other speaker.

—Proceedings against County Judge Owens, Sheriff Zimmer and others for contempt of a Superior Court injunction in connection with the Democratic convention of Cook County, Illinois, began on the 29th before Judge McKinley, whose injunction had been violated. [See current volume, pages 368, 396.]

—At the Democratic convention for Colorado held at Denver on the 29th, the contest between Speaker Clark and Governor Wilson as Democratic candidates for President resulted in Speaker Clark's favor by 676 to 372 of the 1,234 delegates. A motion to instruct for Governor Wilson as second choice at the national convention was defeated. [See current volume, page 323.]

—The deputies elected recently in the island of Crete, to be sent to the parliament of Greece, in the hope of replacing the Turkish control of the island by a Greek relationship, have been prevented by the great Powers from proceeding to Athens. The