

The Initiative and Referendum.

Kansans who have been confident of the adoption of the Initiative and Referendum in that State (vol. xiii, p. 39), since both the Republican and the Democratic parties were pledged to it in their platforms, were surprised at the rejection of the proposed amendment on the 9th by the State Senate. The vote in that body was 18 for the amendment and 21 against it, 27 in the affirmative being necessary. The bill had been loaded down with bad amendments, one of which required majorities equal to majority of all voters at an election instead of all voting on a measure in order to carry a measure at the polls.

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The Recall in Seattle.

George W. Dilling, elected Mayor of Seattle on the 7th to displace Mayor Gill (p. 134), took office on the 11th. His plurality was 6,231. Out of 71,000 registered voters, 62,266 voted. The Socialist candidate, Edwin C. Brown, received 4,698, about 7½ per cent of the whole.

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The success of the recall (the story of which is told in our Editorial Correspondence) has been credited to the enfranchisement of women in the State of Washington at last fall's election (vol. xiii, p. 1094). In reporting a campaign meeting of women held on the 31st, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer of the 1st said:

The rally of women voters for George W. Dilling, which filled two big theaters and overflowed into the street, surpassed in interest and enthusiasm any other political gathering held in Seattle in many years. Nowhere else has there been such an assemblage of women voters. The meetings, which were managed entirely by women and at which women speakers were in the majority, were history-making events in Washington. The Dilling rally for men, held Monday noon, was unusual in any city; the women's rally yesterday surpassed it in attendance and sustained interest. There was no hurrahing and cheering, in which respect it was different from the assemblage of men on Monday. However, the rapt attention with which the big audience listened to the speakers, the storm of hand-clapping which gave approval to the sentiment expressed in the addresses, indicated that while the women were less demonstrative in a noisy way, they were the better listeners.

The political spirit of the meeting was fairly phrased in this extract from the speech of Mrs. S. A. Sears:

We are Americans. Ours is a government of the people. The Mayor is not the ruler of the city, but the servant of the public, its executive officer, commissioned to enforce laws enacted by the people themselves through their representatives. The Mayor has no power to repeal or annul existing ordinances, his paramount obligation being to enforce them just as they stand—without mutilation.

Extensions of Woman Suffrage.

An equal suffrage amendment to the Kansas Constitution was adopted by the Kansas House on the 7th and by the Senate on the 8th, and goes now to the people of the State for final adoption. It gives votes to women at elections of United States Senators and Congressmen and all State officials. For municipal officials women already have voting rights in Kansas. Their right to vote for President and Vice President, withheld in the adopted amendment, is still pending in the legislature in the form of a separate amendment.

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In Illinois on the 9th the Brown bill giving non-Constitutional suffrage to women was reported upon favorably by the Senate committee on elections. It grants to women over 21 years of age the right to vote for members of the State Board of Equalization, members of the Board of Assessors, and the Board of Review, trustees of the Sanitary District of Chicago, and for all officers of cities, villages, and towns, except police magistrates, and upon all questions or propositions submitted to a vote of the people.

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A Constitutional amendment enfranchising the women of Oregon (vol. xiii, p. 1094) was adopted by the legislature on the 11th for submission to the voters of the State.

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Reciprocity With Canada.

Led by Austen Chamberlain (British protectionist) the British House of Commons has been debating the American-Canadian reciprocity agreement (p. 134), in connection with the address in reply to the speech from the Throne (p. 132). He moved a protection amendment to the address. The agreement has been under discussion also in the Dominion parliament of Canada, and in the Senate of the United States. A notable speech in the latter body was made on the 9th by Senator Beveridge of Indiana in favor of the agreement. By a vote of 12 to 7 the Ways and Means Committee of the lower House adopted it on the 11th, and it was adopted by the House on the 14th by 221 to 92.

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At Springfield, where he had gone to participate in a Lincoln birthday celebration, President Taft made an address on the 11th before a joint session of the Illinois legislature, in which he is reported to have warned his party that if they defeat the reciprocity agreement, persisting "in retaining in these times of high prices and gradually exhausting food supply a tariff not based solely upon the difference in cost of production at home and abroad with a reasonable profit to the

American producer, an opposition will be aroused that will know no moderation and will wipe from the statute books the last trace of a protective tariff."

