

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