

and recall; perfection of primary election law; stringent corrupt practices act.

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President Taft's supporters in Wisconsin are to have a conference on the 8th of June at Milwaukee for the purpose of formulating a party platform and indorsing or recommending candidates for State officers. Delegates will be selected through the committees in each county. Although the call does not so specify, the movement is strictly anti-La Follette.

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**The First American Socialist Congress.**

Although the Socialist parties have held numerous conventions, the gathering at Chicago last week (p 467) was the first advisory congress held officially by the party for the United States. An editorial review of the meeting will be found in another column under the signature of Louis Wallis, a sociologist formerly connected with the State University at Columbus, Ohio, and now at the University of Chicago, whose studies have given him distinction in the sociological field and whose editorial review for *The Public* (p. 437), of the recent missionary conference, is one of the valuable contributions to this paper. Mr. Wallis's review of the Socialist congress leaves nothing to be stated here but a bare outline of the proceedings.

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The text of the declaration on Asiatic immigration, which was adopted by 55 to 50 as a substitute for the majority and minority reports (p. 467), on motion of Mr. Hillquit, is as follows:

The Socialist party of the United States favors all legislative measures tending to prevent the immigration of strike breakers and contract laborers and the mass immigration of workers from foreign countries, caused or stimulated by the employing classes for the purpose of weakening the organization of American labor and of lowering the standard of life of the American workers. The party is opposed to the exclusion of any immigrants on account of their race or nationality, and demands that the United States be at all times maintained as a free asylum for all men and women persecuted by the governments of their countries on account of their politics, religion or race.

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On the farm-land question, the resolutions presented by A. M. Simons, as chairman of the committee which had investigated that subject, along with proposed amendments, were recommitted. Among the suggestions were the following:

The taxation of all lands to their full rental value, the income therefrom to be applied to the establishment of industrial plants for preparing agricultural products for consumption, such as packing houses, canneries and grain elevators.

Establishment of a system of public warehouses for the storage of agricultural products.

A system of State credit for making loans direct to farmers.

State and national insurance against diseases of animals or plants, insect pests and natural calamities.

Formation of co-operative societies among farmers, for co-operative creameries and cheese factories, and for the co-operative ownership of machinery.

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A question relating to the commission form of municipal government arose on the last day of the session. This form of government was approved. But over the policy Socialists should pursue where it is adopted, when they fail to nominate Socialist candidates, there was a marked division. One side stood for supporting the best candidate, at the final election, though he be not a Socialist; the other side stood for abstention from voting when Socialists are out of the running. The latter policy was adopted by 48 to 17. Resolutions were adopted against employment of United States forces to aid Mexican capitalists; for investigation of industrial training in the public schools; and for investigation of the economic causes of "white slavery."

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**Important Municipal Election in Denver.**

By more than 3,600 majority on the 17th, a referendum on a new franchise for the water company in Denver went against the company. In addition progressive amendments to the charter (under the Rush bill) were adopted, including authority to set up a municipal water plant, and also the referendum, initiative and recall. The Citizens' ticket was elected over the Democratic and the Republican machines. Judge Lindsey describes the result, in which "the public service corporations were overwhelmingly defeated," as "one of the most hopeful signs of the hour."

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**An Illinois Crisis for Organized Labor.**

In overruling a trial court decision in a labor strike case, the Appellate Court at Chicago, recently decided, 2 to 1 (the dissent being by Judge Mack), that it is unlawful for members of labor unions to co-operate in refusing to work with non-union men, and that injunctions will be granted against threatened strikes having that purpose. The case has been appealed to the Supreme Court of the State; but as this decision operates practically to suppress all effective labor organization, the Federations of Labor are making public protests. The first of a series of protesting meetings will be held at Lyric theater, Chicago, on the 29th, under the auspices of the Federation of Labor of Chicago.

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**Women's Suffrage Demonstration in New York.**

Large open air meetings were held on the 21st