

an elective convention of the city for the formulation of a charter, but the bill for that purpose was pigeon-holed. Thereafter the City Council of Chicago provided for a convention of 74 members to be selected as follows: By the Mayor of Chicago, 15 members; by the City Council of Chicago, 15; by the Governor of the State, 15; by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, 15; by the Cook county commissioners, 2; by the various park boards, 6; by the Board of Education, 2; by the sanitary trustees, 2; and by the library board, 2. Pursuant to this arrangement Governor Deneen (Republican) appointed 12 Republicans, 1 labor unionist, and 2 Democrats; the Speaker and the President of the Senate (Republican) appointed 14 Republicans and 1 Democrat; the City Council appointed 10 Republicans and 5 Democrats; Mayor Dunne appointed 9 Democrats of various types, 3 labor unionists, 1 independent, 1 Socialist and 1 Republican (a Negro); and the several administrative boards appointed 4 Democrats and 10 Republicans. Consequently the convention is not representative and is overwhelmingly Republican. Even the Democratic members are for the most part by no means men of radical democratic tendencies or affiliations. They are what is known in Chicago as Union League Club Democrats. The convention met in December, 1905, but held only a few formal meetings. Slow progress was made either in the convention or in the committees until December, 1906; but after December 3, 1906, the convention was kept in almost continuous session until December 28, the object being to complete the charter in time to present it to the legislature early in the session.

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Several important conclusions were arrived at in the sessions of the convention. Among them may be enumerated the following:

1. The management of the parks is made a city function. (Proceedings, pages 58, 59.)
2. Public schools and libraries are made city functions. (Pro., p. 59.)
3. The Mayor is to hold office for four years, and shall no longer preside at Council meetings, but shall retain the veto power. (Pro., pp. 51 to 94, and 243.)
4. Aldermanic districts to be 70, redistricted every ten years, and one alderman to be elected for four years from each. (Pro. pp. 221, and 243 to 264.)
5. No initiative or referendum, except that on public utility franchises a petition of 20 per cent. of the voters shall necessitate a referendum. (Pro., pp. 57 and 376 to 425.)
6. No home rule in matters of local taxation. (Pro., pp. 54, 454 to 470, and 526 to 561.)
7. Modification of special assessments for street improvement. (Pro., pp. 471 to 515.)
8. Providing for compensation for private use of space above and below street level. (Pro., pp. 515 to 526.)
9. Educational department put in charge of 15 trustees, who have power by majority vote to name a superintendent and a business manager, but no power to remove them or reduce their salaries without a two-thirds vote, and who can act administratively only upon their initiative, unless with a two-thirds vote (Pro., pp. 561 to 742).
10. No municipal suffrage for women (Pro., pp. 766 to 785).
11. Local option regarding sale of liquor on Sundays (Pro., pp. 785 to 795).
12. Jurisdiction of the State over the submerged water

front of Chicago to be ceded to the city. (Pro., pp. 818 to 825.)

13. Requiring confirmation by City Council of action by school trustees regarding the leasing of the school lands. (Pro., pp. 825 to 834.)

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The convention adjourned on the 27th, to be reconvened by the chairman when the charter shall have been drafted by the rules committee in form for presentation to the legislature.

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#### The Traction Fight in Cleveland.

The restraining order issued by Judge Phillips against the "Threefer" in Cleveland (p. 923), prohibiting this company from using the tracks of the "Concon" from the viaduct to the Public Square upon compensation fixed by the City Council, a right the Council may give to any company and did give to this one, has been sustained by Judge Phillips on the ground that the guarantee by Mayor Johnson and Mr. Scripps against loss gives Mr. Johnson a financial interest which invalidates the "Threefer" ordinance he signed as Mayor. To obviate this point in the future, Mayor Johnson has been released by Mr. Scripps from his guarantee, new guarantors having taken his place.

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After Judge Phillips' decision Mayor Johnson said in a newspaper interview:

Whenever a judge is found who sees the private interest, no matter how small, and who fails to see the public interest, no matter how large, who resolves all doubts against the public interest and in favor of the private interest, that is the kind of a judge whom the corporations get behind to place on the bench. And, without disrespect to Judge Phillips or his decision, which I do not call in question, I venture the prophecy that Judge Sanders [the "Concon's" lawyer and a leading Republican politician] and every corporation lawyer in the State, Democratic or Republican, will be at the next Republican State convention working hard for the nomination of Judge Phillips to the Supreme Court bench of the State.

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Meanwhile the "Threefer" had begun laying tracks of its own in Superior Avenue from the viaduct to the Public Square. But this work was stopped at 3 o'clock in the morning by another restraining order. The "Threefer" situation at present is this: One three-cent line seven miles long is in operation from the southern city limits west of the Cuyahoga river to Detroit street. It can go no farther toward the center of the city because an injunction covers 600 feet on Detroit street. But the "Threefer" runs busses over this break to the viaduct across the Cuyahoga, where passengers are transferred to the "Threefer" cars that cross the viaduct.