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A letter from Speaker Cannon to State Senator Bailey, given to the newspapers while President Taft was making that speech, denounces Canadian reciprocity as free trade in disguise and advises the members of the General Assembly of Illinois to halt before placing themselves upon record as favoring the measure which the President had just outlined as most necessary to a continuation of protection in any form.

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Civil War in Mexico.

A skirmish between revolutionary troops under Gen. Orozco and troops of Diaz under Gen. Rago (p. 132) occurred on the 7th at Juarez, Mexico, opposite El Paso, Texas, on the Rio Grande. The Diaz general, Navarro, took possession of Juarez on the 14th without resistance.

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Another battle was reported from San Diego, California, on the 8th, as having been fought at Picachio canon on the 7th, in which the Diaz troops had advantage of position and the others were put to flight.

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Fiercer fighting was reported on the 10th by way of Presidio, Texas, the American town nearest to Mulati, where the fighting occurred. According to this report the rebels lost two men and Diaz many, and the troops of the latter were retreating.

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Rebellion in Haiti.

The military leader of revolutionary forces in Haiti, Gen. Millionard, was shot on the 7th, along with five of his generals, by order of President Simon (vol. xi, p. 921). Two others, Gen. Chapuset and Gen. Codio, were captured and shot on the 11th.

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Revolutionary Victory in Honduras.

The official gazette of the Honduran revolutionists (p. 133), received at New Orleans on the 7th, announces that Gen. Manuel Bonilla, the revolutionary leader, has secured control of more than half of the republic and is prepared to move an army of several thousand trained soldiers against Tegucigalpa, the capital. It contains also official proclamations of the municipalities of Ceiba, Tela, Alanchito, Truxillo and Aguan acclaiming Bonilla "Constitutional President" of the Republic. Confirmation came by wireless on the 8th, to the effect that the American and British naval officers in charge of Puerto Cortez

since evacuation by President Davila, had withdrawn and that peace negotiations were to begin on board the American cruiser "Tacoma."

NEWS NOTES

—Pekin, Ill., adopted the commission form of government on the 7th, by a majority of 198.

—The Indiana recall bill for cities was defeated in the Indiana Senate on the 13th by 23 to 17.

—In Galesburg, Ill., on the 7th, commission government (p. 108) was defeated by a vote of 586 to 2,193.

—The Oklahoma Supreme Court decided on the 9th that Oklahoma City and not Guthrie (vol. xiii, p. 1141) is the permanent capital of Oklahoma.

—San Antonio, Texas, rejected the Des Moines plan of commission government on the 4th by a vote of 7,230 to 7,070. The victory of the administration element is charged to fraud, and an investigation is planned.

—A citizen's committee of twenty-five named to settle the difficulties between Des Moines and the street car company (vol. xiii, p. 108), is reported to have rejected the company's proposed franchise and asked that it submit a proposition looking toward the purchase of the property by the municipality.

—The convention of the Saskatchewan (Canada) grain growers (p. 127), in convention on the 11th at Regina, passed a resolution endorsing Direct Legislation; and in addition they passed the following with regard to taxation: "Be it resolved, that the financial needs of the country be met by a direct tax on land values."

—The Oregon plan for the election of United States Senators by popular vote (vol. xiii, p. 616) was adopted by the lower house of the Iowa legislature on the 7th, by a vote of 82 to 18. In the Senate a substitute of a special primary to fill the Dolliver vacancy (p. 107) was defeated, and on the 14th the Oregon plan was adopted by 31 to 16.

—Mrs. Roberta Menges Corwin Hill, convicted of smuggling and sentenced by Judge Martin of the Federal court at New York to imprisonment from 6 o'clock at night on the 11th to 8 o'clock in the morning of the 13th, was discharged from the Tombs prison at the termination of her sentence. This is said to be the first instance in the United States of the imprisonment of a woman for smuggling.

—The present House of Representatives in Congress decided on the 9th, 171 to 131, that the number of Representatives to be elected in 1912 shall be 433, in addition to those from New Mexico and Arizona, instead of 391, the present number, which the Republican caucus had decided to retain. Republicans to the number of 22 repudiated the caucus action and voted with the Democrats for the increase.

—Henry George, Jr., addresses "Knife and Fork Club," Kansas City, February 16; "New Era Club," February 17; "The Winter Night Club," Colorado Springs (Colo.), February 18; and the legislature of Idaho at Boise City, February 21. He speaks in Spokane (Washington) February 24, 25, 26, and then