

In the midst of his State campaign Mayor Johnson leads a movement in Cleveland for a municipal lighting plant (pp. 283, 288), upon which a popular election is set for the 8th. The fight began in July, when Johnson caused an ordinance to be introduced in the city council providing for the sale of \$200,000 in bonds for the erection of the lighting plant. Under the State law a two-thirds vote of the council was necessary, and the ordinance was defeated. Although a full two-thirds of the membership, all Democrats, had pledged themselves, when candidates, to this kind of legislation, three voted in the negative—Stanton, Roche and Gunn. With all the Republican councilmen also opposed to the ordinance, this Democratic defection defeated it.

At the subsequent meeting of the council, August 9, a member who supported Johnson moved a suspension of the rules to adopt propositions for submitting the question, with others, to the people on the 8th of September. This motion required a three-fourths vote. But the three recalcitrant Democrats did not oppose it, although they voted against reconsidering the ordinance they had voted against the week before, and one Republican was won over. So the rules were suspended and the propositions adopted. They are six in number, as follows:

For purchasing and condemning land and improving land already acquired for boulevard purposes, \$600,000.

For completing park improvements already started, \$100,000.

For building a high level bridge to connect the East and West Sides, \$500,000.

For building a bridge across the Cuyahoga valley between Clark avenue and East Clark avenue, \$200,000.

For street openings, \$100,000.

For municipal electric plant, \$400,000.

The vote to suspend the rules was 23 Democrats and 1 Republican in the affirmative, and 8 Republicans in the negative; but the vote upon the resolution, after the rules had been suspended, was unanimous. Johnson's object in securing a suspension of the rules and passing the resolution at once, instead of allowing it to stand over for a week, was to prevent corrupt tampering with the

members by the electric lighting corporation.

Having passed the council by a two-thirds vote, the propositions recited above go to the people of Cleveland, who must support them by two-thirds of all who vote, and then they must be confirmed by two-thirds of the council before becoming a law. Whether the special election will come off on the 8th or not is now not quite certain; for news dispatches of the 1st from Columbus are to the effect that Attorney General Sheets has instituted proceedings before the Supreme Court of the State to secure an injunction. His proceedings are based upon the contention that the law under which the special election of the 8th is to be held, is unconstitutional.

Pennsylvania's political activity (p. 121) for the year has advanced a stage. The Democratic convention was held at Harrisburg on the 2d. The platform is devoted entirely to State issues, and Arthur G. De Walt was nominated for auditor general, the highest office to be voted for.

In Illinois the Republicans are experiencing a factional conflict in advance of their State convention of next year. Gov. Yates seeks renomination. He is opposed by a large part of the party, chiefly because his nomination three years ago is attributed to the dictation of Congressman Lorimer; and he is opposed by the Lorimer faction apparently because it fears the strength of the revolt. Partly in consequence of this internal disturbance, a conference of Republican delegations from three neighboring Congressional districts—the 11th, 12th and 13th—was held at Rockford on the 1st. Twelve out of the 16 counties of those districts were represented. They rejected a resolution approving of Gov. Yates. The principal business of the conference, however, was the appointment of a steering committee of five from each county of the three districts to see to it that at the State convention the votes of those districts are cast as a unit.

New York city is to elect a

mayor in the Fall to succeed Mayor Low, elected in 1901 (vol. iv, p. 487); and at a fusion conference held on the 1st the indications of Low's renomination were strong. This conference was composed of delegates from 11 distinct organizations, including the Republican committees for the four counties of Greater New York, the Greater New York Democracy, and the County Democracy. It unanimously resolved—

that the excellence of our city government, administered by officials chosen for capacity and character rather than party affiliations, has justified the non-partisan policy adopted by the parties to the fusion of 1901; therefore, we, the parties to the fusion of 1903, hereby reassert the pledges of the last municipal campaign, and declare our unalterable determination to deliver the city permanently from the scandalous misgovernment of Tammany hall.

