

outburst of applause and cheering which lasted an hour and twelve minutes. Winfield S. Hammond of Minnesota, by courtesy of Connecticut, nominated Governor John A. Johnson, and Irving F. Handy of Delaware nominated Judge George A. Gray. Immediately after the adoption of the platform the convention began balloting for its Presidential candidate, and Bryan was nominated at 3:10 a. m. of the 10th by the following vote on the first ballot:

For Bryan	892½
For Johnson	46
For Gray	59½

The nomination was made unanimous; and on the same day, after a recess until afternoon, John Worth Kern of Indiana was nominated for Vice President by acclamation.

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Upon being advised by wire of his nomination, Mr. Bryan, at his home at Fairview, near Lincoln, at half-past three in the morning, responded to the request of the newspaper correspondents for a statement, with the following speech:

The Presidency is the highest official position in the world, and no one occupying it can afford to have his views upon public questions biased by personal ambition. Recognizing his responsibility to God and his obligations to his countrymen he should enter upon the discharge of his duties with singleness of purpose. Believing that one can best do this when he is not planning for a second term, I announce now, as I have on former occasions, that if elected I shall not be a candidate for re-election. This is as purely a nomination from the people as it can be and if elected my obligations will be to the whole people. I appreciate the honor more because it comes not from one person or from a few persons, but from the rank and file of the Democratic party, acting freely and without compulsion.

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Labor in Chicago Politics.

Plans for getting out a heavy labor vote at the direct primaries in Chicago on the 8th of August (p. 347) were made on the 12th by the presidents and secretaries of a majority of the labor unions of Cook County, representing 75,000 trade unionists. They are to act with reference to both the Democratic and the Republican parties. An address which was adopted gives the following reasons why labor unionists should vote at the primaries for the candidates endorsed by the Federation. It reads:

1. The men you send to the legislature make the laws that oppress and rob you.
2. The judges you elect interpret those laws in the interest of corporations, issue injunctions at the command of your bosses and send our men to jail for contempt of court at the dictation of corporation lawyers.
3. The city and county officials chosen by your

ballots are the cringing creatures of political machines, controlled by party bosses, and owned by trusts and corporations.

4. The labor organizations of this city have been forced to expend more than \$150,000 in the last six years to keep their members out of jail and to preserve their unions, owing to the fact that the State's Attorney's office was against us and in the hands of the enemy.

5. The new primary law gives you the power to change this, and the political action committee of the Chicago Federation of Labor, composed of your representatives, has selected the inclosed named candidates and asks that you get out and work and vote for them so that the workingman may get a square deal for himself, his family, and his organization.

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Relations with Venezuela.

A further step in what seems to be a process of severing all diplomatic relations between the United States and Venezuela (p. 325), was taken on the 9th by the Venezuelan chargé d'affaires, at Washington, Senor Veloz. Calling by appointment at the State Department, he presented formal notice that he is instructed by his government to close up the Venezuelan legation at Washington and return to Venezuela. As Senor Veloz informed the Department that the files and papers of the Venezuelan legation would be placed in the custody of the Venezuelan consul general in New York, it is inferred that the Venezuelan government will follow the precedent established by the United States in Venezuela, in refraining from interfering with trade by closing the consulates, notwithstanding the breach in diplomatic relations.

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An International Steel Trust.

The Iron and Steel Trades Journal of London announced on the 10th, the completion of an international steel trust by an agreement under which about three-fourths of the world's output of steel will be controlled. The United States is represented by the great Steel corporation, which controls the American output of 23,000,000 tons and has the mammoth capitalization of \$1,000,000,000; Belgium is represented by that country's larger plants, with an annual output of about 1,250,000 tons; Russia is represented by three great concerns with an output of about 2,000,000 tons; Germany is represented by four of the largest manufacturers of steel, producing a great part of the Empire's annual output of 11,000,000 tons. The world's annual production of steel in 1907 was in the neighborhood of 50,000,000 tons, and of this the new combine will control about 35,000,000 tons.

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Nationalism Struggles in Persia.

