

year. Nebraska (p. 327) is claimed by the Republicans by a plurality of 8,000 on the candidate for Supreme Court justice. Colorado (pp. 394, 411) elects the Republican candidate for Supreme Court Judge by about 7,000. New Jersey elects a Republican legislature, but in Union county there was a Democratic landslide in favor of public ownership of municipal utilities. New York also elects a Republican legislature. Pennsylvania (p. 346) rolls up a majority for the Republican candidate for auditor general of 250,000. In San Francisco Mayor Schmitz, the Labor candidate, is elected over Henry J. Crocker, Republican, and Franklin K. Lane, democratic Democrat, Crocker being second and Lane third.

The only reports of side-party votes relate to the Socialists of Massachusetts (p. 411). Their vote on the State ticket is reported to have fallen off about 8,000 (about 24 per cent.) from last year (vol. iv., p. 486). The party also loses two members of the legislature, one of them being James F. Carey of Haverhill, who had been elected five times in succession. It elects one member.

In New York State a referendum proposing to bond the State for \$101,000,000, to convert the canals into deep water ways, so as to compete with the railroads, was carried by 175,000.

Ohio also had referendums. There were the following five for amending the State constitution:

1. Giving the governor the veto power.
2. Doing away with double liability on stock in corporations.
3. Separate representation for each county in the State legislature.
4. Classification of property for purposes of taxation.
5. Classification of cities for purposes of municipal legislation.

The Chicago traction question (p. 468) was revived last week by the publication of a "tentative ordinance" agreed upon in secret sessions by the sub-committee of the transportation committee of the city council. It offered a franchise for 20 years to the City Railway Co. The apparent design of the sub-committee is that this and similar ordinances be passed during the Winter in order to estab-

lish vested interests in new 20-year franchises before the people vote next April on the adoption of "the Mueller act" (p. 458), authorizing cities adopting it to establish municipal ownership. Aroused by this act of what they regard as treachery by city officials, the leaders of the municipal ownership movement have begun a brisk agitation for municipal ownership immediately.

A large mass meeting was held in this connection in Handel hall on the 1st, at which resolutions making the following demands were adopted:

1. Open meetings of the council committee on local transportation.
2. In place of granting franchise extension ordinances the council to allow the companies to run under licenses revocable at will.
3. Nothing to be done regarding extension ordinances until the Mueller act has been voted on at the next city election.
4. The council to discharge the hold-over committee on local transportation and substitute a committee of the new council, on municipal ownership with power to employ counsel and experts.

These resolutions were offered in the council on the 2d by Alderman Beilfus. With a proposed amendment to the effect that no ordinance shall be reported to the council by the traction committee until a public hearing on it shall have been had and all citizens interested have been given an opportunity to discuss it, these resolutions were referred to the traction committee. But not until a motion to suspend the rules and pass them had been defeated by the vote of 41 to 22, as follows:

Yeas—Dixon, Alling, Stuckart, Daily, Rooney, Novak, Moertel, Cerveny, Zimmer, Scully, Moran, Beilfuss, Kunz, Jozwiakowski, Dever, Sitts, Finn, Leachman, Bradley, Burns, Johnson, Race—22.

Nays—Coughlin, Kenna, Jackson, Foreman, Sloan, Mavor, Young, Snow, Bennett, Jones, Moynihan, Fick, Preib, Sindelar, Cullerton, Maypole, Conlon, Brennan, Moran, Patterson, Minwegen, Palmer, Dougherty, Sullivan, Werno, Schmidt, Ehemann, Williston, Dunn, Kuester, Blake, Butler, Raymer, Larson, O'Connell, Butterworth, Badenoch, Eldmann, Bihl, Ruxton, Hunter—41.

