

be necessary for carrying out the political program of the American Federation of Labor. That the officers of the Chicago Federation of Labor be instructed to request the Illinois State Federation of Labor to call a conference of the central bodies of the State for the purpose of devising ways and means for carrying out the political program of the American Federation of Labor.

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The Employers' Movement in Politics.

A convention of the National Association of Manufacturers, of which J. W. Van Cleave is president, met at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, New York City, on the 19th, to arrange for a contest against organized labor at the polls. Through the influence of this organization, Congress has been diverted from acting upon the President's advice in his last special message (pp. 98, 107), it being now understood that the anti-injunction bill and the labor amendments to the Sherman law will not be passed. The convention proposes to take measures for supporting members of Congress who refuse to be influenced by fear of the labor vote.

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First Conference of Governors.

The first conference of Governors convened by President Roosevelt (vol. x, p. 805) met in the White House at Washington on the 13th along with certain public men of distinction who had been invited. President Roosevelt called it to order in a speech in which he repeated the object of the conference, "to consider the question of the conservation and use of the great fundamental sources of wealth of this nation." The speakers included Andrew Carnegie, James J. Hill, John Mitchell, Governor Johnston of Minnesota, John Hays Hammond, Elihu Root, Secretary Cortelyou, Governor Burke of North Dakota, Governor Folk of Missouri, and William J. Bryan. After adopting a declaration of principles reported by a committee of which Governor Blanchard of Louisiana was chairman, and choosing an executive committee of five to arrange for a similar meeting of Governors next year, the conference adjourned on the 15th after a three days' session.

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The declaration begins in these terms:

We, the Governors of the States and Territories of the United States of America, in conference assembled, do hereby declare the conviction that the great prosperity of our country rests upon the abundant resources of the land chosen by our forefathers for their homes and where they laid the foundation of this great nation.

Thereupon the declaration, after dwelling upon the importance of the subject, proceeds:

We urge the continuation and extension of forest policies adapted to secure the husbanding and renewal of our diminishing timber supply, the preven-

tion of soil erosion, the protection of headwaters and the maintenance of the purity and navigability of our streams. We recognize in our waters a most valuable asset of the people of the United States, and we recommend the enactment of laws looking to the conservation of water resources for irrigation, water supply, power and navigation, to the end that navigable and source streams may be brought under complete control and fully utilized for every purpose. We especially urge on the Federal Congress the immediate adoption of a wise, active and thorough waterway policy. We recommend the enactment of laws looking to the prevention of waste in the mining and extraction of coal, oil, gas and other minerals with a view to their wise conservation for the use of the people and to the protection of human life in the mines.

In conclusion the declaration says: "Let us conserve the foundations of our prosperity."

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The most significant part of the proceedings was this expression of the President at the close, with reference to grants of landed rights:

Where a privilege, which may be of untold value in the future to the individual or grantee, is asked from the Federal government, then the Federal government should put into the grant a condition that it shall not be a grant in perpetuity. If there is necessity for the grant, then there must be power to attach conditions to the grant. Make it long enough so that the corporation shall have ample material reward. The corporation deserves it. Give an ample reward to the captain of industry, but not an interminable and indefinite reward. Put in a provision that will enable the next generation, that will enable our children at the end of a certain specified period, to say what, in their judgment, should be done with that great natural power which is of use to the grantee only because the people as a whole allow him to use it. It is eminently right that he should be allowed to make ample profit from his development of it, but make him pay something for the privilege, and make the grant for a fixed period, so that when the conditions change, as in all probability they will change, our children, the nation of the future, shall have the right to determine the condition upon which that privilege shall be enjoyed. In these cases the State has not acted or can not act; therefore I hold the nation should act. Where the policy I advocate can be carried out best by the State, let it be carried out by the State; where it can be carried out best by the nation, let it be carried out by the nation. My concern is not with the academic side of the question; I deal with the matter from the standpoint of true popular interest, and therefore my desire is to employ indifferently either the principle of States' rights, or the principle of national sovereignty, whichever in a given case will best conserve the needs of the people.

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Currency Legislation in Congress.

