

said, to the creation of any number of lords that might be necessary to prevent the defeat of the bill by any possible combination. This warning brought over to the support of the Ministry enough votes to give them a bare majority. Over 20 Tory lords voted for Morley's motion; and the two archbishops and nine bishops, abandoning the ecclesiastical policy of holding aloof from party questions, joined them. Many lords, unwilling to vote for the motion, yet stunned by the certain alternative of so large an accession of commoners to the peerage, abstained from voting. So the motion was adopted by 131 to 114, a majority of 17. Consequently the House of Lords hereafter will have no power to veto any bill which the Speaker of the House distinguishes as a money bill; and over any other bill its power of veto will be inoperative if the Commons, within two years after its introduction, passes it three times in successive sessions, the Lords having vetoed it after its first and its second passage by the Commons.

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Payment for Members of Parliament.

The first action of the British House of Commons to fall within the protection of the law restricting the Lords' veto, took place on the 10th, when that body adopted, by a vote of 256 to 159, a resolution proposed by Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, which provides for the payment of \$2,000 annually to members.

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Members of the British Parliament have never yet been paid. Consequently only rich men could sit in the House of Commons unless subsidized. The old "chartists" demanded pay for members, and this is one of the very few remaining demands of those "dangerous" folk of nearly 100 years ago. It is probable, however, that the present action was directly caused by "the Osborne decision" against the Labor parties. That decision prohibited the payment by labor unions of money for the election and support of Labor party members of Parliament. By providing \$2,000 salaries for all members, the Commons gives its Labor members double their previous salary allowance from the unions.

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Labor Strike in England.

A third labor strike of enormous dimensions was reported on the 12th from England. It follows close upon a strike of dock laborers and transport unions in London which the strikers won last week, and the seamen's strike of a short time before which, although it centered in England, extended widely among the ocean-trading nations, and which also was won by the strikers. [See current volume, page 660.]

The present strike involves transportation, and appears to have broken out in several cities. At Glasgow street car men to the number of 3,000 were reported to be out on the 12th. At Liverpool, the strikers were dockmen and carriers, and large quantities of foodstuffs were reported to have been moved on the 12th by armed troops under the orders of magistrates, while the strikers looked on. At Manchester reports of the same day were to the effect that the traction men had gone out in sympathy with the Liverpool strikers. Riots in Liverpool and Glasgow were reported on the 13th, and on the 14th riots in Liverpool involving 100,000 men were reported. Meetings of the traction employes of Liverpool, Glasgow, Manchester, Bristol, Sheffield and other large cities were held on the 13th, in consequence of which it was reported that a general strike of all railway men, transport workers and dockers is threatened, "unless existing disputes are settled promptly and satisfactorily." The dispatches indicate an enormous labor uprising, but are curiously silent as to the nature of the dispute. The magnitude of the reported conditions and dangers is wholly unaccounted for by any explanation of causes.

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Conference of Socialist Officials.

A national conference of Socialist officials elected by popular vote, met at Milwaukee on the 12th. The conference was welcomed by Mayor Seidel, and J. F. Weber, a member of the lower house of the Wisconsin legislature, presided. On the 14th there was a discussion of "New Scientific Budget-making, the Necessity and the Purpose," led by Carl P. Dietz, Comptroller of Milwaukee. Health Commissioner Kraft of Milwaukee led the discussion on "Public Health." Other subjects were Socialist newspapers, women in Socialist politics, and the problem of retaining Socialist control of municipalities once gained. Among the speakers were Congressman Berger, John Spargo, Morris Hillquit, and Robert Hunter.

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People's Power in Oregon.

In response to inquiries from the East regarding the practical working of the Initiative and Referendum in Oregon, the Central Labor Council of Portland and Vicinity has adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, In a large number of States the struggle for the attainment of the Initiative and Referendum is now on, and from those States come letters of inquiry regarding the operation of these institutions in Oregon since their adoption in 1902, be it

Resolved, By the Central Labor Council of Portland and Vicinity, that the people of any community or commonwealth are assured that the people of Oregon have proved to their own satisfaction that it is the only possible way to have a representative

and republican form of government that is effective —by the exercise of direct expression of their will through the operation and retention of the Initiative and Referendum and Recall.

