

state prescribes that each bill shall be read three times, then the rule of procedure can provide that a referendum vote can be demanded after the second reading and passage.

He prefers the four readings, with the popular vote between third and fourth, in all cases where constitutional obstacles do not exist, as likely to be less difficult in practice. For American legislatures have become so accustomed to making the third reading of bills the occasion for debate, amendment, etc., that the shifting of debate and amendment to second reading might not be easy to accomplish.

That is probably true. But the theory of the custom of first, second and third readings of bills is that at its second reading a bill shall be debated, amended and otherwise put into final shape for passage or rejection. The habit of leaving the real consideration of bills to third reading is an outgrowth of bossism. That being the final reading, bad bills slip through more easily, they escape organized opposition more readily, if a debate at second reading has not aroused public hostility. But inasmuch as this is now the custom very generally, Mr. Shibley's plan of a fourth reading, with the popular vote between third and fourth, wherever permissible under the constitution, probably adopts the line of least resistance.

Besides the rules with reference to the Referendum, rules of similar character are proposed with reference to the Initiative.

This Winnetka plan of securing the advantages of direct legislation without waiting for legislation, has special merit. It can, for one thing, be easily made the subject of effective non-partisan organization. For another, if the organization were to become influential it would completely effect its purpose. Meanwhile, here and there locally, the purpose would be effected even though balked and delayed in the larger governmental divisions. Moreover, the plan has been for years in actual and effective operation at Winnetka. Finally, it contemplates a spontaneous command from the people as to public servants, not a petition from them as to public masters.

Some one has complained of party government that—

old constitutions bind the people, old platforms fetter the parties, and men who feel and think alike are as helpless to concert plans of escape as prisoners mewed up in separate cells. Not their own disagreements, but the dead fabric built by brains and hands long ago crumbled to dust, holds them apart.

A means of escape from that coercion appears to be offered by this Winnetka system of non-partisan organization.

## NEWS

No reports have appeared this week regarding the referendum vote of the Amalgamated association on propositions for settling the steel strike, which the press dispatches freely published last week, and of which we gave the substance at page 329. There, is, indeed, no definite news of the strike this week, although reports are abroad as we write (Sept. 5) that the trust has offered terms of settlement which Mr. Shaffer has rejected. The basis for these reports is the fact of a conference held on the 4th. It met in New York and was attended by Samuel Gompers, president of the Federation of Labor; John Mitchell, president of the Mine Workers; R. M. Easley, secretary of the National Civic Federation; Harry White, secretary of the garment workers; Prof. J. W. Jenks, of the United States Industrial Commission; Charles M. Schwab, president of the steel trust; W. E. Corey, president of the Carnegie company; V. Preston, ex-president of the sheet steel trust; D. G. Reed, president of the tin plate trust, and William Edenborn, vice president of the steel and wire trust. According to the reports it was agreed by the trust representatives at this conference that the trust would settle the strike, if the labor organization would order all strikers to resume work at 6:30 a. m. of the 4th, upon the following terms: That all mills, whether union or nonunion, which have continued in operation during the strike, or, after being closed in its earlier stages, have been put into operation since, shall be regarded as nonunion mills; while those plants which the strikers have succeeded in closing and keeping closed shall be recognized as union mills. The same reports, said to have emanated from

official sources, have it that upon being advised of this offer by Mr. Gompers and Mr. Mitchell, who used the long-distance telephone, President Shaffer, speaking from headquarters in Pittsburg, refused to accept. But Mr. Shaffer himself gave to the press the following contradiction, dated the 4th, at Pittsburg:

I have absolutely nothing to say about the reported New York conference. I did not know there was a conference until I was asked about it this afternoon and read about it in the evening papers. I do not know what propositions were made. The gentlemen who appear to be acting for us have no authority from me or the association to settle the strike. If they receive any proposition looking to a settlement and present it to me I shall be glad to present it before the executive board. I have not been in conference with any of the gentlemen. On the subject of the conference, Mr. Gompers, who participated, gave out this interview:

We met Mr. Schwab and other representatives of the steel corporation in conference this afternoon. We discussed the steel strike. As to whether any proposition was submitted to President Schwab and as to what discussion took place, or whether any decision was reached or not, are matters regarding which we think that it would be best at present to keep silent.

Beyond this, there is no strike news.

The South American troubles also are at a standstill. Fighting between the revolutionary forces and the government, both in Venezuela and Colombia, is reported; but war between the two countries has not yet been declared. On the 3d the American state department informally divulged the substance of a communication, the text of which is as yet withheld, which had been sent on the 24th to the American ministers to Venezuela and Colombia. It directs them respectively to make a tender of President McKinley's kindly offices for an adjustment of differences, and to warn these governments against any action on the part of either which may menace the security of transit across the Isthmus.

