

think the Cleveland Railway Co. can expect to get hold of the dividend money to pay such bills.

The vice-president of the franchise company said on the 1st in the Press that he believed "both companies should pay their debts before declaring any dividend." Mr. Goff, who represented the old company in the settlement, said through the Press on the 2d, that "it was clearly the intention at the time of the settlement that" the quarterly rentals "should be used for dividends, and for no other purpose." On the 4th, the Cleveland newspapers printed the following statement by Horace Andrews, president of the old company:

The directors of the Cleveland Railway Co. believe that, under present conditions, the declaration of a dividend, if the rental had been paid on Oct. 1, would not be in the interest of the stockholders of the company. The security franchise has not yet been approved or disapproved by popular vote and no provision has yet been made to discharge the floating debt of the company. When the last dividend was paid, no call for an election to validate the security franchise had been made. The directors of this company are charged with the duty of guarding the property of the stockholders and are under no obligation either morally or by contract under the lease to the Municipal to pay a dividend when such payment is not prudent or wise.

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Referring to this statement by Mr. Andrews, Mayor Johnson said on the 5th that—

Under the letter, and certainly under the spirit of the lease, the use of the rental money for any other than dividend purposes is unwarranted. The withholding of the dividends is indefensible. It is the first evidence of bad faith. In valuing the property of the Cleveland Electric Railway Co., the people allowed more than \$2,000,000 for good will. They certainly ought to get it.

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The referendum alluded to by Mr. Andrews is to come off on the 22d, and the campaign in favor of the leased franchise begins under the leadership of Mayor Johnson on the 12th. An effort on the part of some of the employes of the old company who were instrumental in maintaining a violent strike against the Municipal as soon as it began operations (pp. 227, 243, 300, 348), and are now agitating against the lease-franchise, was made on the 1st to secure the support of the local central labor body, the United Trades and Labor Council, but were defeated by 37 to 27.

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A readjustment of the relations of the Municipal company to the traction system has been agreed upon and will be effected as soon as the papers are drawn. Heretofore the directors have held all the stock, \$10,000, and have been obligated in honor, but not legally, to operate the

system as lessees for the public good, and to turn it over to the city at cost upon the enactment of a municipal ownership law. The obligation was made one of honor, because it was necessary that the company should be a corporation for profit, and it was feared that if the profits were to be turned over to the public as matter of legal obligation the charter of the company might be attacked by the old traction ring. At Mayor Johnson's suggestion, however, several leading lawyers, including Mr. Goff, were called in to devise a plan whereby the purposes of the Municipal company could be made legally binding without risk of an attack upon the ground that the company is not a corporation for profit. They unanimously reported on the 2d that no legal hazard to the corporate existence of the Municipal arises from action of the individual stockholders in trusteeing their stock and any dividends arising therefrom, and that the declaration of trust can be so limited as not to prevent or hamper the carrying forward to completion of the publicly announced and well understood policies of the company. Accordingly the Municipal accepted on the 3d the principle of the plan, which, as described editorially by the Plain Dealer of the 3d, is that "the stock of the Municipal be given over to a board of trustees to be held by them under strict agreement that profits shall be spent solely for the public good."

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The Tuberculosis Congress.

At the Tuberculosis Congress now meeting in Washington, D. C. (p. 637), the session of the 4th was given over to a discussion of the interests of labor in the eradication of tuberculosis. John Mitchell presided. In addition to Mr. Mitchell and Samuel Gompers, Dr. Lawrence Flick of Philadelphia took part in the discussion. Dr. Flick described tuberculosis as "peculiarly a disease of the wage earner," because "one of the strongest predisposing causes of the disease is overwork," and because workshops are often unsanitary and the worker is often underfed. Mr. Mitchell attributed disease among workers to the attitude of employers who resist the enactment of laws for the promotion of health in working places; and Mr. Gompers stated that union workmen are less susceptible to tuberculosis than nonunion men, because the union shops are superior in sanitary appliances to other shops. The death rate from consumption among nonunion men is 100 per cent greater, he said, than among union men.

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Land Reform in Scotland.

