

three-fourths vote, the affirmative vote, 13 to 8, disclosed so large a majority that the adoption of the ordinance in regular order is regarded as assured.

At the same council meeting the three-cent fare ordinance came up for second reading. The debate turned upon the clause providing for municipal ownership at the option of the city at any time in the future. The president of the council moved to strike out this clause. He asserted his belief that the municipal ownership scheme was the main object of the ordinance, and that it was not expected to make money with the three-cent roads. To this Mayor Johnson replied, explaining that the clause was inserted so that the city could obtain the road for the actual cost of construction if it so willed at any time by paying merely for the outlay of the company, and without paying a fictitious value for the company's franchise. He declared that no matter how firmly a member might be opposed to municipal ownership he ought not to strike from the ordinance the provision which allowed the people in the future, should they ever desire to place the road under the control of the city, to do so. The mayor said that he believed that passengers could be carried profitably for two cents in Cleveland, and added:

Personally, of course, I am in favor of municipal ownership. I would be in favor of it if the city could not make a cent, even if the city lost five cents on every passenger who is carried. I am in favor of municipal ownership because, like all other improvements, like parks, boulevards and public buildings, it would tend to add to the greatness of Cleveland. I want municipal ownership because it takes the street railroads out of politics and because I believe that it is a paying investment for the people of Cleveland.

The hostile amendment was defeated by a vote of 17 to 4, and the municipal ownership clause remains in the three-cent fare franchise, which, from all present appearances, will be finally adopted at the council meeting on the 10th.

More complete reports than were available last week (p. 745) have since come to hand regarding the delegate conference of the People's Party of Kansas, held at Topeka on the 21st. Three-fourths of the counties of the state were represented. The conference was called to order by Chairman

Ridgely. Its temper was supposed to have been indicated by the vote for temporary chairman. Grant W. Harrington, who was regarded as favoring the merging of the party with the Democrats, received only 106 votes, while Walter N. Allen, who opposed this policy, received 213. But Mr. Harrington was named for permanent chairman in the report of the committee on permanent organization and the report was adopted by the conference. The committee on resolutions divided. Ten of its members presented the following majority report:

First, we recommend that a state convention of the People's party of Kansas be called for the purpose of nominating a state ticket.

Second, We demand a vigorous campaign in favor of our state ticket and for the promulgation of the principles of the People's party.

After a heated debate, lasting nearly three hours, this report was adopted by the conference by a vote of 198½ to 165½. The minority report, which was defeated, was as follows:

Resolved, That we request and advise the Populist state committee to call a Populist state convention to meet at the same place and on the same day of the meeting of the Democratic state convention, for the purpose of operating with the Democrats in formulating a state platform, embracing the fundamental principles contained in our platforms of 1896 and 1900, national and state, and for the further purpose of having an equal number of places assigned on the combined state ticket to the Populist party. And we further advise that when the platform and places on the ticket are amicably arranged so that the Populist convention can select their candidates from their own party to be placed on the combined ticket so selected and nominated, they place such ticket on the ballot under either the Democratic or Populist name, as may be agreed upon by the combined conventions.

Resolved, further, that we advise that the Populist convention should select its usual state committee and maintain the party organization, and wait for further developments.

The Kansas Populist of the 28th is of opinion that the defeat of the minority resolution was not a "middle-of-the-road" victory, but—

judging from their expressions in the debate, the majority of those who supported the resolution that prevailed were in favor of cooperating with the Democrats in this Fall's election in some way, but were opposed to making a public declaration of an intention to do so until the

Democrats manifested an inclination to meet us half way, at least.

By no means least in order of political importance is the situation in Colorado with reference to the Bucklin Australasian or home rule tax amendment, about which there seemed last week (p. 746) to be possible indications of a change of sentiment in the Colorado Senate. The Barela bill, to repeal the submission clause of the amendment, which, if effective, would virtually kill this constitutional measure, was on the 21st ordered printed by a vote of 15 to 12. But it now appears that there was no hostile significance to that vote. On the 27th the committee on constitutional amendment, reporting on the bill and referring to its proposal to repeal so much of the Bucklin amendment as requires the submission of the amendment to the people, advised:

First. If the sections sought to be repealed by this bill are a part of the constitutional amendment, then this body has no power to act in relation thereto.

Second. If the sections sought to be repealed by this bill are not a part of the constitutional amendment, then this bill does not fall within the governor's call and this body has no power to act in relation thereto.

Third. The passage of this bill would accomplish no result, as the constitutional amendment would still have to be submitted under the provisions of section 2, article 19 of our constitution

Two members of the committee joined in a minority report recommending that the bill be considered in committee of the whole. These reports were hotly debated in the Senate on February 28 and March 1, and on the latter day the Barela repeal bill was postponed until April 15. As the legislature will probably adjourn before that date, this bill is now regarded as dead. Similar bills are pending in the House, however, and the Bucklin amendment may yet be headed off by its enemies from coming before the people of the state.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—Col. Francis W. Parker, the distinguished educator, died on the 2d.

—The centenary celebration at Paris in honor of Victor Hugo's birth closed with the presentation to the city for a museum of the house once occupied by the great Frenchman.

—Mayor Jones, of Toledo, refused to sign an elaborately embossed certificate of welcome to Prince Henry