

—reduction in the price of gas from \$1 to 85 cents per thousand cubic feet, and reduction in the price of water to meter consumers from 10 to 7 cents per thousand gallons.

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The Dunne campaign is under the management of Wm. L. O'Connell, chairman of the county central committee, and Charles J. Vopicka as chairman of the campaign committee. Nine regular ward organizations—the 4th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 25th, 31st, 32d, 33d and 35th—had declared for Mayor Dunne up to the 23d.

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#### The Harrison Campaign.

Mayor Dunne's only competitor for the Democratic nomination is ex-Mayor Carter H. Harrison. Mr. Harrison has not announced his candidacy, but a campaign organization has been started under the management of Mr. Tod Lundsford. As early as January 2 a "business men's league" was formed. On the 9th Harrison's headquarters were formally opened, and it was publicly announced that a financial committee of men worth \$85,000,000 had been organized. Mr. Harrison is now in California. His friends expected him to return about the 1st of February, but on the 23rd they received a letter from him in which he said he would not come to Chicago unless nominated and that he would not engage in a primary contest.

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#### The Chicago Traction Question.

The referendum petition put out by the Referendum League and other organizations (p. 993), has been altered by the substitution for the second question of the question formulated by the City Council (p. 993), and the people are being advised by these organizations to sign both the petition with three questions and the Council petition having on it only one of the three. Both petitions are being circulated by the organizations, the Mayor is circulating only the Council petition, and the Council is making no effort to circulate any. Reports of the 23d were to the effect that 70,000 signatures had so far been reported. The number required is 87,000, and the time expires on the 1st.

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The three-question petition is asserted by Walter L. Fisher, traction counsel for the city, to be illegal, and there are indications that the election commissioners (Republican) will refuse to file it and issue ballots upon it. Mr. Fisher's legal point is that the public policy act provides for a separate petition upon each question of public policy, and specifies that each proposition shall be submitted in the order of "its" filing. From these requirements he argues that each petition must contain one, and only one, question. Heretofore all petitions filed under this law have contained three questions, the limit allowed by the law.

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On the 18th a meeting in opposition to the traction ordinance and in support of the three-question petition was held at Handel Hall. It was addressed by William Prentiss, D. K. Tone, Alderman Wm. E. Dever, and Margaret Haley. An opposition meeting

was held on the 22d by the Union League Club in favor of adoption of the ordinances forthwith on the ground that "it appears that public sentiment is for settlement and not a referendum." Also on the 22d John M. Harlan, attorney for traction interests, addressed a meeting in support of the ordinances. As Mr. Harlan had pledged himself when a candidate for Mayor, two years ago, to sign no settlement ordinance whatever until it had been approved by referendum, he was asked from the audience to state his objections to a referendum on these ordinances, and he replied, as reported in the Chicago Tribune:

Personally, I should like to see a referendum. The question of a referendum is one that appeals to me. You may remember that I ran for Mayor once and how I stood then. Perhaps to a greater degree than is true of any other community this traction question has enlisted our sympathy and interest. Prompt service means supper and sleep and touches the comfort and intimate life of us all. If I were thinking of my own selfish interests, looking for justification of the things I have stood for, I would want a referendum now. But the money market presents too many elements of doubt for us to delay. The financiers are willing to-day, but perhaps they will not be willing a month from now. The men behind this deal have the money now to put it through. My business friends tell me there is a possibility of money stringency. The question for you and me as citizens is whether it is wiser to hold to an abstract principle in this matter. What in the long run is better for the people? If you have the confidence in your representatives on the local transportation committee that you should have you will let the referendum go, and work for immediate settlement. These aldermen think the ordinances are the best thing for the city. They give you immediate rehabilitation, and leave the rights of the city unfettered. Therefore, I am in favor of immediate settlement and against the referendum.

The Federation of Labor has called a meeting at 134 East Van Buren street on the 25th at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of "dealing with the perilous situation which has been created by the pending street railroad franchise ordinances," which are denounced in the call for the meeting as "a gigantic swindle."

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#### Senatorial Elections.

Senatorial elections have been held since our last report (p. 994) in eleven States.

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The most important in the news sense was that of Senator Joseph W. Bailey of Texas, who was reelected on the 22d. Mr. Bailey had been endorsed for reelection at the primaries last July by a practically unanimous popular vote; but it was subsequently charged against him that he had been bribed (under cover of lawyer's fees) by the Waters-Pierce Oil Company (p. 994), a subsidiary company of the Standard Oil trust. This charge was made circumstantially, and a fierce contest resulted; but on the 22d Mr. Bailey received 108 votes in the legislature for reelection out of a possible 163. Notwithstanding his reelection, the charges against him are to be prosecuted to prevent his being seated.

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In New Jersey the Senatorial contest is over the reelection of Senator John F. Dryden, who was nominated by the Republican caucus on the 21st. But