

these changes, Mr. Shepard was governed by his financial views in 1896, by his municipal government views in 1897, and by his anti-imperialist views in 1900. He was a candidate for Governor of New York last fall, and would doubtless have been nominated and elected but for his connection as a lawyer with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, of which fact the friends of special privilege corporations availed themselves to defeat him at the convention; and in the legislature last winter he was a candidate for the United States Senate, but failed through the same kind of opposition. Mr. Shepard will be remembered in his profession as long as great lawyers usually are remembered. But his most enduring monument is likely to be one that he erected while yet a young man. It is his story of Martin Van Buren, in the "American Statesmen" series—a veritable oasis of democracy in a "strong government" desert.

+ +

**Commission Government in Passaic.**

Passaic has followed Trenton's example, not Jersey City's, in its action on adopting or rejecting the commission form of city government under the Governor Wilson plan (the Walsh act of last winter) with Initiative, Referendum and Recall safety appliances. The referendum election on the question of adoption came off on the 25th. It showed 59 per cent of the vote last fall for members of the lower house of the State legislature, which was 4,506. In fact, the total percentage was over 60 for there were 96 defective ballots. As the affirmative vote was more than 30 per cent of the vote of last fall, the minimum affirmative percentage required by the New Jersey commission-plan law, the conditions of adoption were secured, provided the negative vote fell below the affirmative, and it did. Following are the returns as reported by the Passaic Daily News of the 26th:

Vote for Assemblyman last fall.....	4,506
Minimum therefore necessary for adoption.....	1,352
Affirmative vote .....	1,789
Negative vote .....	859
Affirmative majority .....	930

The opposing vote was cast under the leadership of party Democrats, party Republicans, and party Socialists. [See current volume, page 779.]

+ +

**War Shivers in Europe.**

The Mohammedan, barbarous Moorish state of Morocco, in the northwestern corner of Africa, with one short seaboard on the Mediterranean and another long one on the Atlantic, is once more a bone of contention to the European Powers.

+ +

In 1904 Great Britain and France came to an

agreement over Morocco, Great Britain recognizing France's right to assist in the administrative, economic, financial and military reforms in Morocco, but reserving the rights by treaty or usage that she was herself already exercising; Great Britain's especial interest in the matter being that on the other hand her interests in Egypt needed conservation against possible interference on the part of the other Powers. A more general agreement as to foreign rights in Morocco was entered into by representatives of a number of European Powers, the United States and Morocco itself, at Algeciras, Spain, in the spring of 1906. Since then France has exercised all powers permitted to her in policing and controlling Morocco, spurred on to activity by the necessities of the development of the contiguous state of Algeria, now a dependency of France. Latterly she has taken a hand in trying to reduce the disorders of the country consequent upon the inability of Mulai-Abd-el-Hafid, Sultan since 1907, to hold his throne against revolting tribesmen. When at last this summer French intervention seemed to approach French dominance, Spain, which has stations and business interests, especially upon the Atlantic side of the coveted country, put out a tentative hand; upon which Germany, also anxious for ports and hinterlands, if not for permanent occupation at least for material with which to dicker for Congo or other desirable African regions, also stretched out her hand—or her mailed fist, since she sent gunboats—to Agadir on the Atlantic coast. [See vol. viii, p. 692; current volume, page 638.]

+ +

On July 21 Lloyd George, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a speech at the annual banquet of the Lord Mayor of London—a speech the serious portions of which were read from manuscript—gave what was regarded as a warning to Germany to go slow in interfering in Morocco. In the House of Commons on the 27th the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, read carefully from a manuscript what is regarded as a similar but plainer warning to Germany in regard to keeping hands off for the sake of preserving the balance of power in Europe. A sensitiveness on the part of Germany to this not undiplomatic but positive coercion of program, has raised fears of European war, in which Great Britain and France would be pitted against Germany. Activity in the war offices of Europe immediately resulted, and anxieties and war risks were augmented thereby. As yet the German government has made no official response to the British warnings.

+ +

**Russia an Enemy to Constitutional Government in Persia.**

The ex-Shah of Persia, Mohammed Ali Mirza, backed by tribesmen of the neighborhood of Astra-