

## NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, October 1, 1912.

### The Presidential Campaign.

President Taft, who is making no further speeches in the campaign, expressed himself through an interview in the *Evening World* of New York on the 25th. His declaration on the tariff question was the familiar one that there should be only enough Protection for the manufacturer—

to pay the scale of high wages which obtains and ought to obtain in this country, and secure a reasonable profit from the business. . . . The American public may rest assured that, should the Republican party be restored to power in all legislative branches, all the schedules in the present tariff of which complaint is made will be subjected to investigation and report without delay by a competent and impartial Tariff Board, and to the reduction or change which may be necessary to square the rates with facts.

In the same interview he said of woman suffrage that it—

is an issue to be decided by the States and there can be no doubt whatever that whenever or wherever a majority of women impress on their fathers, their husbands, sons, brothers and beaux that they want to vote, they will get the right to vote. It is too noble, too serious, too sacred an issue to be used merely to get votes. I believe women to be as capable of a wise use of the ballot as men, and I can perceive wherein woman's influence extended to the political field would have a most beneficial bearing on the general welfare.



Mr. Wilson made a specific declaration in a speech at New Haven on the 25th on the Initiative, Referendum and Recall. Having argued for direct primaries and the direct election of United States Senators, he said:

Let's get another step deeper. I hope you won't any of you think that I am going too far in even mentioning in your presence those extreme doctrines of the Initiative, the Referendum, and the Recall. It is the last word that makes most men shrink. Let no man deceive himself by the fallacy that anybody proposes to substitute direct legislation by the people or a direct reference of laws voted in the legislature by the vote of the people for representative government. The Initiative is a means of recapturing the seat of legislative authority on behalf of the people themselves; the Referendum is a means of seeing to it that unrepresentative measures are not put upon the statute book, but are checked by being submitted to the vote of

the people. When you come to the Recall the principle is that if an administrative officer—for we will begin with an administrative officer—is so corrupt or so unwise as to be doing things that are likely to lead to all sorts of mischief in the future, it will be possible by a process prescribed by the law to get rid of that officer before the end of his term. I don't see how any man who is grounded in the traditions of American affairs, particularly as they derive their origin from New England, can find any valid objection to the Recall of administrative officers. It is another matter when it comes to the judiciary. I myself have never been in favor of the recall of judges—not that some judges haven't deserved to be recalled—that isn't the point. But because that is treating the symptoms instead of the disease. The disease lies deeper and sometimes it is very, very virulent and very dangerous. There have been courts in the United States that were controlled by private interests. There have been Supreme courts in our States at which men without privilege could not get justice. There have been corrupt judges. There have been controlled judges. There have been judges who acted as other men's servants and not as the servants of the public. And there can be no moral objection to removing such men from public service. You feel, as I feel, that the judiciary process is the ultimate safeguard of the things we want to hold stable in this country. But suppose that that safeguard is corrupted. . . . Would you remedy it by recalling the judges? . . . You wouldn't be cutting deep enough. Where you want to go is to the process by which judges are picked out. And when you get there you lead to the moral of this whole discussion, because the moral of it all is that the people of the United States have suspected until their suspicions have been justified by all sorts of substantial and unanswerable evidence, that, in place after place, at turning point after turning point, in the history of this country, we have been controlled by private understandings and not by the public interest, and that influences which were improper, if not corrupt, have determined everything from the making of laws to the administration of justice. . . . This thing that grows like a canker in our vitals must be cut out; though I grant you it must be cut out with the skill, and the knowledge, and the tenderness of the surgeon who will not disturb the vital tissues to which this ugly thing is attached.

[See current volume, page 918.]



Mr. Roosevelt campaigned through the South last week, closing at Raleigh, N. C., on the 1st, after which he left for New York. At Atlanta on the 28th he charged Woodrow Wilson, as reported by the Associated Press—

with making statements in regard to his position which were "not merely an untruth, but the direct reverse of the truth." The ex-President flatly denied recent statements of the Democratic candidate and said Governor Wilson did not believe some of these things and knew the Colonel had never said them.

[See current volume, pages 917, 918.]