The availability of candidates was discussed, and all the delegates except those from the two Democratic factions named above favored Low. The objectors did not say that they would oppose him if nominated, but they were of opinion that as New York is a Democratic city it would be wiser to nominate an anti-Tammany Democrat than a Republican.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the Macedonian insurrection (p. 327) and its ominous possibilities continue to engross attention. Dispatches of the 28th from Sofia told of the destruction of all the Turkish forts along the frontier between Bulgaria and the vilayet, or Turkish province, of Adrianople, and of fighting within 20 miles of the city of Adrianople. According to the same dispatches Bulgarian reinforcements had been sent to the Turkish frontier, ostensibly to prevent the crossing of Bulgarian bands over into Macedonia. A small insurrectionist victory was reported as occurring on the 25th at Neveska. But this was offset by a severe reverse at Smilovo on the 28th, after a battle in which 1,000 insurgents out of a body of 3,000 were reported killed.

Civil war in northern Macedonia was proclaimed from Sofia on the 1st, by all the members of the insurgent general staff, with Gen. Zontchieff, presi-

dent of the Macedonian committee, at the head. Northern Macedonia comprises all the territory in the valley of the Struma river extending east and west from the base of the Rhodope mountain chain to the river Vardar, and northward to the Bulgarian frontier. War between Turkey and Bulgaria is now regarded as imminent.

American feeling with reference to Turkey was greatly heated on the 27th by an official dispatch from the American minister at Constantinople. It announced the assassination of the United States vice consul at Beirut, Syria, within the Sultan's Asiatic dominions. Immediately upon receipt of the dispatch President Roosevelt ordered Rear Admiral Cotton, who was at Nice, France, to proceed with his squadron immediately to the port nearest Beirut to enforce demands for reparation. Admiral Cotton sailed at once for Turkish waters with the cruisers Brooklyn and San Francisco and the gunboat Machias. On the following day, however, it leaked out that the vice consul had not been assassinated. He had been shot at in the streets of Beirut, but had not been injured. The report of his assassination was due to a mistranslation of the cipher dispatch. At Constantinople it was officially asserted that as soon as the Turkish governor of Beirut learned of the shooting he called at the American consulate and, expressing regret, gave assurances that no effort would be spared to capture and punish the assailant. President Roosevelt decided, however, not to countermand the order to Admiral Cotton.

NEWS NOTES.

- The national letter carriers' association met at Syracuse on the 1st.
- At New York the fourth annual convention of actuaries met on the 31st.
- Six of the Danville, Ill., rioters (p. 328) were convicted on the 29th.
- On the 31st the convention of the Army of the Philippines met at St. Paul.
- The Zionist Congress closed its sessions at Basle, Switzerland, on the 28th.
- On the 28th the American Blind People's Higher Educational association closed its session at Chicago.

—Henry George's 64th birthday was celebrated by the Manhattan Single Tax club at New York on the 2d.

—The national fraternal societies congress, which has been in session at Milwaukee, adjourned on the 28th.

—King Edward VII. is visiting in Austria. An enthusiastic reception was given him at Vienna on the 31st.

—Caleb Power was convicted on the 29th at Lexington, Ky., of the murder of Gov. Goebel (p. 71) and sentenced to be hanged.

—The Venezuelan arbitration at The Hague, which was to begin on the 1st (p. 327) failed to organize. Only one arbitrator appeared.

—John S. Crosby, of New York, the single tax orator, is to address the labor unions of Philadelphia and vicinity on Labor day—September 7.

—Frederick Law Olmsted, the famous landscape architect, who designed the World's Fair grounds at Chicago, died at Waverly, Mass., on the 28th, at the age of 82.

—On the 30th the Czar promoted his Liberal minister, Sergius de Witte, to the presidency of the committee of ministers, thus displacing the more conservative Von Plehwe.

—According to official announcement in Berlin on the 28th, the little republic of Altenberg or Moresnet (p. 328) was divided between Prussia and Belgium, and not sold to Belgium as reported last week.

—John Z. White begins a series of lectures on the single tax at Handel Hall, 40 Randolph street, Chicago, Sunday, September 6, at 3:30 p. m., under the auspices of the Henry George association.

—The British-American yacht race (p. 327) is not yet finished. On the 27th the race was declared off for lack of wind; on the 1st it was declared off for too much wind; on the 1st there was no attempt to race, there being no wind, and so on the 2d.