Resolved, That the people everywhere are urged to drop every other issue in preference to that of the people gaining power to legislate for themselves. Pledge your candidates hard and fast.

Resolved, That attention is called to the fact that organized wealth producers in field and factory, the Grange and the Labor Union, in Oregon unhesitatingly, first, last and all the time, endorse, defend and depend upon the Initiative and Referendum to secure better conditions, better government.

Resolved, That all American citizens are urged everywhere and all the time to work and sacrifice to secure these sovereign powers that are unsafe to repose in any other hands than their own; and that they are warned to beware of any candidate for office who evades, equivocates or flinches when asked to pledge himself to secure the people the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, to at least as wide and full a degree as the people of Oregon now enjoy and successfully exercise. We propose to retain those powers at all hazards, at any sacrifice, unimpaired, undiminished.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the A. F. of L., and to any State Federation of Labor where a struggle is known to be going on to secure these institutions.

(Signed)

WILL DALY, President.

A. W. LAWRENCE, Secretary.

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The Singletax in Seattle.

At a meeting of the judiciary committee of the City Council of Seattle, held in the office of the Mayor on the 4th, with Acting Mayor Wardall in the chair, formal steps were taken for the adoption locally of land value taxation. Austin E. Griffiths had introduced a resolution on the 31st providing for an investigation of Singletax methods and a general revision of the present system of raising taxes. This resolution was recommended for adoption by the committee, and the announcement was made that unless the Council could agree on the terms of a charter amendment to be submitted next March this amendment would be sent to the voters through a referendum petition. In urging the adoption of the resolution Councilman Griffiths explained that his plan would be to increase the tax levy to a point where it would be possible to reduce all taxes on improvements to the minimum; and that this could be done by placing full valuation on land and improvements and exempting improvements from operation of the tax levy annually. In some form like this the proposition is expected to go to the voters at the general election next Spring. [See current volume, page 829.]

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Arizona and New Mexico.

By a vote of 53 to 18 the Congressional bill

granting Statehood to New Mexico and Arizona was adopted in the Senate on the 8th. [See current volume, pages 442, 515, 604, 652.]

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Senator Nelson (Republican) offered an amendment striking out of the Arizona Constitution its provision allowing the recall of judges, but the proposed amendment was rejected by 43 to 26. Only two amendments to the bill as it had come from the House were made by the Senate, both of which relate to provisions in the New Mexico Constitution as to voting on proposed amendments. They require New Mexico to submit amendments to the people for making amendments easier. As the bill has passed both Houses, it requires Arizona to submit again to the people the provision for recalling judges. The decision either way of the people of either Territory will not prevent Statehood in either case.

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Among the Senators voting for the Nelson amendment was O'Gorman (Democrat) of New York. Both he and Senator Bailey (Democrat) of Texas, as well as Bristow (Progressive Republican) of Kansas, and Kenyon (Progressive Republican) of Iowa, voted against the bill as a whole, along with Brandegee, Burnham, Crane, Curtis, Dillingham, Heyburn, Lippitt, Wetmore, Nelson, Oliver, Penrose, Root and Smoot.

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The bill was signed by Speaker Clark and Vice-President Sherman on the 11th, and was vetoed by President Taft on the 15th.

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The Wool Tariff.

At the session on the 11th of the Congressional conference committee for adjusting the disagreements of the two Houses on the wool tariff, a compromise agreement was made on the basis of a flat 29 per cent tariff on imported wool, and corresponding rates on woolen manufactures. The Democrats consented to the advance on wool from 20 per cent to 29, and the progressive Republicans receded from 35 to 29. [See current volume, page 830.]

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The conference report was submitted to the House on the 12th, and under objection by the standpat Republicans, was received by a vote of 162 to 89. On the 14th it was adopted in the House by 206 to 90. Among the Republicans voting with the Democrats for the report were Kent Murdock, Norris, Davidson, Esch, Kopp, Lenroot, Morse, and Nelson. On the 15th the report was passed in the Senate by a vote of 38 to 28.