What is reported as the largest Socialist demonstration in the United States came off at Madison Square Garden, New York City, on the 29th. It was on the occasion of the official notification to Debs and Seidel as Socialist party candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States. An admission ranging from 15 cents to \$1 was charged. The great hall was crowded and an overflow meeting was held. The principal speakers were Eugene V. Debs, candidate for President; ex-Mayor Seidel of Milwaukee, candidate for Vice-President, and Charles Edward Russell, candidate for Governor of New York.



A straw vote taken by the New York Herald in conjunction with the Chicago Record-Herald, and completed on the 28th, was reported by the Record-Herald on the 29th as showing the following result, with 8,119 voters heard from:

	Taft.	Bryan.	Debs.	Wilson.	Roosevelt.
Voters who in 1908 voted for .....	3,872	2,117	226	.....	.....
Voters who in 1912 will vote for .....	1,770	.....	424	3,407	2,518
Net Republican loss .....					2,102
Net Democratic gain .....					1,310
Net Socialist gain .....					193
Taft to Roosevelt .....					1,629
Taft to Wilson .....					691
Taft to Debs .....					71
Bryan to Roosevelt .....					248
Bryan to Taft .....					67
Bryan to Debs .....					49
Debs to Roosevelt .....					13
Debs to Wilson .....					22
Debs to Taft .....					4



#### Wilson's Democratic Victory in New Jersey.

Ex-Senator James Smith, the Democratic politician and leader of corporation interests in New Jersey, whom Governor Wilson successfully opposed for re-election to the United States Senate two years ago, securing the election in his stead of Senator Martine, made a campaign for Senator before the Democratic primaries of the 24th. Governor Wilson, though in the midst of his campaign for the Presidency, openly opposed Mr. Smith's nomination in public speeches over the State. The result of the primaries was an overwhelming defeat for ex-Senator Smith. Congressman William Hughes, a democratic Democrat and the candidate whom Governor Wilson supported, was nominated by 20,000 majority or more in a total vote of 70,000. [See current volume, page 919.]



#### The Labor War.

A "general strike" at Lawrence, Massachusetts, was undertaken on the 26th as a protest against the trial of Ettor and Giovannitti. It began in full force on the 30th, when 12,000 out of 30,000

textile operatives had quit work in Lawrence. The strike had been taken up, also, by operatives at Lynn, Quincy and Haverhill (Mass.), at Clarksville (Ohio) and at Belle Vernon (Pa.). It was managed by the Industrial Workers of the World. Having been called as a twenty-four hour strike, it was called off with the close of the 30th, but with an announcement that if Ettor and Giovannitti are unfairly tried, another demonstration will be made. The strike coincided with the beginning of the Ettor and Giovannitti trial, which opened at Salem on the morning of the 30th. In impaneling a jury, the presiding judge overruled challenges by the defense, of jurors on the ground of their owning stock in the Lawrence mills. Several conflicts between the police and strikers occurred in the course of this "direct action" demonstration. It is the first strike of its kind in the United States. [See current volume, pp. 877, 920.]



#### The Rubber Outrages in South America.

The Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Colombia have announced that the governments of Great Britain and the United States have been in error in calling upon Peru to put an end to the atrocities committed by Peruvian citizens against the Indians of the Putumayo district in connection with the collection of rubber, since Colombia and not Peru holds sovereignty over this district. They declare that if, since the year 1901, Peruvian rubber hunters at first, and later the authorities of that country—by overcoming and despoiling the Colombian settlers of the Putumayo—have established themselves in that region, it has been in violation of the sovereignty of Colombia, and without the latter having ever renounced the right to reassert her sovereignty over these territories. They protest against the usurpation which deprives Colombia of the possession of these regions, and desire to make it known that if in their defense or re-occupation, conflicts occur with the Peruvian invaders, the fault will not lie with the nation on whose side is justice, but with the one which seeks to despoil her. [See current volume, page 705.]



#### The "Balkan Crisis."

The unrest in the Balkan peninsula (which derives its name from the Balkan mountain ranges which criss-cross over its territory, and includes Greece, European Turkey, and the states lying between the latter and Austria-Hungary—namely, Bosnia, Montenegro, Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia), noted in August, has reached the point of the mobilization of troops, and immediate war impends. [See current volume, page 830.]