

legislation amendment was proposed in the House on the 22d by Representative Judah of Chicago. It is a resolution authorizing the Governor to appoint a commission consisting of three Representatives, three Senators, and "three able and unbiased citizens" to investigate the operation of the Initiative and Referendum "in the various countries and in the States of the Union in which it is now in force, and the advisability of the enactment of the laws and the necessary Constitutional amendment to provide for such Initiative and Referendum in this State." the commission to report and recommend legislation to the forty-eighth General Assembly. This resolution was referred to the judiciary committee.

+

Senator Owen of Oklahoma and ex-Mayor Dunne of Chicago, supported by Robert Eaton of the Illinois Farmers' Grange, Walter S. Rogers, Henry M. Ashton, S. S. Gregory for the City Club of Chicago, and John O'Neill for the Chicago Federation of Labor, advocated the pending amendment on the 22d, and were opposed by John C. Riehberg for the Civic Federation of Chicago. The Democratic leader in the House, Representative Alschuler, opposed Senator Owen's use of the Assembly Chamber for this purpose, because of Senator Owen's anti-Lorimer speech in the United States Senate (pp. 34, 62), and the Chamber of the Supreme Court was used. The hearing was nominally before the judiciary committee of the House, but as 37 out of the 49 committeemen refused to attend, there was no quorum.

+

The Chicago Tribune, which supported the measure (vol. xiii, p. 1082), has now declared editorially against allowing it to take precedence of the pending revenue amendment. The Record-Herald has taken the same position, but it has been outspoken against the direct legislation amendment from the start. But Governor Deneen declared himself on the 24th in these terms:

I believe that the Referendum question should be settled first, however, I do not intend to take action to influence the legislature, as the question is not before me and will not be. Whatever action the legislature takes will be final and I will not have the power to approve or veto it. On the Referendum proposition whatever I say is merely an expression of personal opinion. I believe the legislature should make this the first of the Constitutional amendments to be put to a vote, because it was submitted to the voters, who replied that they desired it, and was made a pledge of both parties in their platforms.

Following are the platform pledges of the two parties (vol. xiii, pp. 921, 922), to which Governor Deneen alluded:

Republican platform, 1910.—"We favor an amendment to the Constitution providing for the Initiative and Referendum."

Democratic platform, 1910.—"We favor the submis-

sion and adoption of an amendment to our State Constitution providing for direct legislation by means of the Initiative and Referendum."

+ +

### The Chicago Campaign.

In the campaign for Mayor of Chicago (pp. 266, 276) the only events of the week of special importance are the formal endorsement of Mr. Harrison's candidacy by the United Societies (on the saloon question) and a large non-partisan labor meeting at the Auditorium on the 25th in support of Mr. Merriam. At this labor meeting John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, presided, and speeches were made by him and by Clarence S. Darrow, Raymond Robins and Charles E. Merriam.

+ +

### Woman Suffrage.

A different kind of referendum from the invalidating one intended (p. 245), has been attached to the woman suffrage bill (p. 275) in the Illinois Senate. It provides that each political division of the State shall have local option on woman suffrage locally. If the city of Chicago, for example, votes for it at a referendum, the women there will have a vote on city officers. If a county indorses it, all women in that county may vote for county officers. If the entire State approves it by a referendum vote, they will have the right to ballot for statutory State officers. The amended bill passed the Senate on the 23d by 31 to 10.

+

Following are the delegates and alternates from the United States, announced on the 22d, to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance convention, to be held in Stockholm, July 12 to 17 inclusive:

Delegates—Anna Howard Shaw, president National American Woman Suffrage Association, Pennsylvania; Miss Mary D. Ely, Connecticut; Mrs. Morrison-Fuller, Missouri; Mrs. Alice Parker Lesser, Massachusetts; Miss Frances Wills, California; Mrs. Julia B. Rogers, Maryland; Mrs. Minerva Butlin, Illinois; Miss Janet R. Richards, District of Columbia; Mrs. Frederick Nathan, Mrs. Marcia Townsend and Mrs. Charles Howard Winslow, New York.

Alternates—Miss Lucy E. Anthony, Pennsylvania; Miss Nettie Lovisa White, District of Columbia; Mrs. Margaret Foley and Miss Florence Luscomb, Massachusetts; Mrs. Zell Hart Deming, Wyoming; Mrs. William Parsons, Mrs. Mary E. Craigie, Miss Cameron and Mrs. Robert Elder, New York.

