

ced by the local traction interests and the Armours of Chicago) supported the ordinance vigorously, and the Kansas City Star, with its morning edition, The Times, as vigorously opposed it.

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On referendum, the vote stood 11,640 for the grant to 18,737 against it—an adverse majority of 7,097 in a total of 30,377. Only two wards, out of fifteen, the first and the sixth, voted for the ordinance, and their majority was small—277 in a total of 763 in the first, and 79 in a total of 961 in the sixth. It was the second referendum in Kansas City, and the first to be hotly contested.

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Special Session of the Illinois Legislature.

Immediately upon the assembling of the Illinois legislature in special session on the 14th (p. 1189), a large number of bills were introduced, among them being the following:

Corrupt practice act, requiring candidates and political committees to publish campaign expenses.
Deep waterway.

Subway and harbor and dock improvement. A bill enabling cities and villages to acquire, own, construct, maintain and operate such improvements.

Commission form of government—Senator Barr and Representative Gorman introduce identical bills enabling cities and villages of less than 200,000 population to adopt by popular vote the commission form.

Mining laws for the safety and protection of miners.

Employers' liability. Representative Hull and Senator Lundberg introduce the administration bill for the appointment of a commission to deal with the subject.

The special session has adjourned until January 4th.

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Commission Government in Illinois Municipalities.

The bill introduced at the special session of the Illinois legislature providing for the commission form of government in the cities of Illinois having less than 200,000 inhabitants (pp. 301, 470, 1045), carries the backing of the Peoria conference (p. 996) and is what is distinctively known as the Des Moines plan; that is to say, while securing efficiency by placing the municipal government in the hands of five elective commissioners, it secures democracy by means of the initiative, the referendum and the recall. The method proposed for its adoption by any municipality of less than 200,000 inhabitants is a petition to the county court by one-tenth of the legal voters at the preceding election, whereupon the question shall be submitted, and if a majority of the votes are favorable the city adopts the law and it becomes effective upon the third Tuesday in April, 1911, and biennially thereafter.

Relations of Nicaragua and the United States.

Washington dispatches of the 14th relative to the Nicaraguan affair (p. 1209), report an interview between the Minister from Mexico, Mr. Creel, and Secretary Knox, at which the former proposed a friendly intervention on the part of Mexico and the latter replied in effect that the Nicaraguan situation is one which does not entitle Mexico to interfere as one of the signatories to the so-called Central American treaty of peace under the Root agreement; and that while the United States welcomes the friendship of Mexico, the question with Nicaragua is one which would permit of no interference, friendly or unfriendly.

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A new turn was given to the situation on the 17th by the resignation of President Zelaya. In his message to the Nicaraguan Congress he said:

To avoid further bloodshed and for the reason that the revolutionists have declared that they would put down their arms when I surrender the executive power, I hereby place in the hands of the national assembly the abandonment of the remainder of my term of office, which is to be filled by a substitute of their choosing, with the hope that this will result in good to Nicaragua, the re-establishment of peace, and particularly the suspension of the hostility of the United States, to which I do not wish to give a pretext for intervention.

On the 20th the Nicaraguan Congress, in session at Managua, unanimously elected as Zelaya's successor, Dr. Jose Madriz, formerly judge of the Central American Court of Justice, and said to be Zelaya's candidate. Dr. Madriz was escorted to the balcony of his hotel, where he greeted a great crowd that gathered around the building, and made a brief speech, urging harmony and co-operation. He pledged himself to uphold the rights of the citizens, grant free elections and establish a policy of equal opportunities for all.

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Reports of the 20th from Washington, described as authoritative and in consequence of the choice of Madriz to succeed Zelaya, were that—

the policy of this government with regard to Nicaragua is fully outlined in the note of dismissal to Senor Rodriguez. Nothing has been added to it and nothing will be taken away from it. That attitude will be maintained until Nicaragua has established a responsible government, when the United States will be pleased to resume diplomatic relations with the republic.

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Rumors were prevalent in Washington on the 18th of a disagreement relative to the Nicaraguan policy of the Administration between Secretary Knox and Senator Root. Formerly Secretary of State with a South American policy, Mr. Root is now a member of the Senate Committee on foreign affairs. There were other Washington rumors

about the same time, of a federation of the Central American republics.