The Shah's troops under Rachin Khan entered Tabriz, the center of the Nationalist movement

(p. 348), on the 9th, and began bombardment of the quarter where the Nationalists were massed. They are reported to have telegraphed the Shah for amnesty. Of the radicalism of Tabriz the London Nation of June 27 says: "The capture of Teheran would not necessarily settle everything. It is an isolated town, with no ancient associations. The real power of the popular movement is at Tabriz, among the sturdier and denser population of the Northwest, which is Turkish by race and language. One does not readily picture the genuine Persians of the South, whom Professor Browne has described for us—the literati who talk mysticism in rose gardens while they are sober, and sheer atheism when they are drunk—making a formidable revolution. But the Turko-Persians, like all peoples of Tartar stock, are positive, worldly and Philistine." The New York Nation lays the blame for the Shah's reactionary backsliding upon the activity of the Russians within the "sphere of influence" which they have held in the northern half of Persia by the Anglo-Russian agreement as to Central Asia ratified last September (vol. x, p. 613). The Nation asks: "Would the Shah have delivered his coup d'état, would the parliament have been dispersed, its leaders massacred, and the Constitution itself imperilled, if Great Britain had not practically agreed to give Russia a free hand with the Shah?" Continuing, it recalls that "it was under British auspices largely that the Persian liberal movement attained its first victories. The famous secession of 10,000 of Teheran's leading citizens, three years ago, which forced the late Shah to grant a Constitution, was to the grounds of the British Legation. From that it is a long step to having the Shah place his pickets about the British Legation and enforce the power of search on its inmates." Since the foregoing was written the Shah, through his minister of foreign affairs, has formally apologized for the picketing of the legation by the Cossacks. These Persian Cossacks, the London Nation explains, are native troops, organized and commanded by Russian officers. The New York Nation further says that "unless Great Britain shows by unmistakable action that she does not consider the terms of her agreement with Russia tantamount to the establishment of a Russian protectorate over Persia, she will lay herself open to the charge of having betrayed the cause of constitutional government and progress in the Middle East."

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The English "Daylight Bill."

A bill which was greeted in the House of Commons at its introduction in March with derision, and about which there has been disseminated much misinformation, has been steadily forging ahead to a point where it seems to command serious consideration. As worked over and modified by committees it now proposes that on four Sun-

day mornings in April all clocks in the United Kingdom shall be put ahead 20 minutes—80 minutes in all; and that on four corresponding Sundays in September all the clocks shall be put back 20 minutes—getting back to normal time. The desired result would be that all labor regulated by common hours would get onto a summer basis of being done an hour and twenty minutes earlier in the day, taking thereby greater advantage of the long morning daylight of summer, and giving at the other end of the day a much longer time for recreation by daylight than normal time allows for. While the manifest disadvantages of such a system would be about the same for one civilized country as for another, it must be remembered that the advantages would be very much greater in countries of the high latitudes of the British Isles, than in the United States.

NEWS NOTES

—The American Zionists opened their eleventh annual conference on the 10th.

—The Russian Douma (p. 326) was adjourned by imperial ukase on the 11th, to meet again October 28.

—The will of the late President Cleveland (pp. 316, 323) was probated at Princeton, N. J., on the 10th.

—The Atlantic-Pacific squadron (p. 253) left San Francisco on the 7th for their voyage across the Pacific. Honolulu will be their first stop.

—It is reported that in the Finnish parliamentary elections (p. 39), the results were as follows: Socialists, 84; Suonettarians (Old Finns), 54; Constitutionalists, 50; Agrarians, 10; Christians, 2.

—The pageants celebrating the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Quebec by Samuel de Champlain, are to begin on the 19th, and are arranged to last throughout the rest of the month (p. 229).

—Martin R. Preston, who was nominated for President of the United States by the Socialist Labor party while serving a twenty-five year term in a Nevada prison (p. 346), has declined to accept the nomination. In declining by telegram he said: "I leave it to the generous men who nominated me to understand my reasons for declining."

—The elections of the little Republic of Panama (p. 275), in spite of fears of disorder, passed off quietly. A few days in advance of the elections, the Constitutional candidate, Ricardo Arias, did the unusual thing of withdrawing from the field, and the Independent candidate, Domingo de Obaldia, was therefore elected absolutely without opposition.

—The Supreme Court of Iowa held on the 7th that the Constitutional limitation of suffrage to males so far as participation in elections is concerned applies only to such elections as are held for the choice of public officers and does not apply to referendums. It consequently decided that the Iowa law giving women the right to vote on propositions for levying taxes and issuing bonds is valid, and accordingly sets aside an election held in Des