the General Federation of Labor continued to urge a sympathetic strike on the part of the unions of the various trades; and on the 19th the unions of the seamen, the copper moulders, the cabinet makers and the diggers decided to strike, and the secretaries of other trades, including the electricians, the provision trades and the biscuit makers, declared their readiness to follow the lead. But no large number of men seem to have fallen in with the program when the strikes were called, and on the 21st the General Federation of Labor terminated the labor union strikes, and issued a manifesto in which it was explained that the postal employes had been overconfident of the success of their second strike, "which everything shows was prepared and instigated by the government, which was desirous of an opportunity for avenging itself against the leaders of the first strike." The statement adds, according to the Associated Press reports, that the strikes of the diggers and other workmen having sufficiently demonstrated the solidarity of the proletariat and the postmen, there was no reason to call out other unions, notably the electricians, who had expressed their readiness to enter the fight. With the withdrawal of the sympathetic strike the postmen's strike also terminated, and the remaining strikers set themselves to obtain reinstatement as far as possible.

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The Tariff in Congress.

In the course of the proceedings in the Senate on the tariff bill (p. 490), a duty of $2 a dozen on imported razors was carried on the 18th. The next items were those of the lumber schedule, but Mr. Aldrich secured a postponement of their consideration. After two or three days, however, devoted to the consideration of miscellaneous items, the lumber schedules were brought into debate upon a resolution of Senator McCumber's proposing to put lumber in the free list. This resolution came to vote on the 24th. It was defeated by 56 to 25. Only 10 Democrats voted for it. They were Clay, Culberson, Frazier, Gore, Hughes, Newlands, Paynter, Rayner, Shively, Stone. They were supported by the following Republicans: Beveridge, Bristow, Brown, Burkett, Burton, Clapp, Crawford, Cummins, Curtis, DuPont, Gamble, Jonson (N. D.), La Follette, McCumber, Nelson.

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The Filipino Assembly Again Asks for Independence.

Just as the Filipino Assembly closed its session last year with a resolution declaring independence to be the aspiration of the Filipino people, and asking it of the United States (vol. xi, p. 300), so again at the close of this year's session on the 20th, a similar resolution was passed, asking for independence for the islands. In moving this resolution the Speaker, Mr. Osmena, said that though the policy of the Assembly was to work in harmony with and support the government in all measures calculated to advance the interests of the Filipinos, nevertheless the members had not abandoned their original aspiration for independence; and therefore he moved that the Filipino delegates to the Congress of the United States be instructed to present the question to that body whenever an opportunity was offered. The members of the Progressista or minority party, asked permission to abstain from voting, which was granted. All the Nationalists then voted in favor of the resolution.

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The Farmers of Oregon on Direct Legislation.

Important action of national interest was taken by the State Grange of Oregon at its convention at McMinnville, which closed on the 14th. It related to the movement to kill direct legislation in a Constitutional convention (p. 459). Following is the resolution on the subject which the Grange adopted:

Whereas, House Bill No. 186, introduced by Mr. Buchanan, to provide for a Constitutional convention to revise the Constitution of the State of Oregon, was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its recent session; and whereas, it is the reported intention of the machine politicians and corporate interests responsible for the introduction and passage of this bill to have the Constitutional convention promulgate and adopt the Constitution it draws without submitting it to a vote of the people for approval or rejection, and thereby repeal the Initiative and Referendum, the Recall and the people's selection of United States Senators by the Statement No. 1 method, as well as other measures by which the people of Oregon directly control their public officers and government; and whereas, a new Constitution is followed always by many years of uncertainty and costly litigation to determine the meaning of its various provisions, and this bill will cost the taxpayers of Oregon for the two special elections and the convention itself at least $200,000, if they are permitted to vote upon the Constitution at all, and because it is very clear that no good for the people can possibly be obtained through such a convention that cannot be much more safely and cheaply obtained by amendment; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Oregon State Grange in regular session assembled, that we are unalterably opposed to a Constitutional convention, and we do hereby call upon the Pomonas, Councils, Subordinate Granges, Federated Trades Union, and all citizens of Oregon who believe in self-government by the people, to aid in rejecting the proposed Constitutional convention at the November election, 1910, and thus retain for the people of Oregon their unimpaired power to initiate and enact legislation and to discharge public officers by their vote at the polls.

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Taxation Reform in Oregon.

