

Women in Office.

Four women were elected to the Colorado legislature on the 8th. They are Alma Lafferty, Louise U. Jones and Louise M. Kerwin, from Denver districts, Democrats; and Agnes Riddle, Republican, —representing Adams, Arapahoe and Elbert counties.

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Miss Adeline B. Pratt, for thirteen years deputy Register of Deeds for Marinette county, Wisconsin, was on the 8th elected Register by a majority of 44 votes over her Republican opponent, Emery D. Galineau. Miss Pratt is the first woman ever elected to a county office in Wisconsin.

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Full returns from the election in Texas show that Mrs. Brit Trevathan has defeated W. J. Ivy, the Democratic nominee for County Clerk of Angelina county.

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A Democratic Conference.

The apparent coming into power in Congress of the Democratic party, has inspired Senator Rayner of Maryland to start a movement for a conference of Democratic leaders. In an explanatory address he is reported on the 13th to have said:

All Democrats must recognize the urgent necessity of party harmony and unity if we are to follow up the great victory of last Tuesday with a triumph in the national election two years hence. My idea is that it should be merely a conference which would bind no one who participated, but at the same time would give opportunity for the biggest Democrats of the country to express their views. Our majority in the next House will be unwieldy. There is danger of a split over minor matters when there should be absolute unanimity on all propositions of party policy. Such a conference would serve as a sort of steering committee to the party's representatives at the short session and cause them to realize the trend of Democratic sentiment.

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Pinchot and the Land Frauds.

Gifford Pinchot (p. 962) and his brother, Amos Pinchot, have addressed a letter to President Taft regarding the Cunningham claims (owned in part by the Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate), in which they ask Mr. Taft not to approve any recommendation by Secretary Ballinger allowing those claims, without first giving them an opportunity to submit a brief in opposition.

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The Pinchot letter is written upon the expectation that the Interior Department (Secretary Ballinger's) will soon make a recommendation, and that it is liable to be favorable because Secretary Ballinger's own lawyer argued in his printed

brief before the investigation committee (p. 899) that, quoting from the brief—

an examination of the record of the Cunningham hearings, and which is a part of the record in this case, reveals not only that the statements of Cunningham are true but that the Cunningham claims are not fraudulent but honest claims.

This statement is referred to in the letter of Gifford and Amos Pinchot to President Taft as in all probability representing Secretary Ballinger's own opinion "reached after the evidence was all in, that the claims are valid and should be patented." The letter then proceeds:

According to the testimony of representatives of the Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate, who have long asserted a half interest in the Cunningham claims, their ultimate value is in the neighborhood of \$25,000,000. But the loss to the people of the United States that would follow the issue of patents is by no means limited to any such sum. Although the government would receive but little more than \$50,000 for claims worth many millions, a decision favorable to the Cunningham claimants would not merely result in an unjustifiable loss to the public at large. It would also establish a precedent which might admit to patent other illegal claims outside of the Cunningham group to the additional value of many millions of dollars. We are advised by counsel retained for the purpose of reporting on the Cunningham record, that the testimony of the claimants themselves shows abundantly and conclusively that the claims are fraudulent. We respectfully request that in case the Interior Department should reach a decision in favor of patenting the claims you will allow us to submit for your consideration a brief before making a decision as to whether or not you will permit your signature to be affixed to the patents.

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The Garment Workers' Strike.*

The strike of the Chicago garment workers (p. 1070) continues, with but little disorder and an abatement of police interference with picketing. On Sunday ten thousand strikers gathered at Pilsen park and listened to speeches in several languages. The Bohemians and Poles marched there in parade, five thousand strong, with four bands. So enthusiastic was the crowd that, as Miss Gertrude Barnum put it, "They would have cheered you if you had said, 'Mary had a little lamb.'" It is recognized by the leaders that a strike of such poorly paid workers as those in the garment trades must be well financed or it will be broken down by hunger and cold. Appeals for aid are therefore being made to all classes of citizens. Churches are being asked for collections. Actors and singers are being asked for benefits. Workers in other trades are being asked for a small regular amount from their wages each week while the strike lasts. Over \$8,000 was paid out on Saturday to the most

*For impressions of the strike see page 1098 of this Public.