

meanwhile, the amount of Mueller certificates requisite would be diminished in proportion to the delay. In addition to it all, as the people would in the interval have had ample opportunity to vote, with the requisite majority, for municipal operation, the completion of the process of securing ownership by the city would be supplemented by the establishment of operation also by the city.

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Political Events.

The Chicago Protective Alliance (p. 32) held its first nominating convention on the 29th, the nominations being for candidates at the Democratic primaries. Each candidate is required to sign a pledge that he will make the contest in good faith and keep himself free from entangling alliances with any of the old party leaders. He is also pledged to resign if a majority of his constituents demand it. The speakers in the convention were emphatic in their declarations that the movement is not an independent one. The intention is to turn out the labor vote in such numbers at the Democratic primaries as to capture the party machinery and let the labor candidates stand as the nominees of the Democratic party.

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The Kansas convention of the Democratic party at Topeka on the 25th nominated ex-Senator William A. Harris for Governor, and David Overmeyer for Attorney General. The platform declares against railroad passes, and for a 2-cent per mile passenger fare. A sensational feature of the convention, as reported, was the speech of the State chairman, Mr. Sapp, who scored Governor Hoch for enforcing the prohibition law in Kansas City, Kan., where there is a Democratic mayor, Mr. Rose, and ignoring violations in cities with Republican mayors.

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The Republicans of Kansas on the 2nd nominated Gov. Hoch for re-election.

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In Indiana Democrats who oppose Thomas Taggart's management of the party met at Indianapolis on the 30th and organized a wing of the party by the name of the "Democratic League for the Recovery of Majority Rule." The leader in the movement is John W. Holtzman, formerly mayor of Indianapolis. The resolutions demanded the reorganization of the State committee and a revision of the party rules, and provided for issuing a manifesto based upon the broad principles of Jeffersonian democracy.

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An Important Church Controversy.

At Batavia on the 28th, the heresy trial of the Rev. Dr. Algernon S. Crapsey (p. 61), rector of St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church at Rochester, came to an end. Dr. Crapsey's legal counsel was Edward M. Shepard, of New York. The accusations were based upon Dr. Crapsey's famous book, "Religion and Politics," and sermons he had preached, the alleged heresy consisting principally in denials of the miraculous birth of the Founder of Christianity,

contrary to the creed of the church. In his defense it was contended that belief in the creed does not foreclose individual interpretations of it. No decision has yet been reported from the ecclesiastical court before which Dr. Crapsey was tried.

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A Marvelous Invention.

The press dispatches of the 28th told of a marvelous invention by Tom L. Johnson, the mayor of Cleveland—an invention so marvelous that its probability was evidently not credited by the newspapers that published the report, and only a little space was given to what would fill pages if the report were taken seriously. Yet the report itself shows that in all reasonable probability the invention as described has been really made and that its marvelous possibilities may soon be realized. It consists of a car running on an overhead track with sliding shoes instead of wheels, and capable of a speed that would carry passengers from New York to Chicago in less than three hours. Friction is minimized and speed obtained by means of electrical contrivances. In recent actual tests, as reported, a theoretical speed of 400 miles an hour was demonstrated. It is not improbable that a higher rate of speed will in fact be developed.

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The San Francisco Disaster.

As communication with San Francisco becomes more regular, reports indicate that most of the damage was done by the fires and not by the earthquake. The earthquake did great damage to poorly constructed buildings, and to all buildings on "made" or filled-in ground. In the region of the filled-in Mission Creek, the ground settled some 12 feet, zig-zagging along the old line of the creek, and toppling buildings over on every side. But on the solid ground, on the hills and in the business district, where good foundations had been laid, but little damage was done until the fire came. The fire-proof steel structures in the business district were unharmed by the shock; and even buildings 50 years old, if well constructed, are reported to have been without a crack—not so much as flower pots on window sills being disturbed. The great damage is traceable to the economies of the private water company. Its inferior cast iron pipes were broken by the earthquake and when the fires broke out there was no water to stop their spread. Dynamite was used without avail; the debris of the dynamited buildings making better fuel than the buildings intact. Over 200,000 people are believed to be homeless. No credit can be had; transactions are in cash. Among the businesses destroyed was that of the San Francisco Star, of which James H. Barry was owner and editor. His entire property was swept away. The new postoffice building stands almost unharmed, notwithstanding the earthquake and the fire that surrounded it. Its machinery has remained in operation (the only instance), since the morning of the catastrophe. Proposals to ask the Federal government to endorse mortgage bonds for rebuilding in order to borrow at low interest, are being agitated; and Congress is considering the suspension of the tariff on steel for reconstruction purposes.