

Illinois State committee of the Progressive Party, held on the 9th at Chicago, this resolution, offered by Charles E. Merriam, was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the strong support given the Progressive candidates and principles in State and nation at the recent election demonstrated the necessity and demand for a new party, under new leadership, guided by the spirit of social and industrial justice and directed against the alliance of privilege and politics, be it resolved, that the Progressive Party of Illinois be made permanent and the executive committee be instructed to proceed at once to perfect the organization, to establish permanent headquarters and to begin now the campaign of 1914.

Specifically, the executive committee was instructed to appoint sub-committees on legislation with reference to people's rule, social and industrial justice, corporation control, graft and waste, and agriculture.



#### Telephone Service in Chicago.

In a report made public on the 30th, Edward W. Bemis, public-utility expert in the employment of the Chicago City Council, showed that telephone users of Chicago are charged excessively for telephone service to the amount of \$700,000 a year. The report has come officially before the Council committee on gas, oil and electric light and at a hearing before this committee on the 7th, Mr. Bemis said that he valued the company's Cook County property at \$32,000,000, including \$4,500,000 in stock dividends, and that he had taken account of this stock dividend item in arriving at his conclusion that 7 per cent would be a fair return upon the total. [See vol. x, pp. 771, 779; current volume, page 159.]



#### Liberal "Defeat" on the Irish Home Rule Bill.

Expanded reports of a "defeat" of the Liberal Party in the British Parliament on the 11th, by a vote of 226 to 206 in favor of an amendment offered by the Conservatives to the Irish Home Rule bill, have appeared in the American papers, and emphasis is given to the fact that upon the declaration of this result the Conservatives demanded that the Liberal Ministry resign. In fact, there was no substantial defeat. The amendment came to a vote on a Monday, a day when many members of all parties are absent from the House. There was no contest over the amendment, but upon its coming to a vote some 60 Conservatives were rushed into the House from a nearby Torv club where they had been waiting for the signal. Thereby they caught the Liberals napping. The demand that the Ministry should resign is horse play. The Ministry resigns when it loses a majority of the House, not when there happens to be a government minority accidentally. The vote took place "in committee of the whole," as it would be called in the American Congress, and the Con-

servative amendment thus adopted will be eliminated when the bill comes before the House itself.



#### Divorces in Great Britain.

The British Royal Commission on divorce, which was appointed in 1909, is stated in dispatches of the 11th to have issued its report. The report is signed by the chairman of the Commission, Baron Gorell, former president of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice, and also by eight other members of the Commission, including two women. The Archbishop of York and two other members sign a minority report. The majority report, as outlined by cable, recommends equal rights of divorce for both sexes, some extension of the grounds for divorce, and some restrictions regarding separations. It is based on the idea that government should not regard the conventional marriage tie as necessarily indissoluble, nor as dissoluble only for one cause. The grounds recommended as a basis for dissolution are: (1) adultery, (2) willful desertion for three years and upwards, (3) cruelty, (4) incurable insanity after five years' confinement, (5) habitual drunkenness found incurable after three years, (6) imprisonment under a commuted death sentence.



#### The Balkan War and After.

With the Balkan allies advancing from one extraordinary victory to another, with every important city of European Turkey, except Constantinople, invested or captured, and with the Bulgarian army in sight of Constantinople, the intentions of the great Powers to deny to the Balkan allies any right to alienate territory from Turkey have had to undergo revision, and all of Europe is trembling with dread or aflame with greed over the adjustment of a new balance of power. [See current volume, page 1066.]



The Greek squadron continues to capture islands in the Aegean which have been under Turkish rule, and Greek ships are now carrying troops eastward to take part in an expected attack on Constantinople. On the 8th the city of Saloniki, on the Macedonian coast of the Aegean, after making stubborn resistance for a week, was occupied by the Greeks. Before the Greeks entered the city there was a massacre of the non-Moslem population by the Mohammedans. The Greeks have 27,000 Turks as their prisoners in the city. The Greek minister of justice has been appointed Governor of Saloniki, the fall of which was celebrated in Athens with great rejoicing. It was to the Christians of this city, anciently called Thessalonica, that Paul addressed his Epistles to the Thessalonians.

The Montenegrin troops continue to besiege Scutari and Tarabosch, and the inhabitants of the two cities are in dire straits.



