

The Massachusetts Single Tax League gave a dinner on the 2d at the Commonwealth Hotel, at which C. B. Fillebrown presided, in the absence of James R. Carret, the president of the League. The speakers were Garrett Droppers, professor of political economy at Williams College; J. B. Willis, editor of the Christian Science Journal; Ernest H. Clement, long-time editor of the Boston Transcript; Charlotte Schetter, president of the Women's National Single Tax League, and Stoughton Cooley of Chicago.

Samuel Brazier was the speaker at a memorial dinner at Worcester, Mass., on the 2d.

In Denver, Edward Keating presided at a dinner in the Albany Hotel, and the principal speech was delivered by John B. McGauran, in the place of Senator Bucklin of Grand Junction, who had been prevented from keeping the appointment. Other speakers were Judge Ben B. Lindsey, Jabez Norman, Edwin Burdick, Dr. Edward Jackson and Clarence J. Moorehouse. In response to a telegram from Daniel Kiefer, chairman of the Fels Fund Commission, a committee—Edwin Burdick, J. P. S. Voght and Clarence J. Moorehouse—was appointed to begin active work in raising the quota of Colorado for this fund.

The Pittsburg dinner was conducted by Charles Eckert as toastmaster, the committee of arrangements being C. V. Horn, W. D. George, M. McNeill, Edmund Yardly, Frederick Schellenberg, H. Noren and R. E. Smith. W. N. McNair, attorney for the McKee's Rock strikers and an enthusiastic disciple of Henry George, was among the speakers. The other speakers were Henry H. Wilson, Rabbi Levy, Warren Worth Bailey and ex-Gov. Garvin of Rhode Island. There were over 250 diners present.

Other celebrations, not yet heard from, were to have taken place in this country at Omaha, Spokane, San Francisco, Montreal, Portland (Oregon), Seattle, New York City, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Denver, El Paso and New Orleans. Others are yet to come off—notably at Minneapolis and St. Paul on the 12th, and at St. Louis in October.

The British Budget.

The budget discussion (p. 823) in the House of Commons is now renewed, but upon other than the land clauses. T. P. O'Connor, M. P., reports in his Chicago Tribune letter of the 4th, that "the renewal of the budget struggle finds the budget in comparatively smoother waters," although the liquor interests are fighting the licensing clauses

ferociously. The "guillotine," or closure, is now applied continually, to cut off make-believe debate and dilatory motions; and there seems to be fair reason for expecting the bill to go to the House of Lords within the month.

South African Union.

The draft constitution for a federation of the States of South Africa (p. 848) has passed both houses of the British Parliament without amendment, amendments preserving rights of franchise to the natives being voted down in both houses. As passed, the Constitution restricts the right to sit in either house of the new South African Parliament "to persons of European descent"; and refuses the right to vote to the black and colored men of all of the States except Cape Colony, where for the present the existing native franchise is retained, with the provision that it may later be taken away by a two-thirds majority of the South African Parliament. Mr. Asquith is reported as having said that there was no one in England who, if it had rested with him to draw up the South African Constitution, would have inserted a clause invidiously debarring a man by reason of his color from exercising the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens. The House of Commons accepted Mr. Asquith's further view that, having placed its opinion on record, it was better to leave the matter to the spontaneous and unfettered judgment of self-governing South Africa, Mr. Asquith having expressed his "confident hope and almost expectation that the new union legislature would see its way without unreasonable delay to remove this color bar."

Niagara Movement Address.

The annual address of the Niagara Movement (vol. xi, p. 587), authorized by the convention, held at Sea Isle City, N. J., August 15-18, has just been published. It describes the purpose of the Movement as being—

to make ten million Americans of Negro descent cease from mere apology and weak surrender to aggression, and take a firm unflinching stand for justice, manhood and self-assertion.

Pointing to the progress of the Negro-American, this address explains:

We are accumulating property at a constantly accelerating rate; we are rapidly lowering our rate of illiteracy; but property and intelligence are of little use unless guided by the great ideals of freedom, justice and human brotherhood. As a partial result of our effort we are glad to note among us increasing spiritual unrest, sterner impatience with cowardice and deeper determination to be men at any cost. Along with undoubted advance and development within, there continues without unceasing effort to discourage and proscribe us. We not only travel in public ignominy and discomfort, but at

the instance of some of our weak-kneed leaders, the Interstate Commerce Commission has recently sought to make a pitiful apology for this disgrace. Our right to work is questioned not only by some who are attempting to fight the great battles of labor, but even by those very people who declare us fit for nothing else. We are glibly told to deserve before we complain; yet those of us who do deserve are proscribed along with the least, by men who know that ability and desert come oftenest through freedom and power.