Frederick Nathan and Robert Elder have been chosen fraternal delegates to represent the Men Voters' League of New York, and Mary G. Hay is the fraternal delegate from the National Federation of Women's Clubs.

+

The Council of the Empire, Russia, rejected

on the 21st a proposal to confer the voting franchise on women.

+

By a vote of 8 to 3, the judiciary committee of the Massachusetts Senate recommended on the 21st that the petition for votes for women (p. 206) be referred to the next legislature. On the same day and also by a vote of 8 to 3, the judiciary committee of the New York Senate voted to report against two of the woman suffrage amendments pending before it (vol. xiii, p. 421), these being so similar to a third as to imply defeat of woman suffrage in any form or to any extent.

+

A bill for votes for women was defeated on second reading in the Ontario parliament on the 21st by a large majority. Premier Whitney (Liberal) characterized the measure as hurried and reckless legislation.

+

Extraordinary interest was taken by women voters in the municipal election in Tarrytown, N. Y., on the 21st. They voted for bonds of \$70,000 for purifying the local water supply and improving fire protection.

+

Dispatches of the 21st credited the women of Milwaukee with taking a leading part on the 21st at the primary election for the nomination of school directors. This primary was under a new law which restricts candidates for the four vacancies to the eight polling the highest number of votes at the primary. Its promoters argue that its purpose is to secure majority elections; the Socialists argue that it is intended to defeat them. However this may be, only two Socialists out of four were nominated; and the dispatches attribute the result to women voters.

+ +

#### Industrial Tax Exemptions in New Jersey.

The progressive bill on taxation which was introduced into the lower House of the New Jersey legislature February 27 by Arthur P. Jackson (p. 227), has come out of committee with a favorable report and now awaits the action of the House. As before reported, this bill proposes to—exempt from taxation all personal property, all buildings, structures, or other improvements erected or constructed upon or in land, and in which shall be included all excavations, earth elevations, grading, or other changes in the natural formation of the land which shall have been made within twenty years before the time exemption is claimed.

This bill does not include franchises or privileges in streets or highways or public places, within the class of exemptions. Although the act, if adopted by the legislature, is to take effect at once, it is not to go into operation in any municipality or

taxing district until adopted by the voters of such municipality or taxing district; and at such local elections arguments for and against adoption are to be supplied at public expense to each registered voter.

+ +

#### To Cheapen Land in New York.

A commission of ten aldermen and ten unofficial citizens, recently appointed by Mayor Gaynor to make recommendations regarding the congestion of population and overcrowding in New York City, and of which ex-Senator Jacob A. Cantor is chairman and Benjamin C. Marsh is secretary, has reported at length and in minute detail. Its report makes numerous recommendations regarding building operations, tenement and factory regulations, area of dwelling apartments and rooms, conditions of labor, parks, playgrounds, schools, sanitation, outdoor relief, immigration, etc. The most important practical measure recommended will be found on page 5 of the report, as follows:

(a) That the rate of taxation upon all buildings be half the rate of taxation upon all land, and that this reduction be secured by an equal change in each or five consecutive years.

(b) The question of recommending an unearned increment tax has been strongly advocated before the Commission. The principal argument advanced in support of the imposition of such a tax is that in nearly every instance where real estate values have increased, such increases have been due wholly to public improvements and to the general development of the city, and in no way to action on the part of the property owner. Some members of the Commission have strongly urged that this Commission should advocate such a tax to be levied annually on the increase in the assessed valuations of land—the proceeds of the tax to constitute a fund to be used exclusively for the construction of rapid transit undertakings. The Commission has refrained from making such a recommendation because they believe that the subject requires greater study and investigation than they have been able to give it, and because there is a division of opinion among the members as to the expediency of such a tax at present. The Commission, however, refer this question to the officers of the City Government, with the request that it be examined and considered by them, and that public hearings be had in order to determine what action, if any, should be taken by the City with respect to this tax.

(c) That is a means of ascertaining the true price of land and of taxing it justly, the true price be required to be registered when the property is sold, so that the taxing officials may have definite information upon which to base their assessment.

+ +

#### Land Value Taxation in Ontario.

There was a discussion in the Ontario parliament (vol. xiii, pp. 540, 1193) on the 21st over the question of local option in municipal taxation, in the course of which A. G. MacKay, leader