The progress of the land reform movement in Scotland (p. 612) was marked by a conference at Inverness on the 19th. The conference met un-

der the auspices of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values, and the Highland Associations; and Mr. Duncan Mactavish, president of the Inverness-Shire organization of the Liberal party, presided. About 50 delegates were in attendance. One of the resolutions adopted declared it to be the opinion of the conference that—

The existing system of land tenure and taxation is directly responsible for the deplorable and backward condition of our agricultural industry and the poor condition of the country population, inasmuch as it enables the landlord class to appropriate in rent the legitimate earnings of farmer, crofter, cottar, market gardener, and laborer; keeps millions of acres of land from being put to its best use, and labor from its natural field of employment; stands in the way of valuable building land in town and country being put to its proper use for the growing requirements of the people; directly causing bad trade, poverty, slum dwellings, and chronic destitution; and that any system of landlordism which compels the people who work to yield up under the name of rent the produce of their labor to other human creatures for the privilege of living upon God's earth is a robbery of labor, and, obviously, a wicked violation of the benevolent intention of the Creator.

Another of the adopted resolutions approved the land policy of the British ministry, and another made the following declarations on the subject of the House of Lords:

That this Conference believes that the existence in Parliament of any body of non-elected persons is at once an insult to the intelligence of a free people, and a danger and a menace to the democratic institutions of the country; that the assumption by the House of Lords of the right to control and reject the legislative proposals of the elected representatives of the people in the House of Commons is both mischievous and intolerable; that this power of veto of the House of Lords over the Commons reduces the voting power and will of the people to a complete farce.

The resolution earnestly called upon the Ministry and the progressive members of Parliament to put an end to this veto at the earliest possible moment. At the close of the conference a public evening meeting was held as a finale to the conference, and Mr. Alexander Ure, solicitor-General for Scotland, made the principal speech.

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Integrity of the Ottoman Empire Threatened.

In the midst of her joy over her first days under a constitution (p. 566) Turkey finds herself confronted with difficulties on her borders. The status of provinces and nationalities under Turkish control was regulated by the treaty of Berlin, signed in 1878 by the Great Powers. Under this treaty the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, lying on the Adriatic, south of Austria and

west of Serbia and Montenegro, though still reserved to the Ottoman Empire, were handed over to the Austro-Hungarian government for administration and military occupation; while the little district of Novi-Bazar, extending between Serbia and Montenegro, was to be occupied by an Austrian military force, and administered civilly by Turkey. By the same treaty Bulgaria, lying south of Rumania, and between the Black Sea and Serbia, was constituted an autonomous principality, tributary to Turkey. Eastern Rumelia, lying between Bulgaria and Turkey proper, by the treaty of Berlin was to remain under the direct political and military authority of the Sultan, but by revolution in 1885 succeeded in attaching itself to Bulgaria.

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A disquieting announcement of the 4th that Bulgaria had assumed control of the East Rumanian section of the Oriental railway—a Turkish enterprise—was followed on the 5th by proclamation at the old Bulgarian capital of Tirnova by Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, of Bulgaria as an independent kingdom, and of himself as Czar of the Bulgarians—a title understood to mean more than Czar of Bulgaria would mean, since it intimates sovereignty over all people of Bulgarian blood in the Orient. On the evening of the same day the Turkish council of ministers at Constantinople refused to recognize the independence of Bulgaria. On the day following Austria-Hungary gave recognition to Bulgaria as an independent state.

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Still more seriously threatening to the peace of Europe was the unexpected announcement by Austria, on the 5th, of her intention to annex Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a slight offset she is withdrawing her troops from Novi-Bazar, with the purpose of abandoning that little district wholly to Turkey. This seizure of the two provinces by Austria is regarded as a far more dangerous violation of the Berlin treaty than the effort of a tributary province like Bulgaria to become independent, disturbing as the latter may be to the young Turks, who are naturally desirous in the first flush of popular rule, to preserve the integrity of their Empire. France, England, Russia and Italy give indications of readiness to prevent a general war, and are planning to call a conference of the signatories to the treaty of Berlin, to consider what action should be taken in regard to violations of that treaty.

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Stationer: "Typewriter ribbons? Yes, sir, we have all kinds. What particular brand do you wish?"

Private Secretary (of trust magnate): "Have you any that—er—when you use 'em, you know, the—the writing will fade away entirely in a few days?"—Chicago Tribune.