

exist in Russian Poland and the Caucasus. Reports of strikes in the towns and outbreaks against landlordism in the country pour in from many regions of Russia proper, and a general mutiny in the Black Sea fleet is feared.

The first alarming report came from Lodz, a large manufacturing city of Russian Poland, where many persons were killed and many more were wounded on the 23d during a day of street fighting between the Cossack soldiery and striking workmen. The workmen marched under red flags and barricaded the streets, and the soldiery assaulted them with volleys. From an economic contest the strike, in which 60,000 workmen had been engaged for three days, developed into a vast political outbreak. Fighting was renewed on the 24th. The barricades had been strengthened and cries of "Long live the revolution" were incessant. From the windows and roofs of hundreds of houses, as well as from the barricades, the soldiers were fired upon by revolutionists. Bombs were burst among the soldiers with frightful effect, and vitriol was thrown upon them and their horses. There were 10 regiments of Cossacks against thousands of poorly armed and unorganized people, and the casualties were large on both sides. It is admitted by the authorities that 500 were killed and 1,000 wounded. The soldiers fired indiscriminately into street gatherings, and scores of victims were women and children. At night the city, its streets filled with debris and lined with the blackened ruins of burned stores, was described as resembling Paris in the worst days of the French revolution. On the 25th it had been transformed into an armed camp, but there were only isolated clashes between the troops and the people. Disaffection among the troops was reported on the 26th, the officers of one regiment, the Murom dragoons, having informed their commander that the regiment would refuse to fire on defenseless people. This regiment was at once transferred to Wloclawek and an inquiry ordered. On the 27th a complete embargo had been placed upon news from Lodz, and while subsequent reports are to

the effect that the populace have been put down, the trustworthiness of these reports is doubted.

The conflict in Warsaw (pp. 72, 104) was revived by the disturbance at Lodz, a proclamation having been issued there on the 24th by the Social Democratic party of Poland and Lithuania, calling out workmen as a protest against the brutality of the troops at Lodz. Crowds thronged the streets of Warsaw on the 26th, erecting barricades on which they placed red flags, and many arrests were made by the troops. Military law was proclaimed, business was at a deadlock, and at night the camp fires of the 34 battalions of troops blazed in every square. From this quarter, too, the later reports bear evidence of censorship.

Among the other places where popular uprisings are reported to have been precipitated by the outbreak at Lodz are Baluty, Czentschau, Pabjanice, Kovno, Saratoff, Karkoff, Minsh and Odessa. At the latter, armed workmen, participants in the general strike, barricaded a suburb and repulsed a company of Cossacks. There had been numerous encounters with the troops two days earlier. Near Karkoff the peasants were sacking estates and burning buildings, and in the region of Elizabetgrad on the 27th landlords were fleeing from their estates. Revolutionary proclamations urging the peasantry to rise are being distributed broadcast in country places and in the cities the popular demonstrations are made under the red flag.

What appears to be evidence of an extension of the Russian revolutionary movement to the Black Sea fleet was reported from Odessa by the American consul on the 28th. In his dispatch the consul said:

Russian battleship Kniaz Potemkin and one torpedo boat arrived here yesterday evening. All their officers had been murdered at sea and their bodies thrown overboard. The men threatened to bombard the town. Situation is serious. Black Sea fleet is expected at Odessa to-day.

It has since been learned that the commander of the Potemkin had wantonly murdered a sailor for complaining of the food supplied,

and that the crew had therefore mutinied and killed all the officers who refused to join them in taking command of the Potemkin. They then brought the body of the murdered sailor, Omiltchuk, to the wharf at Odessa, where they landed it under cover of their guns and a threat to bombard the city if disturbed by the authorities. The striking workmen passed by thousands in procession before the body of Omiltchuk, and during the day the red flag was raised over the battleship and her attendant torpedo boat. Meanwhile the strike had become more general and the uprising more overwhelming in Odessa, and in official circles at St. Petersburg fears of a general revolution are no longer disguised.

#### The Russian-Japanese War.

Reports from the seat of the war (p. 183) which has not only been disastrous to Russia in the field but appears to have lighted the fires of revolution at home, indicate a steady advance of the Japanese; but there are no reliable reports of any important event.

Hopes of an armistice pending the meeting of peace plenipotentiaries (p. 167) have been dissipated by the refusal of Japan to trust to Russia's good faith in acquiescing in President Roosevelt's suggestions. This refusal was communicated by Japan to the United States on the 22d in a diplomatic notification that she will not agree to an armistice with Russia until peace plenipotentiaries have met and found each other's credentials entirely satisfactory. Her willingness to do so, however, is intimated provided a guarantee of some kind can be given her that Russia will negotiate for peace in good faith. Preliminaries for the peace negotiations have been so far completed as to admit of the announcement of the Russian ambassador to Paris, Mr. Nelidof, as peace plenipotentiary for Russia, and, in case of two being required, of the newly appointed Russian ambassador to the United States, Baron Rosen; also of Baron Komura, the Japanese minister of foreign affairs, for Japan, and, if two are required, of the Japanese ambassador to the United States, Kogoro Takahira. The meeting

will take place at Washington during the first ten days in August.