From the Philippines the meager news that filters through the American censorship at Manila, is not reassuring as to the pacification of these new possessions. When last we referred to the Philippine situation (p. 250), the press dispatches were telling of the abrogation of civil government in the islands of Cebu and Bahol and

in the province of Batangas, Luzon, owing to the persistence of the inhabitants in their fight for independence. These indications that the islands are far from pacified find confirmation in the news of the current week. Congressman Hull, the chairman of the committee on military affairs in the lower house, who has acquired large landed interests in the Philippines and has just returned from an inspection of the country, declares that a full military equipment is necessary to hold the civil governments together; and the press dispatches from Manila reveal the warlike conditions that still prevail, by predicting an early improvement. "Everything points," says one of these dispatches, dated the 1st, "to the early capture or surrender of Miguel Malvar, the insurgent leader." It goes on:

When either event occurs everything will be favorable to the establishment of permanent peace. . . . Each day shows an increasing number of surrenders and captures in all the disaffected districts. Later accounts of the recent engagement in Batangas province between Capt. H. O. Hale, with a detachment of the Twentieth infantry, and the insurgent leader Gonzales, show that it was more important than it was first considered. Many deserters and renegades were seen and heard giving commands in English. Col. Gracias, two officers and 50 men were killed after an engagement lasting three hours.

In South Africa, as in the Philippines, the war drags on. Notwithstanding the near approach of the time (September 15) when it is to end, in virtue of the British proclamation to that effect (p. 298), the dispatches indicate that it is being prosecuted by the Boers with renewed vigor. Scheeper's commando was reported as having moved to the southwest and invaded a part of Cape Colony previously undisturbed by the Boers. One force looted Barrydale, in the Swellendam district, only 140 miles from Cape Town. The Cologne Gazette's Cape Town correspondent declares that the whole of Cape Colony is a "seething mass of disorder and alarm." He adds that the Boers are receiving support on all sides.

From a notoriously unreliable source, the London Mail, it is reported that Gen. De Wet has issued a proclamation declaring that he will shoot all armed British colonial troops

found in the Orange Free State after September 15. The British reconcentrado camps have experienced a heavy mortality, especially among children. The London Standard puts the number of reconcentrados at 62,479, of which 1,067 died in July. Of this number 860 were under 12 years of age.

On the 2d, Dr. Krause, former governor of Johannesburg, the official who surrendered that town to Lord Roberts, was arrested in London upon a charge of high treason. He was arraigned on the 3d at Bow street police court, and an application for bail was refused. The details of the accusation have not yet been divulged.

One phase of the Chinese complications has been disposed of, China having apologized to Germany for the assassination by a mob last year of the German minister, Baron von Ketteler. The apology was ceremoniously made on the 4th at Potsdam, by a Chinese mission headed by Prince Chun-Tsai-Fong, brother of the Chinese emperor. It consisted in reading a letter to "the Great German Emperor" from "the Great Emperor of the Chinese Empire," in which the latter protested that "we were not in a position to take due protective measures," which fact was so "painful to our sense of responsibility" that it "prompted us to erect a monument on the spot as a sign" that the murder of Von Ketteler should not remain unexpiated. After expressing regret for Von Ketteler's fate, and thanking the German emperor for sending troops from a far distance to "put down the Boxers' rebellion" and restore "peace for the welfare of our nation," the letter expressed the hope that "your majesty's indignation will be replaced by the old friendship." In reply the emperor of Germany warned the Chinese ambassador that the fact that the emperor of China "personally stood aloof from this crime and the subsequent acts of violence against the inviolable legations and peaceable foreigners," made "all the greater the guilt resting on his advisers and government," and that "the latter must not delude themselves with the belief that they are able to obtain atonement and pardon for their guilt by the expiatory mission alone," but that "they will be judged by their future conduct in accordance with the laws of nations."

## NEWS NOTES.

—Gen. William Ludlow, U. S. A., died in New Jersey on the 30th.

—The National Association of Post Office Clerks met at Milwaukee on the 3d.

—The National Association of Letter Carriers was in session this week at Chattanooga.

—Reports are current that starvation threatens over 50,000 people in southern Texas, owing to the drought.

—Tolstoi has gone to Sebastopol. The peasants along the line of his journey gave him a triumphal progress.

—The proposed new party in Missouri (p. 172) is to hold a convention at Kansas City on the 17th, 18th and 19th.

—The Alabama constitutional convention adopted the new constitution on the 3d by a vote of 132 to 12, subject to approval by popular vote. The only Democratic delegate who voted against it was Frank S. White.

—The British trades union congress is in session at Swansea, Wales. On the 4th it adopted resolutions favoring an increase of the age limit of children in factories to 15 years, and rejected, by a vote of 676,000 to 366,000, a resolution favoring compulsory arbitration.

—Surrogate Fitzgerald, of New York, sustains the will of Helen C. Brush, giving \$90,000 to a Christian Science congregation. It had been attacked by relatives on the ground that Miss Brush was mentally incompetent, being a Christian scientist; but the surrogate held that "the truth or falsity of a religious belief is beyond the scope of a judicial inquiry."

—At the meeting at Denver on the 4th of the Rocky Mountain Interstate Medical association, Dr. E. P. Hershey, of Denver, read a paper in support of the theory that the vermiform appendix has physiological functions. He described it as a secretory organ for the lubrication of the beginning of the large intestine. A strong protest was made against the paper by other delegates, on the ground that it was not supported by facts, and the meeting refused to consider it in its present form. Dr. Hershey was given a year for further investigation.

Hans Jensen, a Dane, was in court at Garnett, Kan., seeking to be naturalized. He was asked if he was satisfied with the general condition of the country and whether the government suited him. "Yes," said Hans, "but I would like more rain." The judge swore him in, saying: "You already have the Kansas idea."—The Chicago Chronicle.