

traction policy of Mayor Dunne, and by Walter F. Fisher (special counsel for the city) in support of that policy; and when Judge Windes delivered his opinion he reviewed at great length every important point that had been raised. The technical basis of the decision is a demurrer to a bill for an injunction, which has the effect of admitting the facts set out in the bill and denying that they show any right to judicial interference. Judge Windes sustained the demurrer and dismissed the bill. Consequently, the certificates authorized by the Council and the people on referendum (p. 32) are held to be valid. The case now goes directly to the Supreme Court of the State upon appeal by the adversaries of the municipal ownership movement.



While these legal proceedings are in progress, the negotiations for purchase (pp. 347, 361) are also moving forward. The Union Traction and the Chicago City Companies submitted on the 17th their valuation of their property, including both their franchises and their tangible property. Their valuation is as follows:

	Union Traction.	City railway.
Tangible property	\$29,294,472	\$20,103,936
Intangible property	13,825,040	10,322,228
Totals	\$43,119,512	\$30,426,164
Grand total		\$73,545,676

Mayor Dunne declares this sum to be grossly excessive.

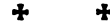


Municipal Ownership Questions in Seattle.

At the municipal referendum election in Seattle on the 12th, two questions relative to municipal ownership were voted upon. One of the questions proposed bonds for extending the water supply system, and this was carried. But the heat of the contest was over a proposed issue of bonds to establish a municipal traction system, which was bitterly fought by financial interests. Socialists of local prominence also opposed it. The plan had been proposed by the city engineer, Mr. R. H. Thompson. It contemplated a complete system, and proposed general bonds to the amount of \$1,272,000 and bonds upon the revenues of the proposed system to the amount of \$3,000,000. To legalize the plan the bonds had to be voted by three-fifths of a popular vote. The ordinance authorizing the plan had been adopted in City Council, August 17, with only one dissenting vote, although that body is composed of 13 Republicans and but two distinctly municipal ownership members. The Republicans voted affirmatively because their platform last spring had pledged them to support the municipal ownership policy. At the election a total vote of 13,154 out of a total registration of 23,000 was cast. It resulted in 5,974 for the bond issue, and 7,180 against it. There was an affirmative majority in 6 out of the 11 wards, and a three-fifths affirmative vote in only 2. The strongest adverse ward was the 1st—the "tough" ward of Seattle. Commenting upon the result of the election the Seattle Star of the 13th describes it as follows:

The Seattle Electric Company, aided by other public service corporations, put up a fierce fight at the polls yesterday and crushed down the proposition to establish a city owned street railway system. Corporation interests were solidly lined up together in this contest, backed

by three newspaper organs. Money was spent without stint and extraordinary efforts were put forth to obtain votes. Employees of the electric company and several other corporations were made to understand quite plainly that votes in favor of the municipal system would be not only displeasing, but decidedly risky. Many of the men knew they would be closely questioned as to how they voted, and would either have to lie out of it or tell the truth and take the consequences. But there was undeniably a large number of votes cast against the project by citizens who really believed that a municipal system, while right in theory, would not work well in practice. They were in some cases misled by untruthful statements published in corporation serving dailies, and were thus given a wrong impression as to the condition of the city's finances and its credit. Others again, who were not misinformed, but who honestly doubted the wisdom of municipal ownership of street railways, voted to perpetuate the Seattle Electric Company's monopoly in this city. The fact must not be overlooked that nearly 6,000 voters expressed themselves in favor of the municipal street railway scheme.



The New San Francisco.

San Francisco has gathered herself together and is laying out what is almost a new city (pp. 278, 280, 530, 542, 565). It is now declared that the actual damage by earthquake was but three per cent. of the total loss, ninety-seven per cent. being fire loss. The huge magnitude of the fire loss is laid to the breaking of the ill-constructed water mains of the private company which supplied San Francisco with water. Hereafter the city is to own and operate its water supply. Mr. Shafter Howard tells in Collier's for Sept. 1st of the city's plans for a special independent salt-water supply system for fire purposes. He says that—

This system will differ from those of Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and the one now being built in New York City, in that it will be elastic and capable of withstanding seismic disturbances, such as that of April 18. It will have an outer conduit of reinforced concrete, six feet high and four feet wide, carrying an inner conduit of steel or cast-iron twelve-inch pipe suspended from the ceiling of the outer conduit; this inner conduit to have flexible joints every twelve feet. These outer conduits will be required only at street crossings, and for the rest the spaces underneath the sidewalks will be used as the outer conduits, the inner being suspended from the sidewalk beams. With twenty miles of these elastic and protected conduits throughout the city, running from the water front through ten or twelve of the city's important streets, with emergency gates connecting them with the fresh-water supply system in the hilly parts of the city, and with eight pumping plants at the various terminals on the water front keeping a constant pressure in the mains, reservoirs will not be needed, and a constant and inexhaustible supply of water assured the Fire Department for the city's protection. This measure is a popular one in San Francisco, and will be built by the issue of bonds. It will take millions to do it, but as an insurance to property owners and to the city in general it will be worth many times its cost.



Progress in Russia.