Meanwhile petitions for the submission of three questions, under the "public policy" or advisory referendum, are being widely circu-

lated by the Referendum League of Chicago for the signatures of voters. The questions are—

1. Shall the city of Chicago proceed, under the powers conferred in the Mueller law, to immediately acquire the present traction properties, thereby making the Mueller law effective at once?
2. Shall the city of Chicago proceed, under its police powers, and other existing laws, to license the present traction companies, in lieu of further franchise grants, and to compel immediate improvements in the service?
3. Shall the board of education be chosen by direct vote of the people?

The petitions are endorsed by the Turnverein, the Municipal Ownership League, and the Federation of Labor.

The recent stubborn civil war in Colombia (vol. v., p. 539), is now about to be supplemented by another; and it is not improbable that in the latter the United States may become involved. It relates to the reported secession of the Department of Panama from the Republic of Colombia.

Circumstances, as far as reported, indicate that the secession of Panama is part of a plan to force the preference for the Panama route over the Nicaragua route for the Isthmian canal. When Colombia rejected the Panama canal treaty (pp. 309, 311) last August, it became the duty of President Roosevelt (vol. v, p. 199) to abandon the Panama route and turn to Nicaragua. But no steps in this direction have been taken. Reports have occasionally reached the public from Washington, however, to the effect that the people of Panama were greatly excited by the refusal of their national authorities to accept the treaty. Similar reports have reached the American public directly from Panama. For instance, on the 13th of September an Associated Press dispatch from Panama stated that the Colombian government had "awakened to the seriousness of the situation on the Isthmus, and was about to take energetic steps to check the movement toward secession." Another dispatch from Panama, October 25, reported:

It is known here that a revolutionary force consisting of about 70 men landed on or about October 11 at Catalina, the port at the mouth of the Calovebora on the Atlantic coast of Colombia. This

expedition, according to information in the hands of Gov. Obaldia, is under the leadership of Federico Barrera, Lugo, and Juan Antonio Caicedo. Barrera was one of the Liberal revolutionists who took part in the capture of Colon in 1901; Lugo was one of the military chiefs in the Domingo Diaz expedition of 1901, which was defeated by forces under the late Gen. Carlos Alban after considerable fighting along the railroad between here and Colon. It is believed that the revolutionists were expecting reinforcements, but that they were disappointed and consequently returned to the coast.

On the following day Walter Wellman, whose facilities for getting "inside" information at Washington appear to be exceptional, wrote on the subject from Washington to the Chicago Record-Herald. He began:

Is the American government getting ready for the much talked-of pro-canal revolution on the Isthmus of Panama? From all appearances trouble of some sort is expected by the administration, and President Roosevelt is moving energetically to meet it, whether it be secession from Colombia by the department of Panama or an outbreak in some other region bordering on the Caribbean sea. Evidently something is up in the waters to the south of us, but just what it may be is a state secret which is being guarded most jealously. On Saturday the auxiliary cruiser Dixie was dispatched from Philadelphia with 400 marines on board. . . . Orders came from Washington for the Dixie to put to sea regardless of her condition. . . . Officials who were asked to-day where the Dixie was going said in a vague way that it "was somewhere in the Caribbean Sea." When asked to tell the exact destination or the precise object of sending her south at this time they refused to talk. A high official, who is familiar with inside naval affairs, said: "The Dixie has been sent to the Caribbean under sealed orders, which precludes me from saying anything about her cruise or the necessity for it at this time. All that I feel at liberty to say is that marines have been sent south as a proper precaution."

A week later comes news that the independence of the Isthmus of Panama was proclaimed on the 3d. This independence proclamation is reported to have been shortly preceded by the imprisonment, in the name of the "Republic of Panama," of two Colombian generals, Tovar and Amaya, who had arrived at Panama in the morning of the same day. On the 4th the city of Panama, on the Pa-

cific side of the Isthmus, was in the hands of the revolutionists, while the city of Colon, on the Atlantic side, was still in the hands of loyal Colombian troops.

From Washington the following official statement regarding the Panama revolution and the action of the American government in reference to it, was issued on the 3d:

A number of confused and conflicting dispatches have been received from the Isthmus indicating rather serious disturbances at both Panama and Colon. The navy department has dispatched several vessels to these ports with directions to do everything possible to keep travel open and maintain order along the line of the railroad.