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Cook's Claims to Have Reached the North Pole Rejected.

The records and observations submitted to the University of Copenhagen by Dr. Frederick A. Cook (p. 1044), to prove his claim to have reached the North Pole in April, 1908 (p. 872), were declared by the University on the 21st to fail to establish the claim. The Danes, who most kindly received Dr. Cook upon his return to civilization in a Danish ship sailing from Greenland to Denmark, feel deeply the deception apparently practiced upon them.

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Death of the King of the Belgians.

Leopold II of Belgium (p. 1211) died early in the morning of the 17th, at his residence pavilion at Laeken near Brussels, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. He had succeeded his father, Leopold I, on the throne of Belgium at the time of his father's death in 1865.

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In 1830 Belgium broke from the Netherlands with which it had been united since 1815, and created itself into the kingdom of Belgium. A National Congress elected Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, an uncle of Queen Victoria, King of the Belgians, June 4, 1831. According to the constitution of 1831 Belgium is a constitutional, representative and hereditary monarchy. The legislative power is vested in the king, the senate and the chamber of deputies. The order of succession is the direct male line. Having three daughters, but no sons of the royal house, Leopold will be succeeded by his nephew Albert, son of his brother Philippe, who died in 1905.

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The British Elections.

In response to Mr. Asquith's declaration regarding home rule for Ireland in Irish affairs (p. 1208), the central committee of the Irish Nationalist party, at a meeting in Dublin on the 14th, decided to support the Liberal party in the present contest with the House of Lords. John Redmond, the Parliamentary leader of the Irish party, moved the resolution, and it was adopted unanimously by the committee. On the following day, the 15th, the convention of the Irish party at Dublin, John Redmond presiding, unanimously adopted it. At a large meeting at the Mansion House in the evening, Mr. Redmond explained that the Prime Minister was asking the British people for a mandate to deal with Irish self-government in the next Parliament, and therefore the Irish leaders advised their people in Great Britain to vote the Liberal ticket. If home rule did come, he assured the British people, in the name of Ireland, that it

would be received and worked in the same spirit as the concession of freedom to the Transvaal was worked. Their opponents, he said, were no longer millions of the British population but a few hundred gentlemen in the House of Lords. An election manifesto along the lines of Redmond's speech was issued by the United Irish League of Great Britain on the 16th.

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Liberal meetings continue to be interrupted by physical force suffragettes, and personal assaults upon ministers are repeated. The first lord of the admiralty, McKenna, was attacked as he returned from a Liberal party meeting on the 18th, and though he has expressed his belief in woman suffrage, one of the crowd of suffragettes who surrounded him on a railway station platform is reported to have struck him repeatedly over the head and face with a stout india rubber tube, part of the apparatus employed in prison hospitals for forcibly feeding prisoners who refuse to take food and applied to suffragette prisoners. Mr. McKenna received several smart blows that left their mark on his face. On the other hand, Unionist (Chamberlain) meetings are broken up by hostile interruptions by men. At Boms Grove on the 16th, where Austin Chamberlain, ex-chancellor of the exchequer, was addressing his own constituents, he was silenced with constant and noisy interruptions. For twenty minutes he vainly essayed to resume, and then was obliged to desist. Similar heckling, jeering and disorder are reported to be the common experience of Unionist Peers who venture to address meetings.

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In an address to the voters of Birmingham Joseph Chamberlain, who is contesting the constituency for a seat in the Commons, raises the election cry of "Abolition of Cobdenism, not of the House of Lords."

NEWS NOTES

—W. A. Harris, United States Senator from Kansas from 1897 to 1903, died in Chicago on the 20th at the age of 68.

—Edhem Pasha, commander of the Turkish forces in the Graeco-Turkish war of 1897, died at Cairo, Egypt, on the 17th.

—Chang Yin Tang, successor to Wu Tingfang as Chinese minister to the United States (p. 804), arrived in Washington from China, by way of San Francisco, on the 16th.

—Under Presbyterian auspices there was formed in Chicago on the 17th an organization designed to help put "down-and-out" men on their feet, giving them temporary lodging and employment in an industrial institution and assisting them to regain their