The last Turkish position in the district of Novibazar in the extreme northwest of European Turkey had surrendered to the Servians by the 6th. One Servian army, working westward, taking towns on the way, had reached the Adriatic by the 11th. Winter has set in, and this march was rendered difficult by the deep snow.



At the Tchatalja forts, the last line of defenses in front of Constantinople, fighting began on the 5th between the victorious Bulgarians and the Turks, the advancing Bulgarian force presenting a front extending about 30 miles. All was fright and confusion in Constantinople. The harems were transferred to Brusa over in Asiatic Turkey, about 57 miles southeast of Constantinople, and the archives of the city were also dispatched thither. The water supply was cut off on the 5th by a large force of Bulgarians at Derkas, where the Constantinople aqueduct starts. The Turkish troops, still under Nazim Pasha, were described as demoralized. The head of the Mohammedan hierarchy, the Sheik-ul-Islam, issued on the 8th a manifesto to the religious orders to organize a Jihad, or holy war, and to proceed with their exhorting messages to the army. So much feeling has been aroused in Europe by news of the preaching of a Jihad that the Turkish government has been forced to minimize its character. Massacre of Christians in Constantinople by the Moslem population and the maddened remnants of a fleeing army has been feared if the Bulgarians shall break down the last line of forts and advance upon the city, but the Bulgarians declare that they intend to drive the Turkish troops north, if they are victorious over them. Constantinople is full of wounded soldiers and starving refugees, and cholera has broken out among them. The Powers are sending ships to protect foreign residents, and the Turkish government has given permission for two ships from each nation to pass the Dardanelles.



The Turkish government again requested mediation on the part of the Powers on the 5th. The Austrian foreign minister, Count von Berchthold, on the same day stood for defending the Ottoman Empire from territorial impairment. On the other hand, Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary, explaining the British attitude, in the House of Commons on the 5th, said that—

No one in view of the result of the war up to

date will be disposed to dispute the rights of the Balkan states to formulate the terms on which they are prepared to conclude peace. Do not think that the great Powers are slower than other people to adjust their known views to the march of events. The Powers are exchanging views in regard to the position in the Near East, but it must be a delicate matter for them to interfere between two Powers unless they do so at the request of both.

And the British Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, speaking at the London Lord Mayor's banquet on the 10th, announced that—

As a result of the victories of the Balkan allies the map of Europe must be recast and the Powers are unanimous that the victors must not be robbed of the fruits of the war that has cost them so much.

The English newspapers are showing marked sympathy for rights won by the Allies, as, for example, the right of the Servians to permanently retain a port on the Adriatic. The Bulgarian government organ, the *Mir* of Sofia, says that the Balkan league is ready to recognize the nonterritorial interests of the Powers, but makes one stipulation, that the Powers should understand the change that has been accomplished, and cease to treat the Balkan states as their protégés. "Any agreement reached," says the *Mir*, "must be on the basis of perfect equality with the Powers."

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The American Association for the Study of Spondylotherapy met at Chicago on the 12th.

—The annual meeting of the American Federation of Labor began at Rochester, N. Y., on the 11th.

—James Bryce, British ambassador to the United States since 1907, announced his resignation on the 10th. [See vol. ix, p. 1141.]

—News dispatches of the 11th told of the suicide on that day at his home in Girard, Kansas, of J. A. Wayland, of the Appeal to Reason.

—Berlin has heard of an insurrection in Liberia, and the German government has sent a cruiser for the protection of German residents of the Negro Republic. [See current volume, pages 38, 350, 515.]

—José Canalejas, Premier of Spain, was shot dead in the streets of Madrid on the 12th, by a supposed anarchist named Martín, who was arrested, but who succeeded promptly in killing himself with the same pistol. [See current volume, pages 62, 973.]

—John Schrank pleaded guilty at Milwaukee on the 12th of attempting to murder Theodore Roosevelt. On application of the District Attorney, Winfred C. Zabel, Judge Backus decided to name a commission to inquire into Schrank's mental condition. Sentence is meanwhile suspended. [See current volume, page 1019.]

—At a special election in Portland, Oregon, on the 2nd, a proposed "commission government" plan, and the "short charter," proposed by C. E. S. Wood, were defeated. Several other proposals, most of them regarding bonds and salaries, were also de-