Turning to the labor question in its relation to the Negro-American, the address makes this impressive appeal:

Do men forget that the wages of white Americans cannot permanently rise far above the wages of black Americans? And do they not know that the half-drunken Senator who can today slap a black laborer's face may tomorrow kick white laborers down stairs? And yet who are they that too often lead the fight against us? Poor and ignorant whites, spurred on by the richer and more intelligent who hide behind the mob and fatten on its deeds. Small wonder that Negro disfranchisement is practically coincident with those regions where white ignorance, political fraud and murder are greatest. That black men are inherently inferior to white men is a widespread lie which science flatly contradicts, and the attempt to submerge the colored races is one with world-old efforts of the wily to exploit the weak. We must therefore make common cause with the oppressed and down-trodden of all races and peoples; with out kindred of South Africa and the West Indies, with our fellows in Mexico, India and Russia, and with the cause of the working-classes everywhere. On us rests to no little degree the burden of the cause of Individual Freedom, Human Brotherhood, and Universal Peace in a day when America is forgetting her promise and destiny. Let us work on and never despair. Though pigmy voices are loudly praising ill-gotten wealth, big guns, and human degradation, they but represent back eddies in the tide of Time. The causes of God cannot be lost.

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Cleveland Traction Question.

Later reports from Cleveland indicate that the agreement outlined last week (p. 847) was not concluded. The company objects to adding Newton D. Baker, the city solicitor, to the committee for drafting safeguard clauses, and the city refuses to turn the matter over to a committee in whose deliberations it has no voice. The situation as described editorially by the Plain Dealer of the 1st is as follows:

To solve the difficulty of making the public safeguards of the Tayler plan safe without at the same time rendering the ordinance too liable to complete invalidation, both sides agreed to the appointment of an advisory commission of lawyers. The traction company expressed its willingness to submit the problem to Judge Tayler, Judge Lawrence and S. H. Tolles, while the city demanded the addition of City Solicitor Newton D. Baker. Although the city expressly stated that the company need not bind itself to abide by the

findings of this commission, the traction representatives have remained obdurate in their opposition to placing Mr. Baker on the commission, and have actually created out of this a "point of difference." Such action is silly and reprehensible. . . . Five points of difference are at present under discussion. Two of these, referring to East Cleveland and the Interurbans, are now in process of settlement with practically no disagreement between city and company. Two others, those of the makeup of the advisory commission on validation and of the "disinterestedness" of arbitrators, are mere quibbles on the part of the traction company and should be eliminated at once. The fifth, that of time limit for nominating a purchaser, has already been subject for compromise. Though the Plain Dealer believes that the company's demand on this is not unjust, it feels that a slight concession might well be made to meet the large concession which has been offered by the city.

The preliminary differences, those that must be eliminated before proceeding to valuation and the fixing of the maximum rate of fare, are really so slight or so technical that they should and could be disposed of at once.

The question of maximum rate of fare, to be fixed after valuation by Judge Tayler, remains the threatening portent. But even this should be no block to immediate peace, if immediate peace is desired by both sides.

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Incomplete returns from the Municipal Primary election held on the 7th indicated that Tom L. Johnson had for the fifth consecutive time been nominated for Mayor by the Democrats, but that his councilmanic supporters were defeated.

NEWS NOTES

— The International Esperanto congress (vol. xi, p. 494) opened at Barcelona, Spain, on the 6th, the sessions to continue until the 10th.

— Reports from the little war being waged by Spain in Morocco, in the interests of Spanish and French mining enterprises (p. 825), indicate an improved situation for the Spaniards.

— Lloyd Garrison Wheeler, the first Negro to be admitted to the Illinois bar, died at Tuskegee on the 28th at the age of 60 years. From 1903 until his death he was business agent of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

— An agreement between China and Japan concerning Manchurian issues was signed at Peking on the 4th (vol. x, pp. 1188, 1213). The subjects of dispute relate chiefly to exploitation rights in building railroads and opening mines.

— The National Allied Tobacco Trades Association, composed of manufacturers, was formed at Chicago on the 2d for the purpose of opposing legislation inimical to the tobacco industry and to carry on a campaign of education for its protection.

— Reports of another flood come from northeastern Mexico (p. 849). The town of Tulap in Nuevo Leon was reported to have been wholly swept away on the