

three days' campaign in that State. Never in my experience have I known the people of any commonwealth more profoundly aroused than in North Dakota. They thoroughly understand the issue. Sentiment does not enter into the result. The people of that State could not be influenced by any attempt to make a personal issue. I am convinced that the situation in North Dakota is typical of the progressive movement in all the progressive States. The politicians in some instances may have been stampeded, but the people generally have not been, and will not be. They know the great problems that confront us have not been aggressively and constructively met by either the Roosevelt or Taft administrations. They do not want the experience of that period repeated. They want to go forward.

You will find in all Progressive territory protest against the surrender of Progressive movement into the hands of soft-shell Progressives and reactionaries. The people are not following the politicians in their hasty jump to what they believed to be a band wagon. The result in North Dakota is proof that the great body of the people are not willing to sacrifice the organization and movement which has cost a quarter of a century of struggle to a policy of expediency and compromise. They want to make headway in the solution of the social and economic problems that confront us. They demand deliverance from the burden of the thousands of millions of over-capitalization of the great transportation, tariff, trust and money monopolies. Political manipulation may have succeeded in obscuring the issues and bringing about temporary disorganization of the Progressive forces here at the capital, but the people throughout the country never saw more clearly, never were more strongly united for progress. In devoting my time so largely to public discussion of the issues throughout the country, I am confident that I shall be rendering my best public service at this time. No substantial legislation of importance to the people can be expected until both the Executive and Congress shall hear from the country in a way to make it understood that the Progressive cause is the greatest power in the land, and that it is still one of principle, not expediency. The time for talk has gone by, the time to do is at hand. I shall campaign from now on until the last delegate is elected, in the same spirit, with the same definiteness as to principle, and with the same confidence in result as in North Dakota.



#### Special Session of the Illinois Legislature.

Governor Deneen called on the 25th a special session of the Illinois legislature for the 26th. It is understood to be for the purpose of passing an emergency measure permitting Presidential preference primaries. Thirteen objects are enumerated in the call, but the Governor expects action prior to the primaries of April 9th on the Presidential preference question only, the requisite two-thirds of the members having expressed themselves to him as favoring such primaries. The thirteen objects specified in the Governor's call are as follows:

(1) To amend the primary election law. (2) To amend the election law. (3) To make an appropri-

ation for the repair of the State capitol building. (4) To make an appropriation for the repair of the buildings at the State fair grounds. (5) To amend the State insurance law. (6) To propose an amendment to article 14, section 2, of the Constitution, permitting the adoption of more than one amendment to the Constitution at the same time. (7) To amend the existing laws so as to confer greater powers upon boards of park commissioners and particularly to authorize such boards to condemn riparian and littoral rights as well as lands and property, and otherwise acquire the same. (8) To make an appropriation for the maintenance of the State grain inspection department. (9) To make an appropriation for the maintenance of the department of State factory inspection. (10) To amend clause 50, section 1, of the act providing for the general expenses of the State government, by providing additional appropriations thereunder. (11) To make an appropriation for the medical department of the University of Illinois. (12) To make an appropriation for the maintenance of the soil survey and for other agricultural departments and purposes. (13) To make an appropriation for the payment of the expenses of this extraordinary session of the General Assembly.



#### Milwaukee Politics.

An extraordinary political situation exists in Milwaukee. The Republican party has virtually dissolved for local purposes and melted into the Democratic party. At the direct primaries on the 19th two Republicans contested for the Democratic nomination for Mayor, and one of them was nominated and will lead the Democratic ticket at the election on the 2d of April. Following is the result of the primary vote on candidates for Mayor:

##### Socialist party:

Mayor Emil Seidel (unopposed).....17,229

##### Democratic party:

Gerhard A. Bading (a Republican)...26,248

William J. Carey (a Republican).....14,875

The contest for Mayor will therefore be between Emil Seidel, the present Socialist Mayor, and Gerhard A. Bading, a Republican with the Democratic nomination. For City Treasurer and Comptroller the Democrats have nominated in each instance a Democrat whose only opponent will be a Socialist. All these Democratic nominations were made under a bargain between the organizations of the Democratic and the Republican parties in co-operation with the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association. The Democrats were to nominate a Republican for Mayor and a Democrat for each of the other two offices, for the purpose of defeating the Socialists by uniting all opposing elements. Republicans voted as Democrats at the primaries. [See vol. xiv, pages 348, 436.]



