

clause in the river and harbor bill, appropriating \$1,000,000 for the purpose of enabling the president to investigate all isthmus canal routes, especially the Panama and Nicaragua routes, and report his conclusions to the next congress. The aggregate of appropriations for this session was \$673,658,400, and for the whole term of the 55th Congress, \$1,569,117,104.

Another bit of political news relates to the senatorial deadlocks. That in Nebraska was broken on the 8th by the election to the United States senate of Monroe L. Hayward, the republican candidate for governor last fall, who was defeated by the fusionist. He was elected senator on the 43d joint ballot. It was the longest deadlock in the history of the state. The senatorial deadlocks yet unbroken are in Delaware, Pennsylvania, California, and Utah.

Interest in municipal politics centers upon Chicago, where ex-Gov. Altgeld is making an independent canvass for mayor on the principle of "municipal ownership and the Chicago platform," his object being as already explained in these columns to cut off possibility of control by a reactionary faction of the democratic party of Illinois and through that possibility of the nation, and to bring the question of municipal ownership of municipal utilities at once into practical politics. During the week Altgeld has addressed several extraordinarily large public meetings. No democratic convention nomination has yet been made. The republicans nominated Zina R. Carter on the 7th, upon a platform proposing to extend street car franchises for 20 years upon the payment of compensation to the city, with a reserved right to the city to purchase the plants at the expiration of those extensions.

Closely related to the issues of the Chicago municipal election is the repeal of the so-called Illinois "Allen law." This law empowered city councils to extend street car franchises for 50 years. It was adopted two years ago by a republican legislature and signed by a republican governor. But public sentiment expressed itself so strongly against franchise extensions that another republican legislature has now repealed the law, and on the 7th the same republican governor signed the repealing act.

Another municipal campaign of

general interest is that at Toledo. The republican mayor, S. M. Jones, who has become well known over the country for his opposition to plutocratic policies, was a candidate for re-nomination. Gov. Pingree, the republican governor of Michigan, spoke for him last week, explicitly denouncing the present leadership of the republican party. In the course of his speech Gov. Pingree said:

I have no hesitation in saying that the leadership of the republican party is now within the control of the bondholders. This does not mean that the republican party is the party of the monopolists, by any means. It simply means that the course of the party is dictated too much by commercial greed, by men like your Ohio boss, who rules from Cleveland, wielding a scepter which does not belong to the republican party. It is foreign to its history and to its principles. I hope you will tear that scepter from his grasp and dash it to pieces here in Toledo tomorrow. Trusts, corporations and money must not rule our party. It was created as a party of the entire people. It was such in Lincoln's time. But it is slipping away from its original principles. Its leadership is largely in the hands of corporate wealth. I do not condemn corporations and rich men, but I would keep them within their proper spheres. The republican party is not their property, to use as they see fit. Money getting is not the sole aim in life. It should not be the principal object. It is not safe to intrust the government of the country to the influence of Wall street. This is the common statement, I know, but it has a serious meaning. I do not believe I can too vividly paint the evils that must result if the trusts and monopolies are permitted to rule the land. These evils cannot be too bluntly or forcibly stated. The more you can shock people with the strength of your condemnation of these things, the sooner they will come to a realization of their seriousness.

Nevertheless, Mayor Jones was defeated in the republican convention, though by a narrow vote. He attributes his defeat to the bossism of Senator Hanna, and now appeals to the people as an independent candidate. In his address he says:

The republican convention of this city has to-day repudiated the administration of the mayor's office for the last two years. The principles that have guided me and upon which I will go before the people as an independent candidate are: Equal opportunities for all and special privileges to none; public ownership of all public utilities; the wealth created by the people should be for the people's benefit rather than for the private profit of the few; no grant of new or extension of

existing franchises; the abolition of the private contract system of doing city work, a source of corruption equally as great as that occasioned by the granting of franchises, and the substitution therefor of the day-labor plan with a minimum wage of \$1.50 a day of eight hours for common labor, organized labor to be employed on all public work. As no criticism has been entered against the administration of the mayor's office it follows that my defeat for renomination in the convention to-day is a repudiation of these principles. In the convention to-day I made the battle of my life to enlist the support of the republican party for these principles, but the cunning of the manipulators won the day, and, I believe, stifled the will of a majority of the republicans. Asking for the support of all who believe that the people and not the machine should rule, I announce myself as an independent candidate for the office of mayor.

A new national party was organized at Cincinnati on the 2d by a convention of about 100 delegates called together by the Union Reform party of Ohio. Its brief platform is as follows:

Direct legislation under the system known as the initiative and referendum. Under the "initiative" the people can compel the submission to themselves of any desired law, when, if it receives a majority of the votes cast, it is thereby enacted. Under the "referendum" the people can compel the submission to themselves of any law which has been adopted by any legislative body, when, if such law fails to receive a majority of the votes cast, it will be thereby rejected.

R. S. Thompson, of Springfield, Ohio, is chairman of the national committee of this party.

The craze in the United States for organizing trusts would appear to have reached its climax in the creation of the anthracite coal trust, the organization of which is just reported. It includes all the anthracite coal mines of the east, and all the railroads that control access to them. J. Pierpont Morgan is credited with this consolidation, which is said to represent a capitalization of \$900,000,000.

We gave, in No. 42 of the Public, a list of some of the prominent trusts that had then been recently organized. It included a thread trust with \$300,000,000 capital; a chewing gum trust, with \$20,000,000, and a carbon trust, with \$10,000,000. Since then, and it is less than two months ago, many more trust organizations have been perfected. Among them are a tin plate trust, a rubber goods trust, a