

requested by the American Federation of Labor to consider and vote upon the advisability of instructing the affiliated central and local unions to conduct the proposed campaign for the people's sovereignty in State affairs; and

Resolved, That for the establishment of the people's sovereignty in national affairs our President is requested to frame at the earliest practical day a petition incorporating a request for the immediate establishment in Congress of the advisory initiative and advisory referendum, as described in the July 15th extra number of the American Federationist, and that copies of the petition be distributed to affiliated unions, with request to circulate for signatures and return to the central office at a specified time that the petition may be filed with Congress; this to be followed by the early questioning of Congressional and legislative candidates who are striving to secure the nominations, and later the nominees shall be questioned, if not already pledged; and

Resolved, That wherever a central or local trade union fails to circulate petitions or questions to candidates when requested by the National Federation or State Federation the National or State body shall instruct a local representative to do the work in the name of the American Federation of Labor or State Federation of Labor, and to sign as "Local Representative;" and

Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor re-affirms the referendum resolutions of previous conventions which declare, in effect, that the establishment of the people's sovereignty is the dominant issue (Resolution 270, Boston Convention; 121 New Orleans Convention;) and

Resolved, That every voter is urged to agree with his fellow citizens that he will vote for such legislative candidates only as are pledged to the immediate establishment of the people's rule. To-day, as in 1776, the establishment of political liberty is the dominant issue. Why should voters choose between rulers when they can at once become the sovereign power?

In the progress of the traction controversy in Chicago (p. 521) an accusation by one of the aldermen on the 5th has had a startling effect. An ordinance for the "Ravenswood extension" of the Northwestern Elevated railroad came before the Council, whereupon Alderman Herbert W. Butler offered an amendment requiring the company, within five years, to extend the line from the proposed terminus to the city limits through his ward, as a surface line. In speaking to his amendment Alderman Butler said, as reported in the press:

Arguments and assurances have been made to me for the passage of this ordinance that are far from meritorious. Arguments have been made that were not in the interest of the city or the Twenty-seventh ward. There seems to me to be a number of lawyers on the floor of this council who will do for a client that which they will not do for themselves. I am not an alarmist, but if this ordinance is passed it will show what a certain number can do with the traction question. It will show how many votes they have for a traction ordinance. I ask the gentlemen to go slow, lest they put themselves on record. I cannot understand why the local transportation committee is so much interested in the passage of this ordinance. The real issue is whether or not a certain element of this Council can put any traction legislation they choose through this Council.

This speech was resented by Aldermen Badenoeh, Bennett, and Foreman, the two latter being closely identified with the policy of extending traction franchises. Alderman Eidmann moved to lay Butler's amendment on the table, and this was done by a vote of 56 to 2. The main ordinance was then put on its passage, and when Alderman Butler's name was called, he rose and said:

I will say I was offered money for my vote. For that reason I vote no.

The ordinance was carried—51 to 11. This and other regular business having been concluded, Alderman R. R. McCormick moved a committee of investigation. The resolution as passed recited that Butler had made—

certain innuendoes reflecting on the aldermen of this Council, in which he charges:

That inducements and arguments were made or offered him which were not for the interests of the city or the Twenty-seventh ward;

That certain lawyers in this Council will do for clients what they are not willing to do for themselves;

That a certain element in the Council want to show what they can do on the traction situation in connection with this ordinance;

That he was offered money for his vote.

The investigating committee thereupon ordered was appointed by the Mayor. It consisted wholly of aldermen who had voted for the ordinance. On the following day, being pressed by newspapers for interviews, Alderman Butler said:

Every word I uttered on the Council floor last night is the gospel truth, so help me God. To-day the only thing I

regret is that I did not make my statements even stronger than they were. As a lawyer, I know what it means when I say that I can produce proofs of attempted bribery. I have gone into this matter knowing well what the consequences would be if I failed to make good. Every man is entitled to fair play, but when the Mayor named the investigating committee he overlooked that principle. It takes nerve to fight the whole City Council—to do what I did last night—without flinching.

Alderman Butler is charged by other aldermen with having made these accusations in resentment for the defeat of his amendment, which, as they assert, would have added to the value of vacant land owned by him in the region into which he wished the extension to be carried. A preliminary hearing was had by the committee on the 7th and adjournment was taken till the 28th, Alderman Butler refusing to furnish evidence until he could have time to prepare his case.