#### American Politics.

Preparatory to the gubernatorial campaign in Ohio (p. 137), the Democratic convention of that State met at Columbus on the 28th. The principal figure at the convention was Mayor Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland. He was neither a candidate nor especially the supporter of any particular candidate, although he seconded the nomination of Brand Whitlock, of Toledo. He devoted his efforts exclusively to securing the insertion of home rule planks in the platform, and in this he was completely successful, notwithstanding the opposition of traction and other public utility interests. The platform as adopted—

praises the purchase of Panama Canal supplies in the open markets of the world; demands the enactment of laws by Congress to prevent rebates, giving power to fix rates to the Inter-State Commerce Commission; pledges the party to work for the elimination of graft and political corruption; demands county home rule in taxation; demands the taxing of local franchise privileges; says the party believes in free and unqualified home rule; favors the rigid supervision of State and private banks; favors the election of United States Senators by direct vote; favors the initiative and referendum; favors the repeal of all limitations as to time within which prosecutions may be begun for election bribery.

#### The home rule plank reads:

We believe in free and unqualified home rule. Free from State interference, each city, town and village should be allowed to decide for itself all matters of local policy, especially as between public or private ownership of all public utilities, including street railways as well as water works and lighting systems, and that provision should be made for submitting such questions to the people on request from a reasonable number of voters.

John M. Pattison was on the second ballot nominated for governor.

Political conventions in Chicago are of general interest because of their possible influence upon the administration of Mayor Dunne. They relate, however, only to judicial and sanitary nominations, to be voted on in November, and are held at this early day to avoid complications with refer-

ence to the new primary law, which by its terms goes into effect on the 1st of July. The Republicans nominated on the 24th and the Democrats on the 28th. R. R. McCormick is the Republican and Frank Wenter the Democratic candidate for president of the sanitary board. Judge Gary, of anarchists' trial fame, is prominent among the Republican judicial nominations, and Edgar B. Tollman and William A. Doyle among the Democratic. A peculiar fact was the marked refusal of the Democratic managers to permit the nomination of L. E. Cooley for the sanitary board, which controls the drainage canal. As Mr. Cooley is one of the most distinguished engineers of the country and has heretofore served on this board with especial credit for technical ability and personal integrity, and is besides a pronounced advocate of municipal ownership, his nomination would have brought to the whole ticket a degree of strength the ignoring of which is not generally understood.

#### The Chicago Traction Question.

Collaterally the election of sanitary trustees bears upon the traction question (p. 185), for it is Mayor Dunne's policy to utilize the water power of the drainage canal for the operation of the municipal traction system which his administration is pledged to the people of Chicago to establish. His progress toward the redemption of this pledge has been marked during the current week. The most important step, probably, has been the approval by the local transportation committee of the City Council, and the adoption by the Council on the 26th, of Mayor Dunne's recommendation that Mayor Harrison's project (p. 186) for inviting bids for the construction and equipment of a ten mile municipal traction system on Adams street be annulled. All bids were ordered returned and the acceptance of further bids under that project forbidden. This step is preliminary to Mayor Dunne's plan of inviting bids for the construction of municipal lines upon all streets not affected by the 99-year claim and upon which franchise rights expire this year or next. Mayor Dunne estimates that these streets offer opportunity for 150 miles of municipi-

pal trackage. It is with reference to this project that Mayor Dunne has been in conference with Mayor Johnson of Cleveland and A. B. Dupont of Detroit (p. 186), both of whom are expert traction managers of long experience.

What was reported at the time as a final cessation of negotiations between the Chicago authorities and the traction companies for the purchase of the whole traction system, occurred on the 22d, before the local transportation committee, the disagreement being on the price. One of the traction attorneys read a statement in which it was set forth that the companies had been invited to make a proposition for the sale of their properties; that the city had no money to pay for such properties; that the rights of the companies in the streets had been disputed by the city, and that therefore the companies did not think any progress would be made by their naming a price at which they would be willing to sell; but that the companies were willing to rehabilitate their lines, the city to pay the cost of this when the property was purchased, as well as the franchise rights. The outlines of the settlement to be as follows:

1. That steps be taken in the immediate future for a thorough rehabilitation of the properties, so that the service shall be of the best, all at the expense of the owners.
2. That such work be done upon plans to be agreed upon with the city and subject to the approval of the city's experts.
3. That the city shall have immediate representation upon the board of directors or otherwise provide for co-operation between the city and the companies to the common end.
4. That an ordinance be passed and accepted and submitted to popular vote providing that at the end of the period required for rehabilitation the city shall have the right to acquire the properties so rehabilitated, upon the following terms:

- (a) The amount hereafter expended upon the properties under the city's supervision.
- (b) The value of the present tangible properties to be determined by arbitration either now or later.
- (c) The arbitrated value of such franchise rights as the courts of last resort may determine the owners are entitled to. Upon the legal questions being finally determined the arbitrators to decide the values, based upon such decision. If desired, a number of names of men of high standing, well-known integrity and of experience, from whom such arbitrators shall be selected, to be agreed upon in advance.
5. Payment for the properties to be made in Mueller certificates, their val-