

tion of the party to farmers, was referred to a special committee. On Monday James F. Carey of Massachusetts presided, and a motion to do away with the committee on trade unions was hotly debated and defeated. The committee on platform chosen on the 11th consists of A. M. Simons of Illinois, Morris Hillquit of New York, Ernest Unterman of Idaho, James F. Carey of Massachusetts, John M. Work of Iowa, Stanley Clark of Texas, Victor L. Berger of Wisconsin, Guy E. Miller of Colorado, and A. Brannselter of Oklahoma. An attempt to establish the two-thirds rule for nominations was on the same day overwhelmingly defeated. On the 12th Delegate Slayton of Pennsylvania was elected chairman of the convention for the day, and Wm. D. Haywood, who has been prominently mentioned as the candidate for President, submitted a signed statement to the convention declaring that he will not allow his name to go before it.

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The Cleveland Traction Strike.

The threatened strike disturbance in connection with the Cleveland traction settlement (p. 132) was renewed last week. It was threatened by the employes of the old monopoly company and opposed by those of the old low fare company. The contest was at bottom between these two sets of men, the former having induced the national organization to withdraw their charter from the latter and annul the wages contract between them and the low fare company. This left in existence an agreement between the old monopoly company and its men, evidently made with a view to influencing them as citizens in favor of extending its expiring franchises. It allowed an increase of wages to the amount of 2 cents an hour—1 cent more than the low fare men have always had—but not to take effect until its franchises were extended. Upon the settlement of the traction question these men claimed the 2-cent increase, instead of the increase of 1 cent which the municipal company offered so as to make all wages equal to what the low fare company had been paying. The municipal holding company offered to arbitrate all questions—the legality and morality of the 2-cent agreement as against the municipal company, and the validity of the national union's annulment of the low fare company's agreement. The employes of the old company refused at first to arbitrate any question but the legality of the 2-cent agreement; but after many interviews they assented on the 9th to arbitration of all phases of the dispute.

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San Francisco Welcomes the Atlantic-Pacific Fleet.

The combined Atlantic and Pacific fleets of the American navy (p. 84) steamed through the Golden Gate into San Francisco Bay on the morn-

ing of the 6th. The citizens of San Francisco and Oakland and the clustering towns of the bay, with thousands of visitors from farther away, gave themselves up to sight-seeing and holiday-making. As the ships bore down upon the straits thousands lined the shores from the "seal rocks" to the Presidio, and spread up the hills of the city, on the south side of the Golden Gate, and thousands more had climbed the steep slopes of Mt. Tamalpais on the north side. In all an estimated total of a million sightseers had gathered to see the ships. On the 7th 8,000 sailors and marines were landed, and marched through the streets in parade. On the 8th the combined fleets were reviewed by Victor H. Metcalf, the Secretary of the Navy. Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, in command, who had suffered severely from rheumatism during the cruise, and had been obliged to absent himself from the fleet while it lay in Magdalena Bay, was unable to lead the ships during the review. With that event his active career was in any case to have ended, Rear Admiral Chas. M. Thomas having been deputed to take charge of the fleet until the 15th, when Rear Admiral Chas. N. Sperry relieves him.

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Old Age Pensions in Great Britain.

The annual budget presented to the House of Commons (p. 134) on the 7th by the new Premier, Mr. Asquith, in his capacity as the retiring Chancellor of the Exchequer, showed that the national debt had been reduced by approximately \$90,000,000 during the past year. If a further reduction of about \$75,000,000 should be effected during the current year, as is expected, the national debt of Great Britain would stand at the same amount as twenty years ago. In three years between \$200,000,000 and \$250,000,000 of the debt had been paid. The increase in the debt was due to the enormous cost of the South African war.

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The matter of old age pensions had been the most anticipated point of the report. Mr. Asquith announced that it had been decided to rule out all contributory schemes, and provide pensions from the national treasury. A universal scheme of pensions was outside the range of practical politics. In order that lunatics, criminals and persons now receiving poor law relief should be ineligible it had been decided to start with a pension of \$1.25 a week to persons over 70 years of age in possession of incomes under \$130 a year. It had been estimated that the pensioners will not exceed 500,000, and that the cost of the system in operation will be something like \$30,000,000 a year. If this was socialism, Mr. Asquith declared, it was socialism that both parties accepted.

A bill repealing the Irish (p. 11) Coercion act of 1887 passed its second reading in the House on the 8th, by a vote of 201 to 7. Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, strongly supported the measure, declaring the Coercion act to be unconstitutional and intolerable. He maintained that Ireland as a whole was law abiding, and said that any attempt to govern Ireland by coercion would be political insanity.

