

order of things was impressed upon his hearers with emphasis, and the Canadians warmed up and joined in the applause with vim and vigor.

The address of Mr. Coulter on Direct Legislation was lucid and brilliant. It was fired with the spirit that has driven Oregon to throw off the yoke of bondage to professional politicians.

The farmers here are ready for the Initiative and Referendum and the Recall. The Provincial legislative sessions are more hopeless and expensive farces than ever the old-time Oregon sessions dared to be, and the new Province is being burdened with debt. So the farmers' organization is determined to have a say in the future policies of the new Province.

BERT HUFFMAN.

## AUSTRALIA

Cornwall, N. S. W., December 17, 1910.

The first session of the Federal parliament ended late last month. The most important measures passed were:

1. An act to substitute Commonwealth bank notes for the notes issued by private banks.
2. An act imposing a tax of 10% on notes issued by private banks after December 1st.
3. A graduated tax on land values; maximum, sixpence in the pound, with an exemption of £5,000, and an extra tax of one penny, with no exemption, on land held by absentees.
4. An act to establish next year penny postage throughout the Commonwealth.
5. An act to give effect to part of the Kitchener recommendations for the military forces.
6. An act intended to allow the Constitutionality of Federal acts to be tested by the High Court at once, without waiting until a case arises.

Among the rest are two bills for amending the Constitution, to widen the legislative powers of the Federal parliament and giving it authority to legislate for taking over industries declared by parliament to be monopolies. These will be submitted to the people probably in April, 1911, to decide by referendum whether they shall be accepted.



State elections were held in New South Wales in November, when the Ministerial (Wade) party was defeated. The Labor party elects 46, the Wade party 36, and the Independents 8.

It appears probable that most of the Independents will support the Labor party, which has formed a Ministry with Mr. J. McGowen as premier.



In South Australia the State (Labor) ministry proposes to remit taxation to the amount of £155,000, and make up for it by increasing the present tax on land values from one-half penny to one penny farthing in the pound. This is estimated to bring in £150,000, and the remaining £5,000 will be obtained by an increment tax, copied from the British Budget. Crawford Vaughan, formerly president and secretary of the S. A. Single Tax League, introduced the budget, including these taxes, as Treasurer in the Verran (Labor) ministry.

Last year a graduated tax on land values was passed by the Legislative Assembly (lower house) of the State of Victoria, but was thrown out by the Council. This year the government has introduced a bill providing for a tax of three farthings in the pound on land values, without graduations but with an exemption of £500. This will probably be passed by the Assembly, but its fate in the Council is as yet in doubt.



There is a proposal before the State parliament of Tasmania to exempt improvements, thus converting the present tax on the improved value of land into one on the unimproved value.

ERNEST BRAY.

## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

### A BOLD GOOD MAN.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 17.

Charles Frederick Adams of New York created a sensation in his series of lectures here during the past week. He spoke before the Americus Club, the Hungry Club, in Trinity Church Assembly Room, and at the annual Henry George dinner in the Hotel Henry. The audience at each meeting was large, representative of the diversified interests of the city, and thoroughly appreciative. His lecture on the courts to the effect that they are human and should be subject to adverse criticism called forth withering sarcasm from the plutocratic press of the city. The Gazette Times, owned by Senator George T. Oliver, was particularly bitter in its editorial denunciation of his utterances. This in itself is evidence that Mr. Adams must have hit pretty close to the mark, for the Gazette Times becomes exercised only when the sacred workings of Big Business are in danger of exposure. Of course, Mr. Adams did not please all—it seems to be his purpose not to—but his wealth of first-hand information, his scholarly, open, frank, utterly uncompromising treatment of his subjects, and the sincerity of his convictions and the boldness of his utterances, have endeared him to many Pittsburghers.

BERNARD B. McGINNIS.

## NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, January 24, 1911.

### Progressive Republicans Organizing Nationally.

Following the Minnesota conference of progressive Republicans (p. 34) and in line with its purposes, a national organization was launched on the

23d at Washington. Its official name is "The National Progressive Republican League," and its statement of principles and purposes is in substance that—

Popular government in America has been thwarted and progressive legislation strangled by the special interests which control caucuses, delegates, conventions and party organization, and through control of the machinery of government dictate nominations and platforms, elect legislatures, representatives in Congress, and United States Senators, and control cabinet officers. Under existing conditions legislation in the public interest has been baffled and defeated. This is evidenced by the long struggle, only partially effective, to secure laws for the control of railway rates and services and the revision of the tariff in the interest of the producer and consumer; statutes dealing with trusts and combinations, based on sound economic principles as applied to modern industrial and commercial conditions; a wise, comprehensive and impartial reconstruction of the banking and monetary laws; the conservation of coal, oil, gas, timber, water powers and other natural resources belonging to the people, and for the enactment of all legislation solely for the common good. Just in proportion as popular government has in certain States superseded the delegate convention system, and the people have assumed control of the machinery of government, has government become responsive to the popular will and progressive legislation been secured. The Progressive Republican League believes that popular government is fundamental to all other questions. To this end it advocates: The election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people; direct primaries for the nomination of all elective officials; the direct election of delegates to national conventions with opportunity for the voter to express his choice for President and Vice President; amendment to State Constitutions providing for the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and a thorough general corrupt practice act.



The provisional officers of the League are as follows:

President, Jonathan Bourne, Republican United States Senator from Oregon; First Vice President, George W. Norris, Republican Congressman from Nebraska; second Vice President, Gov. Osborn of Michigan; Treasurer, Charles R. Crane of Chicago; Executive Committee: Senator Moses E. Clapp of Minnesota, Senator Joseph L. Bristow of Kansas, Representative E. H. Hubbard of Iowa, Representative Irvine L. Lenroot of Wisconsin, Representative-elect William Kent of California, Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania, George L. Record of New Jersey, and the President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer as members ex-officio.



Among the signers of the declaration given above, besides the officers, are the following:

Republican Governors of States: Aldrich of Nebraska, Carey of Wyoming, Johnson of California, McGovern of Wisconsin and Stubbs of Kansas.

Republican United States Senators: Beveridge of

Indiana, Brown of Nebraska; Cummins of Iowa, Dixon of Montana, Gronna of North Dakota, Poindexter of Washington and La Follette of Wisconsin.

Republican Congressmen: Cooper, Carey, Morse and Nelson of Wisconsin; Davis and Linbergh of Minnesota; Hubbard and Haugen of Iowa; Murdock, Jackson and Madison of Kansas; La Follette of Washington.

Republican citizens: Alfred L. Baker of Illinois; R. Stannard Baker and Louis D. Brandeis of Massachusetts; Frank L. Dingley of Maine; James R. Garfield of Ohio; Hugh T. Halbert, George S. Loftus and James A. Peterson of Minnesota; Francis J. Heney of California; Frederic C. Howe, E. Clarence Jones, Amos Pinchot and Gilbert E. Roe of New York; Merie D. Vincent of Colorado; William Allen White of Kansas, and W. S. U'Ren of Oregon.



State leagues are to be organized under the auspices and with the assistance of the national League.



#### Congressional Democratic Caucus.

A caucus of the Democratic members-elect of the next Congress was held at Washington on the 19th at which 219 attendances out of a possible 227 are reported. It was called to order by Clayton of Alabama, and Hay of Virginia was chosen chairman. A thorough discussion arose over a resolution of Congressman Foster of Illinois (vol. xiii, p. 1095) to the effect that standing committees shall not be appointed by the Speaker, as heretofore, but shall be elected by the House. The resolution was first carried by 166 to 27, and was then adopted unanimously. In the same resolution it was provided that the Democratic, or majority, members of the Ways and Means Committee shall be forthwith nominated by the caucus and that these should nominate the Democratic members of all the other standing committees, those nominations to be reported to a future Democratic caucus and to be by that approved before presentation to the House. It also provided that no Democratic member of the Ways and Means Committee shall be a member of any other standing committee. Congressman Clark, the candidate for Speaker, urged the adoption of the resolution, and Congressman Fitzgerald led the opposition to it.



Champ Clark, Democratic leader in the present House, was chosen unanimously as the party candidate for speaker. His acknowledgments as reported were brief:

From the bottom of my heart I thank you for your generous indorsement for the high office of Speaker of the House of Representatives. I shall endeavor to discharge the responsible duties of that great position so fairly, so justly and so impartially that you will never have cause to regret what you have just done. This caucus was called for the purpose of selecting the Democratic contingent of the