

miles should be more than for 68,340,000 miles. But that's what the rate makers say.

The people of the United States would save money by taking the railroads, carrying freight and passengers free of charge, and paying the operating and maintenance expenses out of the resulting increase in land values.

W. G. EGGLESTON.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date. ⚡

Week ending Tuesday, August 10, 1909.

Cleveland Traction Referendum.

The exact vote in Cleveland on the Schmidt traction ordinance on the 3d (p. 755) was as follows:

Against the ordinance.....	34,785
For the ordinance.....	31,022
Total vote	65,807
Majority against	3,763

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At a meeting of Mayor Johnson and the Democratic members of the City Council, except Walz, on the 4th, it was decided to propose resumption of negotiations with the Cleveland Railway Company and Mayor Johnson issued the following statement:

To the Public: The majority members of the City Council, together with the Mayor and members of the administration, hereby announce that they will in any public way take up at once with the Cleveland Railway Co. negotiations looking to an immediate settlement of the street railroad question at any time, place and manner the railway company may designate.

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A special session of the City Council was held on the 5th upon a call signed by Councilman Walz (Democrat) and four Republican members. Mayor Johnson was not in attendance, but President Andrews of the traction company was. At this session Councilman Walz offered an ordinance granting a blanket franchise to the traction company, but it was laid on the table by a vote of 25 to 6, and the Council adjourned to the 23d.

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After the adjournment of the Council on the 5th, President Andrews notified Mayor Johnson

of the willingness of the company's representatives to attend any meeting to consider terms of settlement; and Mayor Johnson forthwith called a public meeting of the Council and the administrative officials, for the 6th, in committee of the whole. At this meeting it was unanimously voted to use the Baker ordinance as a basis for negotiations; a proposition to which President Andrews assented, saying he would prepare a statement of the alterations the company wanted. The meeting adjourned subject to call.

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As a result of the defeat of the Schmidt referendum, the traction company's stock rose on the 5th in Cleveland from \$70 a share to \$73 offered and \$75 asked.

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The Grand Junction Plan of City Government.

The work of the Grand Junction, Colorado, charter convention (p. 612) is finished. In several respects the charter as drafted is the most democratic municipal charter ever proposed with any possibility of adoption. The convention labored under difficulties, or an even better document might have been offered. Their time was restricted to 60 days and the Constitution prevented some fiscal reforms that would otherwise have been adopted. For the most part the charter is the work of James W. Bucklin, formerly State Senator, and author of the "Bucklin amendment" (vol. v, p. 664), who, as president of the convention and ex officio a member of all committees, devoted his entire time to the work. The referendum for adoption of this charter will take place September 14. There seems to be no substantial opposition, although the interests of public utility corporations, saloons and political machines are at stake, and representatives of these interests will defeat it if they can. The first election under the charter, if it passes, is fixed for November 2.

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This charter embodies all the efficiency and democratic features of the Des Moines plan, including the initiative, referendum and recall. Its declared intent and purpose, officially stated, is "to establish a free and independent city, and to restore to and vest in the people of the city, so far as the Constitution of the State will permit, their natural, inherent, and inalienable right of local self-government, with all its powers, duties, and responsibilities." To this end the municipal government is vested, independently of legislative interference, with all powers not denied it by the Constitution of the State. The people of the city are vested with its supreme legislative powers, with easy preliminary conditions in making and changing its charter and ordinances, and also with the absolute and exclusive power of authoriz-

ing, regulating or terminating the franchises of its public service corporations, and of recalling its elective officers. Partisan and machine politics and government are inhibited, and a municipal democracy substituted therefor. No fixed tenure of office or employment is permitted, except subject to recall of elective officers, and as authorized by a classified civil service for employes. The city wards and the saloons are abolished. Opportunities for graft and favoritism in innumerable directions are eliminated. The city is divided into five administrative departments: public affairs, finance and supplies, highways, health and civic beauty, and water and sewers. But the question of having three commissioners to administer the five departments, instead of the five provided for in the charter, is submitted as an alternative proposition to a vote of the qualified electors at the same time that they vote on the adoption of the charter. The commission form of government has been improved by electing each commissioner directly to his department and clearly defining his duties. As each commissioner is required to take the active charge and management of his department, giving his whole time to it, he is regarded as having before him the opportunity and incentive of becoming a specialist therein. Taxes on occupations, license fees for selling fruits and vegetables or any other products of the State, and poll taxes, are all abolished.

The most unique feature, however, of the Grand Junction plan is its preferential system of voting at popular elections. Instead of providing for direct primaries as in the Des Moines plan (pp. 331, 470) or for second elections as in the Berkeley plan (p. 155), the Grand Junction plan provides for a complete unification of primaries and elections at each election, and for the choice of candidates in proportion to the number of their respective supporters. As the official summary expresses it, "the preferential system of voting has been established in lieu of direct primaries or of second elections, thus securing a unique and accurate expression of the public will at the polls, with the minimum of cost and effort." This innovation is a form of proportional representation, now widely in use in Australia. It has never been adopted in the United States, except in a modified way, and only for primaries in the State of Idaho. If the people of Grand Junction adopt this charter in September, preferential voting will have its first trial in the United States at Grand Junction in November.

Issues of National Interest in Nebraska.

Judicial nullification of legislative acts promises to be a live issue in Nebraska politics this fall, although the election in November is a

bye-election, the only officers to be chosen being three judges of the Supreme Court and two regents of the State University.

Nebraska's last legislature, which was Democratic, passed laws providing for the guaranty of bank deposits and for the non-partisan election of judges of the Supreme and District courts. Both of these laws have been nullified by the courts. In the case of the bank guaranty law, final decision has not been rendered. A temporary restraining order, pending a final decision of the constitutionality of the act, has been issued by Willis Vandeventer, a Federal judge, whose residence is in Wyoming. It was issued at the instigation of about fifty bankers, who combined in a suit, and whose chief counsel is William V. Allen, formerly a Populist United States Senator for Nebraska. The non-partisan judiciary law was declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court, on what a layman would pronounce frivolous grounds. These two judicial acts have aroused considerable public indignation. The spectacle of a non-resident Federal judge coming into the State and preventing the enforcement of a law passed by a legislature chosen by the people—such law having been a campaign issue—is especially distasteful to a large number of Nebraska people.

The Democratic State convention, called solely to promulgate a platform, took cognizance of the acts of the State and Federal judiciary and, in its platform, after recounting what had occurred, inserted the following plank:

We submit that this presents an issue of great and far reaching importance. We are coming to be more and more a people governed by our courts. The courts are the bulwarks of our liberties as well as the harbor to which special privilege flees in every storm, and the instrumentalities through which it asserts, with growing arrogance, its power to defy the people's legislatures and the people's executives. There never was a time when the necessity for keeping courts invested with, or asserting extraordinary powers on a plane above suspicion or reproach, presented itself more forcefully than it does now.

Three of the judges who pronounced the judicial act unconstitutional are candidates for renomination on the Republican ticket. Should they receive the nomination at the coming primaries, a strong appeal will be made to the people to defeat them as a punishment for that decision.

Enactment of the New Tariff Law.

The tariff bill (p. 755) which has been pending in Congress since its meeting in special session on the 15th of last March (p. 271) was adopted