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The by-elections occurring on account of the cabinet changes (p. 109) have been a strain on Liberal prestige. At the election at Wolverhampton on the 5th, to fill the vacancy in the House caused by the elevation of Sir Henry Fowler, Chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, to the peerage, the Liberal candidate managed to retain his seat by a majority of 8 in a total vote of 9,020. In the last election Sir Henry Fowler had a plurality of 2,865. Winston Spencer Churchill, defeated at Manchester (p. 109), stood again at Dundee, in Scotland, which has been Liberal for a quarter of a century. After a short, sharp contest, in which the Labor party used arguments relating to the industrial depression, and the suffragettes adopted bell-clanging tactics for breaking up the meetings of the unconverted candidate, Mr. Churchill won on the 9th, with a greatly reduced Liberal plurality. The vote stood: Winston Spencer Churchill (Liberal), 7,079; Sir George Baxter (Unionist), 4,370; Mr. Stuart (Laborite), 4,014; Mr. Strymeour (Prohibitionist), 655. Mr. Churchill was doubtless aided by the announcement in the budget of the day before, that the duty on sugar was to be remitted, for Dundee is the center of the jam industry.

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The Douma Debates the Jewish Question.

During a debate in the Douma (p. 110) on the 8th, on the question of recruits for the Russian army for 1908, Mr. Zameslovsky urged the exclusion of Jews from the army, adducing the pernicious influence of the Jewish anti-government propaganda with the rank and file of the army. Mr. Krupensky moved to strike Jewish recruits from the conscript list, imposing upon them instead a poll tax in favor of the invalid pension fund. Mr. Roditcheff (vol. x, p. 856), the Constitutional Democratic leader, in an impassioned defense of the Jews, branded Russia's treatment of them. During his speech he was interrupted constantly by angry rejoinders. The dispatches report him as declaring that the congestion in the Ghetto pale and the inhuman treatment of the Jews for centuries were the criminal causes of Jewish bodily defects. The sole remedy he declared was to lift the disabilities of the Jews. He ridiculed the complaint that the Jews were re-

sponsible for Russia's catastrophes. They were forbidden to join the corps of officers of the army or navy, he said, and they were in nowise guilty for the defeat of the Russians at Mukden and in the battle in the Eea of Japan. Mr. Roditcheff contrasted conditions in Russia with those in Great Britain, where generals and admirals of Jewish extraction had attained distinction.

NEWS NOTES

—The new young King of Portugal, Manuel (p. 133), took the oath to support the constitution on the 6th, and was formally proclaimed sovereign of Portugal and the Portuguese possessions.

—The most destructive of a series of tornadoes (p. 110) extending from Gainesville, Texas, to southern Wisconsin, wrecked nine villages in Oklahoma and two in Illinois on the 11th. The number of known dead is ten.

—The second International Conference on State and Local Taxation (vol. x, p. 804) is called to meet in Toronto, Canada, from the 6th to the 9th of October next, under the auspices of the National Tax Association, of which Allen Ripley Foote of Columbus, Ohio, is president.

—At the organization of the Milwaukee charter convention, composed of 16 Socialists and 33 delegates from other parties, Carl D. Thompson, Socialist, was elected temporary secretary, and Messrs. Berger and Welch, Socialists, were assigned to the committee on plan of procedure.

—By referendum vote just completed, the 55,000 miners in the Illinois coal fields accept by a majority of 10,000 the employment agreement for two years submitted by the joint convention of operators and miners. By this agreement the miners are to pay "shot-firers," a requirement they have long contested.

—The North and West Side street car men of Chicago, by a vote of 4,416 to 96, on the 10th declared for a strike unless certain men who have refused to pay their dues to the organization—are discharged by the company. This decision will be submitted to a special meeting of the union and also to President John M. Roach of the Chicago Railways Company.

—A Philadelphia magistrate, James E. Gorman, has held for trial at the criminal court two policemen—Sergeant Kennedy and Officer Osterhout—for breaking up a Socialist meeting, last month. The Sergeant was held on a charge of inciting to riot in directing the police to clear the hall, and the officer on a charge of assault and battery in obeying the Sergeant's orders.

—A woman suffrage bill has been introduced in the Philippine Assembly (vol. x, p. 1069), and it is believed that it may pass the lower house. It provides that a woman to vote must be 25 years old. A married woman must have the consent of her husband in writing before she will be allowed to cast her ballot. Women under the care of parents must have the parents' consent, also in writing. There