

on goods controlled by trusts. The imposition of tariff duties on Puerto Rican commerce are denounced, as are the efforts of the administration to substitute a standing army for citizen soldiery, and its use of the military to abridge the civil rights of the citizens of Idaho in the Cour d'Alene district. Government by injunction is condemned and laws for its suppression demanded.

The convention of the middle-of-the-road or nonfusion populists, the opening of which also on the 9th we reported last week, made nominations on the 10th. Wharton Barker, of Pennsylvania, was chosen as the candidate for president, with Ignatius Donnelly, of Minnesota, for vice president. Jo A. Parker is chairman of the national committee. The platform demands the initiative and referendum; public ownership of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, and coal mines; and the reclamation of all lands held by corporations in excess of their actual needs, and of all lands held by aliens, to be applied to the needs of actual settlers. It advocates also a "scientific and absolute paper money, based upon the entire wealth and population of the nation, not redeemable in any specific commodity, but made a full legal tender for all debts and receivable for all taxes and public dues, and issued by the government only, without the intervention of banks, and in sufficient quantity to meet the demands of commerce;" but until such a money system can be secured it approves "the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at the legal ratio of sixteen to one." This platform demands also a graduated income and inheritance tax and the election of president, vice president, federal judges and federal senators by direct popular vote. Denouncing trusts, it specifies public ownership of public utilities as the only method of solving the trust question.

The only conventions for the election of national delegates, held since our last report, were republican, those of Iowa and Colorado being held on the 10th, and those of Kansas and Missouri on the 16th. Minnesota republicans, who also met on this day, instructed for ex-Senator Washburn for vice president.

News of congressional politics yields an extraordinary sensation in the action of Senator Clark, of Mon-

tana, who seems to have made a play which will secure him his seat in the federal senate, notwithstanding the committee report recommending that he be unseated for having obtained his election by bribery of the Montana legislature. Just as the report against him was about to be brought before the senate for consideration, Senator Clark arose and announced that he had sent his resignation as senator to the governor of Montana. His name was accordingly dropped from the list of senators. A little later it transpired that upon receipt of his resignation the lieutenant governor of Montana, a Clark partisan, had, in the absence from the state of the governor, an anti-Clark partisan (the legislature not being in session), appointed Mr. Clark to fill the vacancy. His credentials are now on their way to Washington.

We may cross from America to France without changing our subject. The political pot there has been boiling. Last week we gave the result of the municipal elections of the 6th, which pointed to a triumph of the nationalist or military party in Paris; but in 30 districts no candidate had received a full majority and second elections were necessary. These were held on the 13th, and resulted in a greater triumph of the nationalists than at the regular elections. Of the 30 seats the nationalists won 18, thus giving them a total of 48 seats in the municipal council of Paris—a clear majority of the council.

In Spain anti-tax riots have risen almost to the dignity of civil war. The facts are difficult to obtain, owing to the Spanish censorship, and such as get cabled to this side are meager and confusing. It is evident, however, that most serious conditions exist. As a protest against taxation the stores appear to have been closed in all the larger towns of the kingdom. Barcelona was declared on the 11th to be in a state of siege, after two days of rioting; and in Valencia the *gendarmes* fired upon the mob. The whole province of Valencia is under martial law. In Seville the troops were called out before the mob would disperse. Aside from these few details of disorder, reports from Spain simply intimate that revolution is imminent.

Italian parliamentary troubles were renewed on the 15th. Their origin was briefly described in these columns

in No. 105 at page 6. At the session of the chamber then reported rules were passed cutting off debate on the question of approving a ministerial decree in restraint of public meetings and the freedom of the press, and the chamber adjourned to May 15. Upon reassembling on that day a member of the opposition moved a suspension of the rules mentioned above, and the prime minister, Gen. Pelloux, declared that these rules could not now be questioned. Thereupon the chamber was thrown into a turmoil by the opposition, and the confusion became so great that the president was obliged to dissolve the meeting by withdrawing. The opposition declared that they would continue this policy of disorder and obstruction unless the rules cutting off debate were abandoned. On the 16th King Humbert issued a decree adjourning parliament indefinitely.

The only other political matter of moment in Europe is British. It bears upon the question of Australian federation. As we explained at page 10 of this volume, the Australian colonies have proposed a federation act or constitution to the British parliament enabling them to form a commonwealth, in which act it is provided that there shall be no appeal from the Australian supreme court in matters affecting the interpretation of the act or of the constitutions of the several states of the commonwealth. This is objected to by the British ministry as calculated to dismember the empire by making Australia virtually an independent nation. For several weeks the British ministry and the Australian commissioners now in London have tried to come to an agreement; but as the commissioners disclaimed any authority to agree to an alteration of the plan adopted in Australia by popular vote in the different colonies the matter has now been brought before parliament. On the 14th Mr. Chamberlain, colonial secretary, introduced the Australian enabling act in the house of commons with a request to the house to so amend it as to preserve rights of appeal from the Australian supreme court. The plan he proposes contemplates an appellate court of the empire, to be composed of the British privy council and a representative each from Canada, South Africa, Australia and India. The Australian bill passed the first reading on the 14th, and May 21 was fixed for the second reading.