—At a British bye-election in Argyllshire on the 28th, the first one fought on the protection question raised by Mr. Chamberlain, the Liberal candidate, who stood for free trade, defeated the Unionist candidate, who stood for protection, by 1,586 majority. At the previous election the Unionist won by 600.

PRESS OPINIONS.

OHIO POLITICS.

Buffalo Courier (Dem.), Aug. 27—If any Democrat can carry Ohio this year for governor that man is Tom L. Johnson. Genuine democrats everywhere, who hope for the triumph of the people over corporation greed and corruption, will earnestly desire his success next November.

Cleveland Recorder (dem.-Dem.), Aug. 28—The fact is the campaign which is now on in the State is different from any other which has ever been waged here. The issues are different, the manner of campaigning is different, the orators are going to

make points which will rally people along new lines.

New Haven Union (dem.-Dem.), Aug. 28—Tom Johnson seems to be very much alive, and the influence of Mr. Bryan in his own State among the Democrats appears to be about as potent as ever. Johnson had it all his own way in the Ohio convention.

Cole County (Mo.) Daily Democrat (dem.-Dem.), Aug. 27—Ohio is lost to plutocracy. Tom L. Johnson has the machinery of the State organization in his hands, and the people are at his back. With such a favorable conjuncture of affairs we can expect nothing but good from Ohio in the next Democratic national convention.

Chicago Evening Post (Rep.), Aug. 27—The radical, or Bryan, element is in the saddle in Ohio, and the cause of the Democratic reorganizers has received a severe blow. The meaning of the Columbus nominations cannot be misunderstood. Mayor Johnson is an outspoken radical. Beside him Bryan is an old-fashioned and reactionary person.

Pittsburg Post (Dem.), Sept. 1—The reorganizers in the Democratic party, hostile to Mr. Bryan and his followers, join the New York "World" in the belief that should Tom Johnson be overwhelmed at the polls in Ohio that will be an end of Bryanism. This narrows the issues of what are called Bryanism. It means something more than free coinage of silver.

Dubuque (Ia.) Telegraph-Herald (dem.-Dem.), Aug. 28—Tom Johnson's triumph over the Zimmerman forces in the Ohio State convention is encouraging. . . . He triumphed over them because he is first of all conscientious in the right, secondly because the people have faith in him, and last, because he is an abler politician than the leader of the opposing faction.

Buffalo Enquirer (ind.), Aug. 27—Johnson is the natural and logical candidate of the Ohio Democracy. His name furnishes a rallying signal; he is a man of energy and judgment and he represents the popular uprising against corrupt republican influences and corporation greed. Moreover, Mayor Johnson has to his credit brilliant political victories won for Democracy not only against heavy odds, but under conditions where to an ordinary leader, victory would have been impossible.

Chicago Inter-Ocean (Rep.), Aug. 28—It is clear that Mr. Johnson, through the employment of machine methods and by sharp practice, is in control of the organization once led by Thurman and Pendleton. It is clear also that Mr. Johnson, millionaire and socialist, free trader and Populist, Bryanite and radical, has defeated the Cleveland conservative or reorganized democrats in Ohio, and has driven them from the field of active Democratic politics. There is no question as to his triumph over the Cleveland Democrats, but what will it avail him?

Nashville Daily News (Dem.), Aug. 27—To speak of Tom Johnson, of Ohio, as a mere spectacularist and grand stand player indicates a singular lack of perception or an intention to misrepresent facts. Mr. Johnson is an original personality, with methods of his own, but in view of his past career it is impossible to doubt his convictions and sincerity of purpose. . . . Tom Johnson's victory in Ohio is a victory for the Democratic party of the United States. It clearly indicates the trend of affairs. It is a distinct resistance to the effort of the re-organizers to recapture and prostitute the Democratic party.

Chicago Chronicle (pluto-Dem.), Aug. 28—Monnett, the Johnson nominee for attorney general, was once elected to the same office by the Republicans, and while in the office made a fight against the Standard Oil monopoly, and a successful one as far as he went. He was dropped by the Republicans presumably for that reason. He then wandered off into populism, affiliated with the socialistic contingent of the Dem-