

called to order by Judge George H. Lambert of Newark, who briefly stated its object and introduced Hon. Allan Benny of Hudson County as temporary chairman. Mr. Benny . . . was named by the conference as permanent chairman on a vote of 95 to 59 for Thomas A. Davis. . . . The conference has resulted in the formation of a State organization, and the adoption of a platform of principles on which it is believed a large body of sincere Democrats can unite. The planks on municipal and government ownership and direct legislation are . . . progressive, perhaps in advance of the views of a good many, but I thoroughly believe that they represent the ideas of a vast and increasing number of the citizens of the State. The plans of those who are responsible for the launching of the new organization, do not involve the formation of "a new political party," notwithstanding all statements to the contrary. Nor do they involve the "harmonizing of the voters with the bosses," nor the "uniting of contending factions." Nor yet do they involve the promotion of the political fortunes of any one individual or set of individuals, either in or out of this State or this organization. The entire purpose is, as the original call so emphatically stated, to organize "for true democracy in New Jersey." The conference decided, by an overwhelming majority, on the accompanying platform of principles, as true democracy. The work of the organization, then, is the popularizing among Democrats of these principles, to the fullest extent possible, with a view of keeping them to the front in future political contests in city, county and State campaigns. The organization will be completed and perfected entirely with this object in view; county organizations will be formed, and all voters who will subscribe to the general program of the State organization will be enrolled. . . . It is hoped and intended that within six months this movement will be organized in all the counties of the State, and the enrolled members be able in many places to name candidates and frame county platforms which will command the respect, as well as gain the votes of a large number of the earnest and sincere citizens of New Jersey. The first step for union is to admit sincerity in those of diverse views; the next step is to respect those diverse views; and the third step is to work in harmony to the greatest extent possible for the practical application of our different views. There is little difficulty in this. I am a free trader, but I can work with a sincere tariff reformer; I am a single taxer, but I can work with a far less radical advocate of equal taxation; I am a believer in municipal ownership of all public utilities, but I can work heartily with a man who accepts only a portion of this program, and we need not part company until we cross the further bridge that may some day separate us.

Among its demands the platform referred to in the foregoing address, favors "municipal ownership and operation of all local public utilities, and government ownership and operation of all railway, express, telegraph and telephone lines"; the extension of the civil service merit system accordingly; only short term franchises meanwhile; "reasonable and equitable taxation of all franchises;" the "initiative and referendum and the right of recall;" the "longest possible extension of home rule;" the "immediate abolition of all tariff duties on the products of protected trusts sold at lower rates to foreigners than to Americans, and a gradual reduction of all other tariff duties;" "direct nomination by the people of all candidates for public office at the primaries," and the "universal adoption of the eight-hour labor law."

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#### Labor Legislation in Great Britain.

Predictions of an embarrassing split of the Labor members from the Liberal members in the British House of Commons were made in the dispatches on the 28th, when it was reported that the Labor members would not accept the trades dispute bill as presented by the ministry. But the matter was quickly

adjusted. On the 30th the Prime Minister advised the Commons to substitute for the measure of the ministry the measure proposed by the Labor members. This was forthwith done, the Labor bill passing its second reading by 456 to 66. The two measures were substantially alike, except that the Labor measure contained this clause:

No action shall be brought against a trade union or other association for the recovery of damages sustained by any person or persons by reason of the action of any member or members of such trade union or other association.

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A bill on land value taxation is now before Parliament. It was introduced by Mr. J. D. White and is supported by Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. Findlay, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Rainy, Mr. Molteno, and Mr. Wedgwood. The essential features of this bill are, in the case of each property, that the land shall be valued on the basis of its market value, that the buildings and other improvements shall be valued separately, and that the combined amount of these two valuations shall also be set out. The objects are reported by the London New Age to be to secure a more accurate valuation of each property as a whole, and to prepare the way for taxing land values and untaxing buildings and other improvements.

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#### Russian Elections.

Elections for the first national parliament of Russia (vol. viii., p. 821) began at St. Petersburg on the 29th when twelve members of the Council of the Empire were chosen by a congress composed of representatives of associations of trade and industry throughout European Russia. The members chosen are described as well-known men of affairs of high standing in their respective communities and all conservatives. The constitutional democrats won a sweeping victory in the municipal elections in the cities and towns of the St. Petersburg district outside of the capital, held for the purpose of choosing electors to select members of the lower house. Elections for the same purpose were held in the city on the 1st, at which the victory of the constitutional democrats was overwhelming. These elections are now in full swing throughout the empire, and on the 4th it was reported from St. Petersburg that the balloting has been generally favorable, both in the cities and in the country, to the constitutional democrats.

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#### The Moroccan Conference.

An adjustment of the Moroccan dispute before the conference in session at Algeiras (vol. viii., p. 764) has been reached, and a protocol is now in preparation. According to the American dispatches the representative of the United States government is entitled to the credit of having prevented an international rupture.

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#### The Railway Rate Bill in Congress.

An arrangement is reported from Washington as having been arrived at regarding the railway rate bill now pending in the Senate (vol. viii., p. 857), whereby President Roosevelt agrees to a modification that will permit of appeals to the Federal courts