

bureaucracy. His first break with his official circle, according to the London Nation, "had its origin in his efforts to protect the Jews from massacre. He it was who supplied his kinsman, Prince Urussoff, himself an ex-Assistant Minister, with the startling revelations divulged in the first Douma regarding the official organization of pogroms. He discovered the printing press in the Ministry of the Interior, by which police agents multiplied their incitements to massacre. He traced the share of the police and the troops in several of the massacres which occurred after the nominal grant of constitutional liberties. But his unpardonable offense was that he denounced the police official Ratchkowsky, a protegee of the late General Trepoff, and the confidential guardian of the Czar's person, as the real organizer of the Jewish massacres. For that first display of independence he lost his position as an official." His second offense also involved Ratchkowsky, for Azeff was especially in Ratchkowsky's employ. The Nation says of the trial that, though public it "was the usual perversion of justice. The defense was hardly heard, the essential documents were suppressed, and the necessary witnesses were allowed to absent themselves." Mr. Lopukhin has been condemned to five years' hard labor, and to lifelong exile thereafter in Siberia. "The verdict," says The Nation, "is one proof the more that the 'political vivisectors,' secure in the protection of the Czar, are still supreme in Russia."

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The London Labour Leader publishes the following table of Russia's legal assassinations during the past three and a half years:

	Sentenced.	Executed.	Shot after martial court judgment.	Shot without any trial.
1905 .....	96	32	...	376
1906 .....	773	280	518	864
1907 .....	1,432	508	158	59
1908 .....	1,835	802	...	32
January-February, 1909 .....	233	183	...	...
	4,369	1,805	676	1,331

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**Conference on the Status of the Negro.**

The national conference at New York on the status of the American Negro (p. 540) has not been reported very elaborately in the West, and probably not in the East either; but an account of all its proceedings will be found in our Editorial Correspondence this week.

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**The Tariff in Congress.**

Discussion of the tariff bill in the Senate (p. 537) was resumed on the 1st with a consideration of the cotton schedules. In the course of the debate Senator Lodge took occasion to deliver a

carefully prepared speech to show that the Republican party is not pledged to a revision of the tariff downward; and Senator Cummins introduced an income tax amendment providing for a tax of 2 per cent on all incomes of individuals or corporations over \$5,000 a year. A feature is included which is intended to eliminate double taxation by allowing a rebate to the individual stockholder of a corporation whose dividend assessment has been paid through the corporation itself. Mr. Lodge also attributed the recent rise in cotton goods, not to the tariff but to increase in the volume of money; and when reminded that this position is the opposite of that taken by the Republican party in the national campaign of 1896, that the mills and not the mints should be opened in order to arrest falling prices, he made no reply. Senator Gore answered Senator Lodge on the 2d. On the same day Senator La Follette began a tariff-reduction speech, which he was obliged by illness to suspend. Resolutions for day and night sessions were adopted. A personal attack upon La Follette in his absence was made at the evening session by Gallinger and Penrose. There were some exciting interchanges of personalities on the 3d. Mr. La Follette concluded his speech on the 4th, and was replied to by Mr. Aldrich in the evening. Votes on the cotton schedules on the 5th supported the finance committee by majorities of 10 or 11, thereby changing duties from ad valorem to specific. A sharp controversy on party orthodoxy relative to protection arose on the 7th between Mr. Aldrich as the Republican leader of the "standpatters," and Mr. Beveridge as one of the Republican leaders of the downward revisionists.

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**The Traction Question in Cleveland.**

When the City Council of Cleveland met on the 1st to consider Judge Tayler's proposals for traction settlement (pp. 538, 539), the proposals were read and a resolution by Councilman Kramer was offered providing (1) that the plan be adopted, (2) that Judge Tayler be requested to formulate an ordinance, and (3) that the Goff-Johnson valuation be accepted. Mr. Andrews, for the traction company, stated that they would accept the Kramer resolution. Mayor Johnson then declared, addressing the Council, as reported in the Plain Dealer of the 2d, that—

the question of valuation was the all important point at issue. All other questions he said were of a minor nature, but in the valuation there was a difference as shown by the latest Bemis report of some \$7,000,000. The interest on this sum he said was equal to more than \$400,000 a year and would amount to a half a cent for every car ride. It meant, he declared, not 6 per cent, on the investment if the valuation is \$7,000,000 too high, but 12 per cent. "We have heard a great deal from the newspapers and from the Chamber of Commerce for haste in this

