

Colorado Politics.

Opponents of the assembly system of selecting candidates in Denver have put up a ticket and issued the following address to the voters:

The No-Assembly party is composed of citizens of Denver who believe in the rule of the people, and who are resolved to make that rule effective. To accomplish that end the party has circulated petitions to nominate four candidates for the State Senate and twelve candidates for the House of Representatives. These candidates promise, if elected, to work for laws that will give every citizen an equal opportunity and an equal voice in nominating candidates for public office. In other words, they promise to vote and work for laws that will deny state recognition of party assemblies, conventions of caucuses, and that will secure the nomination of all candidates exclusively by petition. They further promise that, if elected, they will vote and work for such a change in our tax laws that the land owned or used for public utility corporations shall be listed and valued separate and apart from other property, the same as an individual's rights in land are now assessed. These two measures will be opposed by most of the legislative candidates who secured their nominations in the boss-controlled assemblies. Therefore, every voter who believes that property should be classified for taxation and that all citizens should stand on absolutely equal terms before the law in making nominations for public office, should vote for the following candidates: For the State Senate—Harvey Garman, Barney Haughey, Nicholas Ludwig and Alexander Z. Sterling. For House of Representatives—Fred Lambert, Herman A. Bolster, Joseph B. Cobbs, Alex. E. Helmle, Fred J. Taylor, Edward W. Stuart, Leonard Ruehle, George M. Bergen, Adrian Maguire, John S. Goble and Frank Springrose.



Labor Trouble in Porto Rico.

Santiago Iglesias, president of the Free Federation of Workingmen of Porto Rico, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, presented to Governor Yager of the island, on September 21, a statement regarding unemployment and distress existing there. The statement was authorized at a meeting in San Juan of delegations from 123 local bodies, representing about 10,000 workers. Complaint was made of unwarranted increase in prices of food stuffs as well as of unemployment. The Insular government was asked to prosecute those who had conspired to raise prices and to institute municipal markets. In regard to unemployment, after showing the futility of a suggestion offered by the local Bureau of Labor to beg of land owners use of land for workers, the statement points out that the Insular government owns 61,078 cuerdas of land on which "there might be established farms furnishing more than 10,000 workingmen and their families the means for an independent living." It further suggests that settlers on these lands be supplied with seeds to begin work, that public works be undertaken

and government loans made to enable them to tide over the period before becoming self-supporting. The statement further points out that there are large tracts of privately owned uncultivated lands which the government should take over. Anticipating financial objections to the suggestions the statement says:

If the government does not have the necessary money it ought to get it, in the same way that over four million dollars was obtained to develop the industries of the rich landholders of the southern section of the island, and other enormous sums have been secured to protect the development of the business of the great corporations in the island, whose huge, invisible and silent power bears witness to the fact that they have been the ones to profit most at the expense of the government and the people.

The workers on farms and the small landholders work and devote all their efforts to create the wealth of the country. They are the ones who give to land the value it has. And yet the land and its values belong to or are monopolized by a few business men, bankers, usurers and individuals who live on their rents. Some of these people reside in the country only temporarily. Others have never even seen Porto Rico. In the meantime the real agricultural and working people in Porto Rico drag a most unhappy existence.

In reply Governor Yager promised to "take time to investigate thoroughly" and said further—

The governor can not set aside the guaranty of liberty and justice to all classes afforded by the American Constitution and the Laws of Porto Rico, and nobody on earth can restore normal conditions at a time like this, when four-fifths of the population of Europe are engaged in a great and terrible war. . . . However, I must urge upon you all, in all of your efforts for improvements, to abide within the law. . . . As long as you obey the law and have respect for public order your efforts will be fruitful of good. But it is the first and fundamental duty of every government and of every citizen in every country to preserve order and to enforce the law, and to this duty the government of Porto Rico will always remain faithful.

NEWS NOTES

—That all plans for the Third International Peace Conference at The Hague had been abandoned was announced by the State Department at Washington on October third. [See current volume, pages 173, 664.]

—The cost of the war, according to Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, the French economist, if it shall last seven months, will be \$10,000,000,000. Each of the greater belligerents, he figures, is spending an average of \$200,000,000 a month.

—The International Harvester Company was granted permission on October 13 to resume business in Missouri by the State Supreme Court. It was recently fined \$25,000 for violation of the anti-trust law and ousted from the state. The reinstatement