

lican candidate for Governor of Illinois, returned to Chicago on the 23d from a six weeks' campaign through the State, in the course of which he made 180 speeches and enrolled 20,000 Republican supporters. A "welcome-home" luncheon was given him at the Grand Pacific Hotel on the 26th.

+ +

Initiative and Referendum in Illinois.

A State meeting of the Initiative and Referendum League of Illinois is announced for October 3 at the I. O. O. F. Building, Springfield, to which the public are invited, and at which there will be the following program:

2:30 P. M. Address by the Chairman. Report of Committee on Amendment, by Harold L. Ickes, Chicago. Discussion.

8 P. M. Address of Welcome, Mayor John S. Schnepf, Springfield. Addresses by Judge Edward F. Dunne, Chicago, on "The League's Position on the Amendment"; Edwin R. Wright, President Illinois Federation of Labor, Austin, on "Organized Labor and the I. & R."; Senator Frank W. Burton, Carlinville, on "The I. & R. in the Last General Assembly," and Senator Walter Clyde Jones, Chicago, on "The I. & R. the Issue in the Next Campaign."

+ +

Attacking Direct Legislation in Oregon.

Enemies of Direct Legislation in Oregon have begun legal proceedings to secure such an interpretation of the Direct Legislation laws of that State as would make them practically ineffective. The point has to do with two petitions for a vote against certain University appropriations. Fraud and forgery in obtaining signatures to the petitions is charged. This would be unimportant in itself, since it would raise only a question of fact in a particular instance; but the cases are so brought as to call for a construction that would require the Secretary of State to verify the authenticity of every signature to an Initiative or Referendum petition, and thereby practically to nullify the whole system.

+

W. S. U'Ren was appointed by the Secretary of State to assist the Attorney General in defending the suits mentioned above. The propriety of this appointment was bitterly questioned by the lawyers who brought the suits and who are locally believed to have another and further purpose than the throwing out of the particular petitions involved. On that score the Secretary of State is reported as saying:

I have enlisted the support of Mr. U'Ren in the legal struggle because I consider the very existence of the Initiative and Referendum to be at stake, and have selected him as the one man in Oregon most worthy of the defense of these laws. If the courts should uphold the case of the University through the allegations specifically directed at the Secretary

of State's office it would practically put the Oregon system out of business for once and all. The complaint alleges that this office should pass upon the legality and the validity of all the signatures attached to Initiative and Referendum petitions. The absurdity of this plea will be appreciated when it is remembered that for three months or more the University people have had lawyers, detectives, photographers and experts at work, trying to pick out the alleged forged signatures on the University petitions. If the court should hold that the Secretary of State must determine the validity of signatures, it will mean that the office would have to be closed and the entire force sent out on gumshoe expeditions to pick the bad names from the good on all petitions filed hereafter. In my opinion, the death knell of these measures would be sounded should the courts rule the appropriation petitions off the ballot on the technical grounds set forth by Judge Slater. If there has been fraud perpetrated in obtaining these signatures sufficiently to disqualify them, they certainly should not be allowed to go on the ballot. With this alleged fraud I have absolutely nothing to do, nor will Mr. U'Ren. I am not asking the assistance of these men because I am opposed to the University appropriations. In fact, I am highly in favor of them. But there have been numerous minor and petty allegations made in the complaints directed at the office of the Secretary and at the mode of procedure in filing referendum petitions.

+

The first contest in court was over a motion by Mr. U'Ren to compel the plaintiffs to make their complaint more definite by specifying the signatures alleged to be forged, fictitious and fraudulent. The lower court judge denied this motion on the 16th, and his decision will be reviewed in due course by the Supreme Court of the State. The trial on the main questions will probably begin this week or next.

+ +

The Singletax Fight in Oregon.

Upon the application of the Clackamas County Initiative petitioners to the Secretary of State of Oregon to put the Singletax question upon the ballot in that county for referendum-voting at the Fall election of 1912, the question went to the Attorney General for an opinion, and he has ruled against them. [See current volume, pages 824, 844.]