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Another step in the low fare movement was taken in the Council on the 31st. By unanimous vote a franchise was granted "The Low Fare Company," a sister company to the "Threefer," but unguaranteed by Mayor Johnson, for 3-cent fare lines to the Public Square. Following the passage of this grant Mayor Johnson in a speech to the Council predicted

an early settlement of the whole question and advised fair treatment of the "Concon" interests.

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#### The Late Session of the British Parliament.

"It is without precedent," says the London Tribune, "that any Parliament which opened with so large a program of work should have come so near accomplishing it in its entirety. The great democratic impulse which filled the House of Commons with a party inspired by the real ardor of reform and the real impulse of progress has shown itself capable not merely of enthusiasm, but of disciplined and careful work." The Tribune believes also that "the best augury for the future of Liberalism is to be found in the spirit in which the whole progressive party faced the momentary defeat which it has suffered at the hands of the Lords." The work accomplished by this session is thus summed up:

A real beginning has been made in the reduction of armaments, and, above all, an offer has been made which may enable the next Hague Conference to meet with a practicable program before it. If one of the two main measures designed to undo the graver consequences of the Tory reaction has failed by the action of the Lords, the trade disputes bill has passed into law, and passed in a form which makes the right of combination a reality and safeguards it from the risk of vexatious litigation. The immense question of the land—the problem of colonizing rural England afresh—remains for another session, yet the agricultural holdings act has made a substantial advance in securing that fixity of tenure and freedom from capricious eviction which can alone assure the independence of the farmer. The two Irish Acts for the benefit of the laborer and the town tenant have filled the more obvious gaps in Mr. Wyndham's reform, while administrative changes have restored to it something of its original vigor. The workmen's compensation act has at last brought us within sight of the ideal with which legislation on these lines started, of insurance to all workers against all accidents. The magistrates' bench has been opened to all classes of the community, and sailors have reason to thank Mr. Lloyd George for his first essay in legislation. If the plural voting bill and the education bill have been destroyed by the Lords, the Commons may at least console themselves with the reflection that only two bills of any importance—the Scottish small holdings bill and the criminal appeal bill—have been abandoned for lack of time.

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Mr. Keir Hardie, speaking at Gateshead on the 16th, declared that the Labor party had decided to give the enfranchisement of women a foremost place in its program for the next session of parliament (p. 921). The party would also make strenuous efforts to obtain the enactment of an old-age pensions measure.

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#### Home Rule Demanded for India.

At the Indian National Congress in Calcutta on the 26th, 10,000 delegates, representative of nearly every section, cheered the proposal to insist upon self-government for India. Dadabhi Naoroji, formerly a member of the British Parliament, was the man who put the home rule demand before the congress. In his address he pointed out that the Boers, whom Indian soldiers helped to subjugate, had been granted self-government while India still was without it. The speaker declared that as British sub-

jects the residents of India should be granted as full liberty as any other peoples of the empire. They had fought the wars of Great Britain in distant lands and had won the right to recognition. The education of the people of India as to their rights was the first step needed, and the speaker urged the raising of a large patriotic fund to carry on that work. The tumult of applause with which Mr. Naoroji's speech was received is believed to indicate that results are to be looked for.

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#### Persia's New Constitution Signed.

On the 30th the failing Shah (p. 922) and his son and heir signed the new constitution of Persia. This action is the culmination of the movement toward constitutional government inaugurated in January of last year when the Shah promised the people of Persia a representative assembly. This assembly came together for the first time September 9 (p. 731). The new constitution is a result of its labors. According to the dispatches the parliament will meet annually hereafter for the purpose of revising old laws and edicts and enacting new ones as they may be required. It will fix its own compensation, reorganize methods of rule, and provide for important reforms in administration. This will mean a radical departure, as under the absolute despotism of the old system the government was conducted by a grand vizier, or prime minister, and other officials appointed by the Shah and responsible only to him. Under the new order all Persians of the male sex between the ages of 30 and 70 who are not in the service of the state and who have never been convicted of a crime, are entitled to vote for members of the chamber of deputies. The crown prince signed a separate document in which he promised not to dissolve the present parliament for two years.

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#### More Terrorism in Russia.

General Litvinoff, Governor of the province of Akmolinsk in Asiatic Russia, was assassinated on the 28th.

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Rioting at Lodz in Russian Poland between "socialist" and "nationalist" workmen has brought on a reign of terror in that city. During the evening of the 28th and the morning of the 29th twenty-six persons were killed and scores wounded, many fatally (p. 896).

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#### The Amended Separation Law in France.

It was reported last week that a bill amending the law separating church and state in France, was passed by the Chamber of Deputies on the 21st (p. 922). On the 29th the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 190 to 100. This new bill of separation, as cabled over, is as follows:

Article 1—Independently of the associations contemplated by the law of Dec. 9, 1905, public worship can be held by means of associations under the law of July 1, 1901, as well as in virtue of the public meetings law of June 30, 1881, under individual initiative.

Article 2—Even in default of the cultural associations provided for by the law of Dec. 9, 1905, the usage of edifices intended for worship as well as the furniture