

had been great expectations of serious controversy, but none appeared upon the surface. Bryan, Wilson, Folk and Clark were among the principal speakers. Hearst also spoke and Underwood staid away. Bryan's reception of Governor Wilson's speech is thus described by Sumner Curtis, Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald: "Evidence of Mr. Bryan's leaning toward Wilson was given at the Jackson day dinner to-night, when the Nebraskan applauded with vigor that attracted attention almost every utterance of the New Jerseyite."



Progressive Democracy in Ohio.

The Progressive Democratic League of Ohio was organized at Columbus on the 2d, with ex-Congressman John J. Lentz as president. Newspaper dispatches make a point of their statement, that Mr. Lentz, when elected temporary chairman of the conference, preliminary to organization of the League, named William J. Bryan as candidate for the Democratic nomination for President, and that this was received with great applause. The resolutions of the League declare for the Democracy of Ohio—

That to protect the Progressive Democrats of Ohio against the possibility of any traitor among their 48 delegates to the national convention, it is imperative that no advocate, associate, protector, ally, agent, counsel, attorney, receiver, champion, or hireling of Wall street or other predatory interest be chosen as a delegate.



Governor Foss to the Massachusetts Legislature.

In his official message of the 4th, Governor Eugene N. Foss of Massachusetts made the following Progressive recommendations:

To strengthen the direct primary law enacted last year the fixed party enrollment should be done away with, as the voter is entitled to the same secrecy at the primaries which is now accorded him at the polls.

The Initiative and the Referendum and the Recall, advocated in inaugural address last year and reaffirmed at the recent election, where the popular verdict was an approval of this position.

Direct election of United States Senators, and a law enabling the voters to express their choice of candidates for nomination for President and Vice-President.

Distribution by the State, at the expense of the State, of an election pamphlet in which each candidate shall be allowed space to state his claims, to the end that opportunity to attain public office may be equalized.

Submission to popular vote of the question of extending the franchise to women.

Submission to popular vote of a provision to prohibit by Constitutional amendment all special and local legislation, in order that the principle of mu-

nicipal self-government may be given full operation.

Public ownership of docks and water terminals; also public ownership of railroad terminals if necessary for securing the entrance of the great trunk lines of Canada into Boston.

Reciprocity with Canada and reciprocal trade relations with other countries, not only on the North and South American continents, but also throughout the rest of the world.

On the subject of taxation Governor Foss says:

The tax laws of the Commonwealth ought to be thoroughly revised. The Tax Commissioner says that our present system has broken down, and that "we are now imposing the heaviest burdens upon the poor, the helpless and the ignorant." The immediate reform of the tax system is, therefore, the most urgent need of the Commonwealth. I shall later communicate to you a tentative plan to which I shall ask your consideration.



The Arbitration Treaties.

A new line of attack upon the Taft arbitration treaties with France and Great Britain was made in the United States Senate on the 3rd by Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska. It was, in effect, that the treaties would operate to check the treaty-making power of the Senate and leave this power where it rests in monarchical countries—wholly with the Executive. [See current volume, page 12.]



On the following day, the 4th, the majority report of the Senate committee on foreign relations was filed, through Senator Raymer (Democrat). It favors ratification of the arbitration treaties, unamended. The Root amendment, favored by ex-President Roosevelt, specifies the Monroe doctrine, control of immigration and indebtedness of States as not arbitrable.



Report of the Monetary Commission.

The report of the National Monetary Commission, of which ex-Senator Nelson W. Aldrich is chairman, was made to Congress on the 8th. This Commission was created by an act of Congress of May 30, 1908, for amending the national banking laws; and its report is made pursuant to section 18 of that Act, which requires the Commission to report "what changes are necessary or desirable in the monetary system of the United States or in the laws relating to banking and currency." The members of the Commission, besides Chairman Aldrich, are Edward B. Vreeland, Julius C. Burrows, Eugene Hale, Henry M. Teller, Hernando D. Money, Theodore E. Burton, James P. Taliaferro, Boies Penrose, John W. Weeks, Robert W. Bonynge, Lemuel P. Padgett, George F. Burgess, Arsene P. Pujo, George W. Prince, and James McLachlan. Their report sub-

mits a proposed Act of Congress for the national incorporation of "The National Reserve Association of the United States," substantially as heretofore described in these columns. [See *The Public*, vol. xiv, p. 1169.]