At the same session at which the Oregon State Grange adopted resolutions opposing a Constitutional convention as menacing to direct legislation

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(p. 512), W. S. U'Ren, the "father of the referendum" in Oregon, was invited to address the body on the subject of taxation, and the Oregon papers report him as having said:

The referendum should be obligatory on all tax and exemption laws, because the legislature has failed to understand the bills it passed. Twice in the past five years it has been necessary to make emergency tax laws to get any revenue for the State. Once a special session was necessary. Last Winter the legislature repealed the laws for taxing incomes of telephone, telegraph and express companies. Either there was a joker in the bill that the legislature did not see, or else the members did see the joker and left it hidden from the people. It is bad enough either way.

Taxation is one of the most important functions of government. It is well that the people should feel their own responsibility for the tax and exemption laws. The amendments to the Constitution submitted by the legislature last winter, if adopted, will permit laws to exempt any kind of property, and also to tax different kinds of property at different rates, as they are said to do in some of the Eastern States. With these great taxing powers added to the law-making power, I believe it will be safe and wise to require that every tax and exemption shall be approved by the people before it takes effect.

Legislatures have never yet made satisfactory tax laws; possibly the legislature and the people may succeed.

In acknowledgement of Mr. U'Ren's address, the following resolution was adopted by the Grange:

Whereas, By reason of legislative carelessness and incompetence, the tax laws of the State of Oregon for the past five years have been made under the emergency clause, and no tax laws have yet been made by any legislature that are just and satisfactory to the taxpayers, therefore be it,

Resolved, by the Oregon State Grange, That our legislative committee is authorized on the part of the Grange to assist in organizing any movement that meets its approval for the purpose of proposing by Initiative petition an amendment to the Oregon Constitution, making the Referendum obligatory on all tax and exemption laws passed by the legislature, and providing that any tax or exemption law approved by the people shall be effective, notwithstanding any limitations of the Constitution on the power of the legislative assembly.

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The special committee on taxation had already made, and the Grange had adopted, a declaration on taxation which was ordered to be printed in sufficient quantity for educational purposes throughout the State. The position taken by the Grange on this subject is that—

the State Constitution should be amended so as to permit all property to be classified and taxed at different rates, retaining a uniform rate in each class. A more rigid enforcement of tax laws is necessary. All privileges should be obliged to contribute their just share of the burden. The last legislature is commended for its creation of a State Tax Commission, the Grange believing the system to be the most effective means of finding intangible property and classifying same and making fair adjustments of values. The Grange believes such a commission should be elected on a non-partisan ticket, and believes a fine of from $100 to $500 should be imposed for refusal to list property with the assessor, or imprisonment of from six months to one year. The Washington State plan of collecting delinquent taxes is recommended for adoption.

The Oregon Grange would also make all bonds and securities, not exempt, worthless unless they bear the official seal of the assessor.

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Use of the Recall.

In one of the smaller cities of Oregon, Estacada, all the officials except the Recorder, have been recalled. The grounds of recall, printed on the official ballot, were—

First—They have conducted and managed the business affairs of the city in an unsatisfactory manner, diverting the different city funds and applying them unlawfully to the payment of certain debts not in the class for which said fund was created.

Second—They have repudiated the city's indebtedness by their refusal to provide for and pay the interest on such bonds.

Third—They have and still continue to spend the city's funds in a manner not approved of by your petitioners.

Fourth—By their acts and arbitrary manner they have involved the city in such a manner that your petitioners believe will involve the city in costly litigation.

This is the second use of the recall in Oregon since its adoption as an Initiative amendment to the Constitution at the election last June (vol. xi, p. 250; vol. xii, pp. 82, 98). The first, at Junction City early this spring, resulted in the recall of the Mayor by a vote of 4 to 1.

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The Cleveland Traction Situation.

What is reported by the Cleveland Press as "one of the stormiest sessions in the series of traction peace meetings" (p. 394) occurred on the 17th. The Council then went on record in favor of a separation of the properties of the old Cleveland Electric Company and the Forest City Company (which were united in the Cleveland Railway Company), in case any revaluation of the property is made. Mayor Johnson insisted that Forest City stockholders must neither profit nor lose by a revaluation. President Andrews insisted upon having all the property treated as a single interest, saying he would not concede this point. But the Council were against him.

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At the regular meeting of the Council, the same evening, a resolution fixing the maximum fare for

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