+

This ruling enables the Initiative petitioners to go into the courts themselves and at once, and thereby to secure through mandamus a decision on the question at issue in time to avoid any judicial obstruction to their policy that might have been pursued by the opposition had the Attorney General's decision been favorable to the petitioners. In the latter case the adversaries of the petition could have decided whether and when to resort to the courts. They might have waited until the eve of

the campaign and applied for an injunction forbidding the vote in every county, or until the adoption of the measure by several counties and then attacked its validity. Meanwhile, the friends of the measure would have been in the dark as to the precise view the highest court might take, and thus lose the opportunity, now secure, of correcting any detail the Court might find legally objectionable. Should the Supreme Court now sustain the Attorney General's ruling, there will be time to vary the present policy in behalf of submitting the Singletax to popular vote in Oregon at the election of 1912, in such manner as to conform to the Court's decision.

✦

The Attorney General rules that the Clackamas County petition for submission of a Singletax bill—the only county petition yet presented—be filed in the Secretary of State's office the same as any general Initiative measure, "and be placed upon the ballot at the next regular biennial election to be voted upon by the voters of Clackamas County only," is "not in compliance with the Initiative laws and is not entitled to be filed." The Attorney General's argument is that the county option taxation amendment, "while it purports to confer power upon each county to determine upon what particular species of property taxes shall be levied and collected," prescribes no mode of procedure "directing the manner in which the power shall be exercised," and that "no rules or means for its exercise are provided in the Constitution or by statute." On this point the opinions of several leading lawyers of Oregon were obtained before the county option amendment was submitted. All were to the effect that existing statutes do provide a mode of procedure, and that the Supreme Court of the State has already held that this statute would be effective in such a case as that of Clackamas county; but the Attorney General rules that these statutes do not affect counties. That is the question, therefore, which can now, in consequence of the Attorney General's ruling, be carried immediately through the courts and—no matter which way the decision runs—in time to prevent a miscarriage of Singletax plans in Oregon.

✦ ✦

Grand Junction Plan in Pueblo.

Another city to adopt the most advanced form of commission government is Pueblo, Colorado, where the Grand Junction plan was carried on the 19th by 5,286 to 1,326. One of the leaders for this form of charter was the editor of the Pueblo Leader, Roy E. McClintock, formerly of Grand Junction. The Pueblo charter provides for the Recall, for five commissioners, for the Initiative and Referendum, and for the preferential system of voting. [See current volume, page 854.]

A Business Movement in Religion.

A men's forward movement for religion, having the financial support of J. Pierpont Morgan and other wealthy religionists, has begun a nation-wide campaign "to bring the Christian life to men and boys." One of the spokesmen for this movement made the following explanation of it to the press at New York on the 17th:

For more than a year preparations have been made under the general direction of the committee of 97, representing foremost financiers, merchants, manufacturers, and men of affairs in the United States. They are going to put through this religious campaign with the same energy and thoroughness with which they have put through great undertakings in the business world. The movement is thoroughly undenominational.

Trained workers are to divide into groups for the smaller cities and unite for the larger ones. It is designed that they work in unison to show men that the principles of Christianity are applicable to every day life and modern business affairs. One of the group leaders engaged for eight months by the general committee is Raymond Robins.

✦ ✦

A Socialist Equal Suffrage Amendment.

A petition for equal suffrage regardless of sex is in circulation under the direction of the Socialist Party of the United States. It is in this form:

We, the undersigned citizens of the United States, over 21 years of age, hereby request you to submit to the legislatures of the several States for ratification, an Amendment to the national Constitution which shall enable women to vote in all elections upon the same terms as men.

This petition is circulating in factories, stores, offices, schools, churches and homes throughout the United States; and labor unions, women's clubs and other progressive organizations are working for it. The Socialist Congressman, Victor L. Berger, is expected to present the petition to Congress and in response to its demand to introduce the necessary Constitutional Amendment.

✦ ✦

Discussing Woman Suffrage in Persia.

An impassioned plea for votes for women was made to the horror-stricken National Council, or parliament, of Persia last month by Hadji Vakil el Rooy, deputy for Hamadan. The Springfield Republican quotes the following from a dispatch describing the exciting episode:

Now Vakil el Rooy has hitherto been a serious politician, and the House listened to his harangue in dead silence, unable to decide whether it was an ill-timed joke or a serious statement. The orator called upon the Ulema [the priesthood] to support him, but support failed him. The Mujtehid [chief priest of the Shiah sect of the Mahometans], whom he invoked by name, rose in his place, and solemnly declared that he had never in a life of misfortune