settlement," said the Mayor, "but I have still to hear from the great body of car riders. They are the great unorganized body of men who patronize the street cars. There is no cry from them for settlement in haste. I have heard not one syllable from them who are most concerned, from the people who pay the freight. This is the history of all big struggles where the unorganized face the organized. Just at the last minute, when the organized appear ready to surrender, it too often happens that the unorganized are left out. I stand here for the car riders. The settlement must be on actual and not on imaginary values. If you want to know why the railway directors are so pliant now, you have but to look at the situation. We said that we would take two months to settle. We have given them three months. Today there are two bidders for the expiring grants where before there was one. We stand here ready to take the best. They will concede only when they are threatened. The railroad board was intoxicated with the success of the referendum vote. They refused to meet with us. When they did finally agree to negotiate, Mr. Andrews said that nothing but the old valuation would be accepted. Now they are ready to arbitrate. We will get the best from them as long as there is competition and the worst of it when there is none."

City Solicitor Baker then moved for arbitration of the whole question of values. This was opposed by several Councilmen but finally carried.

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At the evening meeting of the Council on the 2d, a resolution was offered by Councilman McKenna which reaffirmed the Council's position of 4-cent cash fare, seven tickets for 25 cents, a penny transfer and a penny rebate. The motion carried 24 to 9, the Mayor voting for it and City Solicitor Baker against it. Judge Tayler, who was present, took the vote as a direct refusal to accept his proposed compromise at 5-cent cash fare, seven tickets for 25 cents and a penny transfer without rebate. He announced his position by saying: "I can tax the Cleveland Railway with no more. This is my last word. I arrived at my conclusions without consultation with any human being. They were my own views honestly expressed. The Council has solemnly taken a different view. I leave the responsibility where it belongs." Mr. Andrews said he could see no use in continuing negotiations, but did not declare a final break.

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Meetings were resumed on the 2d in the afternoon. At the first of these, City Solicitor Baker moved that determination of the maximum fare be postponed until it had been decided on what valuation the 6 per cent dividends are to be paid. Councilman Horner offered as a substitute motion that the Council accept all Judge Tayler's provisions. The substitute was defeated and Mr. Baker's motion carried, 17 to 5.

At a special meeting of the Council on the 4th, a settlement ordinance prepared by the City Solicitor, Mr. Baker, was submitted, granting the Cleveland Railway Company a franchise for twenty-five years, with a maximum fare of 4 cents cash, seven tickets for 25 cents, and 1-cent transfer with rebate. It provides also that in case of failure on the part of the company to comply with any award of a board of arbitration, the dividends shall fall from 6 per cent to 5 per cent, and continue at that rate until the award is obeyed. It names Judge Tayler as arbitrator to determine the actual value of the physical property of the company as of January 1, 1908, the value of the Forest City Co., of the Low Fare Co. and of the Municipal Traction Co. to be determined separately. It requires in this connection that there shall be added to the value of the physical property the present value of unexpired franchises. In this manner, it is reported, the owners of the Forest City stock are to be protected if the valuation of the Cleveland Railway property is lowered. The city is to have the right of nominating a purchaser after three years and a half. Unless the ordinance is accepted by the company within five days, it becomes null and void. The initial rate of fare proposed is 3 cents with 1 cent for transfers without rebate; and dividends are limited to 6 per cent. The ordinance was adopted section by section.

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The traction question had taken on a serious aspect for the company when, at the Council meeting of the 2d, an ordinance was introduced by Chairman Koch of the committee on street railways, making extensions to the Herman Schmidt grant (p. 538) for Payne avenue. These extensions cover practically all the territory in which the old company's franchises expire next January. The ordinance was based upon an application by Mr. Schmidt, and both application and ordinance were referred to the street railway committee, the peace committee of the whole, and the City Solicitor. The Schmidt ordinance for Payne avenue passed its second reading. According to the Cleveland Press of Thursday, the 4th—

immediately after Wednesday's meeting Mayor Tom called in all Democratic Councilmen excepting Walz, and prepared plans for speedy action on the Schmidt 3-cent grants. If the final break comes Thursday, as is expected by both Andrews and Mayor Tom, it is probable special meetings of the council will be called to pass the Schmidt Payne-av grant and the ordinance for extensions from this line. . . . It was reported Thursday that plans had been made for taking care of the Forest City stockholders should the Schmidt 3-cent Payne-av franchise, with the extension ordinance be passed. Forest City Stockholders will be given share for share in any new company which is organized to take over the lines on which Concon grants expire next January.