#### Taxation in Houston.

Through the patient and thoughtful service of J. J. Pastoriza, the Commissioner of Houston (un-

der their commission form of government) who is in charge of local taxation, a long stride in tax reform is announced by Mayor Rice in his official message. Explaining local taxation in this message Mayor Rice says:

During the present year the Somers system\* of taxation has been established in Houston, at the suggestion of Commissioner Pastoriza. It seems to be a very efficient system, just and equitable to all. The tax board has adopted the system of assessing land values at 90 per cent and improvements 25 per cent of their value. Under this system the valuations have increased from \$77,000,000 to \$123,000,000, which is very great. All tax problems are difficult and very few, if any, satisfactory. I would suggest to the citizens to thoroughly investigate this system and understand it. If it is satisfactory, so much the better; if not, then some better plan should be proposed. The city council will not be arbitrary, but will be glad to listen to any one or all citizens upon this subject. Last year the tax rate was \$1.70 per hundred. This year it has been reduced to \$1.30 per hundred for all purposes, being the lowest rate of any large city in the State.

#### Initiative, Referendum and Recall in Texas.

A conference of Texas Democrats held at Dallas on the 18th adopted resolutions declaring that—we favor the amendment of our constitution in such a way as to incorporate the Initiative, Referendum and Recall therein; that our efforts to secure this amendment shall not involve an alignment with nor opposition to any other measure, nor shall this organization promote or oppose, as such, the candidacy of any man for office; that we recommend that our friends proceed with the work of obtaining signatures to petitions; and that we take such steps as may be necessary to place a demand in the platform of the Democratic party for the submission of the amendment providing for the Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

The conference had been called to order by George Clifton Edwards of Dallas, who is prominently identified with the Socialist party. D. J. Neill, former president of the Texas Farmers' Union, was permanent chairman, John Maxwell permanent secretary, and the following campaign committee was appointed: D. J. Neill, John Maxwell, William Hoefgen (president State Federation of Labor); H. F. Ring, C. W. Woodman, Joe Myers, F. B. McCurdy and T. H. McGregor. [See current volume, page 180.]

#### Pending Coal Strike in the United States.

A conference between owners of American natural coal-deposits and working miners in Cleveland on the 21st referred the controversy tentatively to a committee of two owners and two miners from each of the four States involved—Illinois,

Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. [See current volume, page 276.]

#### The British Coal Miners' Strike.

The Government bill in Parliament with reference to the coal miners' strike, which was introduced by the Prime Minister on the 19th, came before the House of Commons for second reading on the 21st. [See current volume, page 275.]

When before the Commons for second reading on the 21st, this bill encountered a hostile motion by Arthur J. Balfour, Mr. Bonar Law's predecessor as Tory leader. Mr. Balfour characterized the action of the strikers and of the Government as "a colossal revolution." His motion was defeated, and after debate the bill passed its second reading near midnight by 348 to 225, the Labour party and the Irish party voting with the Government. The "committee stage" of the bill was finished in the early morning hours of the 23d. Nearly all amendments submitted had been either defeated or withdrawn, so that the bill was ready for final action in its original form substantially.

Meanwhile the Prime Minister postponed final action and called a conference of natural-coal-deposit owners and striking miners for the 25th. T. P. O'Connor, M. P., explains this as follows in his cable letter of the 23d to the Chicago Tribune:

The Government, after considerable hesitation and after a serious struggle within the Cabinet, refused to place in the bill the figure of \$1.25 a day as the minimum wage which the miners pressed upon them. This refusal was imposed upon the Government by the conviction that such naming of a figure of wages in an act of Parliament would bring immediately a similar demand from all other workmen in the country, and would reduce all elections to an auction between the political parties as to the price at which they would buy the support of the workmen. Further, many of the Liberal employers and all of the old fashioned economists warned Premier Asquith against such rash legislation. This refusal was backed by the House of Commons and ultimately the matter seemed settled until the Labour leaders made a dramatic and pathetic appeal to Asquith to grant this concession or some approach to it to enable them to close the disastrous strike immediately. After a scene of tense emotion which reduced the House of Commons to the stillness of the grave, Asquith announced that the final stage of the bill would be postponed till Monday and that another conference between the miners and coal owners would take place on that day.

The Miners' Federation promptly accepted the conference proposal, and on the 25th the conference convened.

\*See The Public, volume xiii, page 675; volume xiv, pages 173, 224, 230, 242, 323.