An adjustment of misunderstandings regarding Panama (p. 521) between that country and the United States, was reported on the 4th to have been made by the American secretary of war, Mr. Taft. Secretary Taft sailed for Panama in response to an official request on October 18 from President Roosevelt. In this letter the President referred to his having by executive order of May 9, 1904, placed the work of the Isthmian Canal Commission, "both in the construction of the canal and in the exercise of such government powers as it seemed necessary for the United States to exercise under the treaty with the republic of Panama in the canal strip," and, after referring to some disquietude on the part of Panama as to the intentions of the United States, instructed him to proceed to Panama and advise the president of that republic "what the policy of this government is to be, and assure him that it is not the purpose of the United States to take advantage of the rights conferred upon it by the treaty to interfere with the welfare and prosperity of the State of Panama, or of the ties of Colon and Panama." On the 3d of December President Roosevelt received and approved Mr. Taft's report; and on the 4th from Panama it was reported that an executive order signed by Sec-

retary of War Taft for the United States and President Amador for Panama, was issued that day settling all the differences between the two countries incident to the construction and maintenance of the interoceanic canal by the former. As so reported the order—

gives America complete jurisdiction in the harbors of Colon and Panama as to sanitation and quarantine regulations, and provides for absolute free trade between the little republic and the canal zone. The United States is given authority to establish and maintain harbors at either end of the canal. It is further declared that no trade for the canal zone or the republic of Panama can enter either of these ports, supplies for the construction of the waterway and articles in transit being excepted. Custom receipts of both these ports are, therefore, turned over to Panama. Panama agrees to reduce her tariff from 15 per cent. ad valorem to 10 per cent. This applies to all goods except wines, liquors, alcohol, and opium. Consular fees and port charges are to be reduced to 60 per cent. of the present rate. Vessels entering the canal ports are granted free entry to those of Colon and Panama and vice versa. Panama reduces her rate of postage to 2 cents, and is to furnish all stamps in the republic and the canal zone, the officials of the latter being required to purchase from the republic at 40 per cent. of their face value. The order is subject to the action of the 58th Congress, and to be ineffective unless Panama shall put into effect the gold standard. Provision is made for the maintenance by the United States of important highways partly in and partly out of the canal zone, and also for the building of a hospital.

NEWS NOTES.

—James N. Tyner, formerly postmaster general of the United States and recently acquitted of postal crimes (p. 121), died at Washington on the 5th.

—Gen. Diaz was inaugurated for the seventh time as President of Mexico on the 1st. Ramon Corral was at the same time inaugurated as vice president.

—A French inventor, Mr. Andrew Gambin, claims to have invented a vessel on the pneumatic suction principle capable of making 500 knots an hour.

—Gov.-elect Douglas, of Massachusetts, has selected Byron W. Holt as his private secretary, and has appointed Gen. Nelson A. Miles as adjutant general of the State.

—John Most is reported from St. Louis to have been released from arrest (p. 553) on signing an agreement in the police blotter to leave St. Louis city and never return.

—Mrs. George Henry Gilbert, the oldest actress on the stage, died on the 2d

while filling an engagement at Chicago. She was 83 years of age and had been a famous actress for 60 years.

—A biography of the late Henry D. Lloyd by his sister, Mrs. Caro Lloyd Wittington, is in preparation, materials for which are solicited by Mrs. Wittington, to be sent to her in care of Henry W. Goodrich, 49 Wall street, New York.

—William C. York, superintendent of the municipal lodging house of New York, reported on the 6th that "there are at least 40 per cent. more idle men in the city of New York this year than there were this time last year.

—Hugh McLaughlin, Democratic boss of King's county (including Brooklyn) for a third of a century, having been succeeded by Senator McCarren, after a contest in the last local convention, died on the 7th at Brooklyn, aged 80 years.

—The Samuel M. Jones Memorial association was formally organized at Toledo on the 4th, with Mayor Robert H. Finch as its chairman. James R. Kilbourne and Tom L. Johnson are two prominent Ohioans who have joined the association.

—On the 6th the Court of Appeals of Kentucky reversed the decision of the Circuit Court in the case of Caleb Powers, now in jail at Louisville under sentence of death for complicity in the murder of William Goebel (vol. iv., p. 489). This gives Powers a new trial.