Like the belated discharge of a hang-fire musket, currency legislation in Congress (p. 10) has suddenly absorbed the attention of that body. By a

vote of 128 to 16 the Republican members of the lower House decided in conference on the 11th to support what is known as the Vreeland bill. This bill provides that—

banks, not less than ten in number, with an aggregate capital and surplus of at least \$5,000,000, may form voluntary associations to be known as "clearing-house associations"; that if the needs of the country for currency are so pressing that in the opinion of the Secretary of the Treasury an additional issue of bank note circulation is necessary, the banks belonging to a clearing house association may deposit securities, including commercial paper, in quality and amount acceptable to the association. The association may thereupon appeal to the Secretary of the Treasury and he may issue an amount of additional currency not to exceed 75 per cent of the securities so deposited. The clearing house associations must be formed in contiguous territory, and not more than one shall exist in any one city, nor can any bank belong to two associations. The capital and surplus of each bank belonging to an association would be jointly and severally liable to the government for any deficiency in the amount necessary to pay the circulating notes after the sale of securities deposited, in case the notes are not redeemed. A national bank need have but 40 per cent of its capital in bond-secured circulation, instead of 50 per cent, as a condition precedent to taking out additional circulation through an association. Banks must keep a reserve in gold or lawful money against additional circulating notes, such as is now provided by law against deposits. The limit of additional circulation which may be taken out for emergency uses is fixed at \$500,000,000.

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When this bill came before the House on the 14th, it was rushed through with a vote of 184 to 145. The Fowler bill as a substitute drew only 15 Republican votes, although Mr. Fowler is the leading Republican financier in the House.

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The Senate acted on the 15th as quickly as the House had acted the day before. A special meeting of the finance committee was held in the morning, which reported the House bill back with a recommendation striking out all after the enacting clause and substituting the original unamended Aldrich bill (p. 10); and on the same day this report was adopted in the Senate by 47 to 20. The matter then went to a conference committee of both Houses.

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The Cleveland Street Car Strike.

The street car strike impending in Cleveland at the time of our last report (p. 157) broke out on the 16th at 3 o'clock in the morning. The basis of the strike is the claim of 2 cents an hour increase, under a contract with the old company making this increase contingent upon getting their franchise renewed; and on the further ground that men have been discharged by the municipal com-

pany pending arbitration negotiations. In some degree, also, the difficulty is between two labor unions—the employes of the old monopoly system, and the employes of the former low fare system. The latter's employes had formed a union and received a charter from the international body; but the charter had been revoked by the international officers because members of the union were stockholders in the low fare company employing them. The municipal company claims that this revocation was invalid because made without notice to the low fare company which had a contract with the union. An agreement to arbitrate had been made between the municipal holding company and the strikers; and S. H. Tolles for the company and General Ed. S. Meyer for the men were agreed upon and had accepted as arbitrators, they to have power to choose a referee if necessary. This was on the 12th. The questions to be arbitrated were:

1. Whether the agreement between the Municipal and the old Forest City union has any bearing on the agreement between the Cleveland Electric and local 269 [the striking union].

2. Whether the international association has the right to revoke the charter of a local which has an agreement with the railway company without the company's consent.

3. Is the two-cent-an-hour agreement between the Cleveland Electric and the union binding on the Municipal as lessees of the Cleveland Electric?

The dispute concerns only the employes of the old Cleveland Electric, on the one hand, and the municipal holding company, which is now the lessee of the Cleveland Electric, on the other; the relation of the employes of the old low fare company to the municipal holding company, remains as heretofore. It is only the employes of the Cleveland Electric that are on strike.

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On the 13th the striking union demanded of the municipal holding company that pending the arbitration conditions prior to April 27 must be restored, and that members of the union who have been discharged or shifted must be replaced in their old positions. The municipal holding company responded that until the arbitrators decided that the 2-cent-an-hour contract was binding upon it, it would observe only its own contract with the other union, whose charter had been revoked. On the 15th the strike was voted for, and on the 16th it began. Violence soon broke out. Cars were stoned, trolley wires were cut, and dynamite was placed on the tracks. President Du Pont of the municipal holding company gave out the following statement:

We have been ready from the beginning of the trouble to arbitrate all differences. The offer of arbitration came from the union and we accepted it. As to the discharge of men, that was made inevitable by the merging of the two systems. We laid off old Cleveland Electric and Forest City men impartially.