The Beef-Trust Trial.

In ruling on a question of evidence at the Beef-Trust trial in Chicago on the 6th, Judge Carpenter outlined as follows the principle upon which he intends the case shall be decided:

The government will have to show in this case a combination or effort on the part of some of the defendants or all of them before they succeed, and unless they do, that is an end to this case. And if they show the concerted action, or individual action if you please, of each party and then show a general situation toward which each one of these parties has been working, it is for the jury to say whether, considering the result obtained and considering what individuals did, there was an unlawful combination.

[See current volume, page 13.]



Echoes of the McNamara Case.

For an important piece of news of general interest, which developed at the close of the year, we are indebted to *The Survey* of December 30. It was an address to President Taft on the McNamara case, signed by 28 men of prominence in New York and delivered to the President in person by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and Edward T. Devine. Among the signers are the Rev. J. Howard Melish, Rabbi Wise, John M. Glenn (of the Russell Sage Foundation, and not the "professional secretary" of the same name who is better known in Chicago), Florence Kelly, Prof. Seligman of Columbia University, Paul U. Kellogg (editor of *The Survey*), George Foster Peabody, Louis D. Brandeis, and Lyman Abbott. From *The Survey's* reproduction of this address we make the following excerpts to indicate its spirit:

What happens from now on to the McNamaras in San Quentin prison does not concern the American people so profoundly as what happened, is happening, and may happen to workmen who did not and would not use dynamite as a method to secure their ends. Their case has not been before the tribunal of the law. It comes before a larger tribunal—the social conscience of the nation, of which the law is only a partial expression.

In order to arrive at the worker's point of view, it is necessary only to review the long list of occupational diseases, the failure of both employers and the state to prevent them or mitigate their effects, the lack of employers' liability laws, the failure to provide adequate safeguards against accidents in dangerous vocations, the attacks upon the Constitutionality of laws to shorten the hours of women and of workers in certain trades, the reluctance of

legislatures to abolish child labor—it is necessary only to contrast this dead center of the social machinery with the speed at which it acts to prevent picketing and rioting during strikes. The workingman sees the club of the officer, the bayonet of the militia directed against him in the defense of property, and he believes that the hand of the law, strong in the protection of property, often drops listless whenever measures are proposed to lighten labor's heavy burden. Occasional and imperfect expressions of this underlying feeling reach the surface. Those who dismiss them as sporadic assaults upon the judiciary have no appreciation of the depth and breadth of the social situation.

Federal grand juries may well concern themselves with those who have carried dynamite across State boundaries. We want light along a more crucial boundary line—the borderland between industry and democracy. We want light on that larger lawlessness which is beyond the view of the criminal court. This is a matter of public defense in which we, as a people, should if necessary invest as much money as we put into a battleship.

This remarkable address to the President closes with an appeal for a Federal commission "with as great scientific competence, staff, resources, and power to compel testimony as the Interstate Commerce Commission":

(1) To investigate (and on this point make a preliminary report within six months) conditions of labor during the last six years in the structural iron trade, including in the study the organizations of employers and employes, the methods and purposes of each, and the relations of each to the other.

(2) To gauge the break-down of our machinery of industrial government by tracing the trend of law and judicial decision through State and Federal courts with respect to labor causes (the boycott, the picket, the injunction, the strike); and to examine the exact economic and legal status of the union, the union member, the non-union man, the strike-breaker, the tenant of a company house.

(3) To investigate the economic and social cost of strikes to employers, to workmen, and to the public.

(4) To examine and review the rules and records of trade unions and employers' associations in their relations to each other; the conditions of the trades in which unions are strong and those in which no unions exist.

(5) To study and make report on the scope and methods and resources of Federal and State bureaus of labor to the end that they may meet permanently those responsibilities which through the work of such a Commission would be more adequately defined.

(6) To make special and exhaustive study into the practicability and working principles of schemes of economic government such as the trade legislature in the cloak, suit and skirt industry, the joint arbitration board which for seven years controlled the New York building trades, the Wisconsin Industrial Commission, the Canadian Industrial disputes acts, the minimum wage boards long established in Australia and recently introduced in England.

[See current volume, page 14.]