—Chauncey F. Black, son of Jeremiah S. Black, of Buchanan's cabinet, and himself a public man of high position, having been lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania in 1882-86 and Democratic candidate for governor of Pennsylvania in 1886, died at York, Pa., on the 2d. Mr. Black was a democratic Democrat.

—The Louisiana Purchase Exposition, which opened at St. Louis on the 30th of April, 1904 (p. 73), closed on the 1st of December. Charges of fraud in awarding certain premiums have been made by Thomas H. Carter, president of the national commission. They are denied by David R. Francis, president of the exposition company. The total attendance at the exposition was 18,741,073.

PRESS OPINIONS.

LAWSON'S EXPOSURES.

New York Nation (ind.), Dec. 1.—Mr. Lawson may be the most prodigious liar that ever put pen to paper. His lies may be like the fables that begat them—gross as a mountain. That is not the thing which really signifies. People do not greatly care whether his particular stories are true—whether this and that plunger in the market actually played the infamous part alleged; whether brazen promoters really bought a legislature in the way described; they believe that other stories of the kind are true, if Lawson's are not. He gains the credit of a millionaire turning State's evidence. The impression made is as unmistakable as it will be indelible. That there is a class of rich men who carry into enormous operations the methods of the sneak thief and the card sharper; that they rob the widow and take away the portion of the or-

phan with no more scruple than a burglar; that honor and good faith are as unknown among them as among jail-birds—this is the popular conviction upon which Lawson has so skillfully played. He has heightened it, but he did not create it. Now the existence of such men is the great social menace. They are the blackest embodiment of that spirit of materialism which fears not God and regards not man, and which it is our immense task to-day to resist and drive from us, if we would not see it drag our whole civilization into the pit.

WATSON AND DEMOCRACY.

Goodhue County (Minn.) News (Dem.), Dec. 3.—Mr. Thomas Watson, who wrote a corking good life of Thomas Jefferson and also ran for President, has his plans for organizing a new democratic movement. He argues that while the plutocrats can't win elections they can control the machinery of the party. They did it this time and they will start with full control in 1908. The radicals can keep them from winning the election, but that does not worry them. Therefore the only chance for the radicals is to start new. He wants Bryan and Hearst and George Fred Williams to join him in the movement. Then he adds that in Georgia the Democratic machinery is now controlled by Morgan and Belmont and that sort, and the first thing he is going to try to do is to take it away from them. That is suggestive. Democrats who expect their party to occupy radical ground should begin by inculcating radical doctrines in their own neighborhoods. Watson can do more for radicalism by building up a radical movement in Georgia than by talking about what the party ought to do in the Nation. With all due respect to him, he is a little thin, spread over the United States. If he can unhorse Morgan and Belmont in Georgia he will have done his full share. And perhaps others in other States will be able to do likewise. And if Georgia and every other State sends a radical delegation to the national convention, the convention will come pretty near having a radical cast. Democratic leaders have been too apt to save the whole country and let their own precincts go by default. The party will be what its components make it.

THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY.

Grand Forks (N. D.) Evening Press (Dem.), Nov. 30.—It is not more than a year since we were treated, in the columns of an Eastern periodical, to a learned disquisition on the "plight" into which the Democratic party had fallen by reason of its endeavor to stand as the representative of the interests of the people and its failure to measure up to the requirements of the "financiers." The author of that article, a gentleman who had twice been honored by the Democrats with an election to the Presidency, undertook to show the party the "error of its way" and to point out the "path of success." . . . The Democracy, in a fit of "temporary aberration," listened to his counsels and acted upon his suggestions. As a result of this course the party has sustained the most overwhelming defeat in its history. . . . The lesson of the eighth of November was costly, but it was worth the price. As we read it, it teaches that only in the paths of true democracy can the party of Jefferson and Jackson expect to find either service or reward. As an organization begging for the support of the class interested in maintaining special privileges the Democratic party is without the slightest hope of securing public approval or support. As a party of the people, devoted to the securing of equity of opportunity and the establishing of constitutional government, the Democracy has a great mission and a glorious opportunity.

THE GENESIS OF PARTIES.

Johnstown (Pa.) Daily Democrat (Dem.), Dec. 1.—Henry George once got a carpenter