The Constitutional Democrats are rallying (p. 418), but under difficulties. Mr. Stolypin, the prime minister, having prohibited a proposed meeting, their executive committee sounded the Finnish authorities in regard to a meeting in Finland, preferably at Helsingfors, to be held Sept. 21st. Not meeting with encouragement, an agent was sent on the

13th to Stockholm, to see if a meeting could be arranged for in Sweden. Mr. Stolypin is reported as saying that he considered the Constitutional Democrats to have been an undesirable party in the Douma because their "respectability" was a cloak for highly dangerous sedition and criticism. He liked the "group of toil" better. The Constitutional Democrats are said to be disturbed at the government's activity in putting its agrarian program into operation (pp. 441, 511), lest the distribution of so much land may win from the peasantry an acquiescence in the continuing life of the autocracy.

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The ancient Diet of Finland, dating from 1772, and consisting of four chambers—nobles, clergy, burghers and peasants,—passed out of existence on the 18th, to be succeeded by a parliament of one chamber, elected by universal male and female suffrage (vol. viii, pp. 630, 715; vol. ix, p. 300).

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The much-feared and hated General Trepoff died on the 15th at his villa at Peterhof, of angina pectoris, according to official announcement. He had been prefect of the Moscow police under the Grand Duke Sergius; chief of police in St. Petersburg after "bloody Sunday"—Jan. 22, 1905; then chief of the Russian secret police; and latest of all, master of the palace at Peterhof, from which position he was removed early this month on the ground of failing health (p. 537).

NEWS NOTES

—The fifteenth Universal Peace Congress was opened in Milan on the 15th.

—Aaron T. Biss, an ex-governor of Michigan, died at Saginaw on the 16th of apoplexy at the age of 69.

—Elihu Root, United States Secretary of State, left Callao, Peru (p. 561), on the 16th, for Panama.

—At Budapest, on the 16th, a monument to George Washington was unveiled in the city park amid great enthusiasm.

—More fighting with the Pulajanes is reported from Bara and La Paz, on the Island of Leyte, in the Philippines (p. 560).

—The Independence League of Chicago nominated a full county ticket on the 18th, and endorsed the independent judicial ticket.

—A demand for postal savings banks was made on the 15th at a large mass meeting in Chicago presided over by Mayor Dunne.

—Earthquakes continue in Chile (p. 560), and a volcano in the province of Nuble is in full eruption. Earthquakes are also reported from Sicily.

—Walter S. Logan, formerly president of the American Bar Association and a New York lawyer of pronounced sociological radicalism, died in New York in July.

—A dispatch from Vienna under date of the 13th states that under the new electoral reform bill of Austria the privilege hitherto accorded to women

who are landed proprietors, of voting at parliamentary elections, is abolished.

—At the New York Democratic primaries on the 18th the Murphy faction defeated the Mayor McClellan faction; and in Brooklyn, Patrick McCarren was continued in power in the party.

—John Alexander Dowie was defeated by Wilbur Glen Voliva in an election for the position of General Overseer of the Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion, held on the 18th by order of Judge Landis, receiver for the Zion properties. In a total of 1,919 votes cast, Voliva received 1,906.

—Representatives of Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were reported on the 16th to be in conference at San José, Costa Rica, for the purpose of signing a general peace treaty, in accordance with the preliminary peace treaty signed July 20th on the United States cruiser *Marblehead* (p. 395).

—The capital of Alaska has been changed from Sitka to Juneau. This change, to take place at some future time, had been provided for in a bill relating to Alaska some years ago. But a decision of the department of justice in Washington on July 20th, made the original plan suddenly and prematurely operative.

—The Empress of China has discovered that the edict issued several years ago forbidding the binding of little girls' feet to keep them of baby size all through life, has not met with general obedience. She has therefore issued another edict to the effect that in the future no men are to be taken into the government service whose wives or daughters have their feet bound.

—A frightful typhoon (as cyclonic winds in the China Sea are called) struck the city and harbor of Hongkong in the forenoon of the 18th, almost without warning. The harbor was full of shipping, large and small. The list of disasters is a long one, including the wrecking of five or six warships and more than 20 steamships, the loss of perhaps 1,000 lives, and the destruction of \$1,000,000 of property.

—The new Georgia child labor law prohibits the employment in any factory or manufacturing establishment of children under ten years of age under any circumstances. After January 1, 1908, night work between 7 p. m. and 6 a. m. is prohibited to all children under fourteen in factories; and all children under fourteen must also after this date for day work be able to read and write and have had twelve weeks' schooling, at least six of which must have been consecutive.

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States (see p. 491) for the month ending August 31, 1906, as given by the statistical sheet of the Department of Commerce and Labor for August, were as follows (M. standing for merchandise, G. for gold and S. for silver):

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
M.....	\$241,005,200	\$213,210,094	\$27,795,106 exp.
G.....	1,901,326	17,774,224	15,872,898 imp.
S.....	8,409,801	6,009,878	2,399,923 exp.
	\$251,316,327	\$236,994,196	\$14,322,131 exp.

—A number of women in Italy having applied to have their names put on the voting lists, the matter was carried to the provincial court of appeals at