This was in explanation, apparently, of orders reported in press dispatches on the 3d to have been—

dispatched to the cruisers Dixie and the Atlanta on the Atlantic side, and the Boston on the Pacific coast, to proceed with all possible speed to Isthmian waters to aid the Nashville in protecting American interests and maintaining a free transit across the Isthmus in accordance with the treaty of 1846. Orders also were sent to Rear Admiral Glass, commanding the Pacific squadron, consisting of the cruisers Concord, Marblehead and Wyoming, at Acapulco, to coal immediately and hold itself in readiness to proceed on a moment's notice to Panama. When the cruiser Baltimore reaches San Domingo orders will be cabled it to go to the Isthmus. The most explicit instructions are being cabled to-night to the American consuls at Panama and Colon and to the commander of the Dixie, who will be in charge of the vessels on the Atlantic side.

On the 4th Commander Hubbard, of the United States gunboat "Nashville," sent the following notice to the prefect of the city of Colon, where Colombian troops are marshalled under orders from the national government to recover the city of Panama from the revolutionists:

The condition of affairs at Panama, I am advised, is such that any movement of the Colombian troops now at Colon to that neighborhood must bring about a conflict and threaten that free and uninterrupted transit of the Isthmus which the United States is pledged to maintain. I have, therefore, the honor to notify you that I have directed the superintendent of the railroad that he must not transport on his line troops either of the government or of the opposition party.

NEWS NOTES.

—Prof. Theodor Mommsen, the famous historian, died at Berlin on the 1st.

—Ex-Congressman John E. Russell, of Massachusetts, died on the 28th of heart disease.

—President Roosevelt has appointed Thursday, the 26th, as the day of general thanksgiving.

—At an "employers' convention" held at Chicago on the 31st, a "Citizens' Industrial Association" was formed, of which David M. Parry was elected president.

—The Forward Movement, 305 West Van Buren street, Chicago, Miss M. E. Dix, superintendent in charge, will present a series of radical lectures in November by John Z. White, Judge William Prentiss, Prof. H. B. Loomis and Prof. George C. Griffith.

—John Z. White, lecturer for the Henry George association, and A. M. Simons, editor of the International Socialist Review, debated the Single Tax versus Socialism at Maplewood Opera House, Chicago, on the 1st, before a pay-audience of 1,000 people.

—Sanford B. Dole, Governor of Hawaii, was on the 31st appointed judge of the United States District Court of Hawaii by President Roosevelt, to succeed the late Judge Morris M. Estee. George R. Carter, secretary of Hawaii, was appointed governor to succeed Gov. Dole.

—The Colorado court-martial on the 2d (p. 458) convicted Gen. Chase of "technical disobedience of orders" by a vote of 6 to 4. The disobedience consisted in refusing to obey an order of the Governor directing the release of an imprisoned striker from the military prison at Cripple Creek.

—During the Democratic street campaign in Cincinnati, on the 29th, William Everett Hicks, a New York newspaper man, spoke uninterruptedly at an open air meeting at Fifth and Race streets from 2:45 in the afternoon until 11 at night. At no time did he have an audience of less than 100, and frequently it was as large as 300 or 400.

—The men's club of the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, corner of Washington boulevard and Peoria street, Chicago. Rev. J. D. Haslam, rector, intends to present a series of lectures by well-known radicals. The speakers announced for November are Jacob C. LeBosky, John Z. White, H. H. Hardinge and Margaret Haley.

PRESS OPINIONS.

OHIO POLITICS.

Salem (O.) Daily Herald (Dem.), Nov. 2.—The thought of accomplishing the political death of Mayor Johnson, by defeating him at the polls in a State normally Republican by eighty thousand, is an idle dream, born only in the vain ambition of the monopolist and trust magnate, as a forlorn hope to