

Democratic 183,000, Republican 150,000, Progressive 50,000, Independent 50,000, Socialist 45,000, Prohibition 3,500. Of aldermanic candidates definitely pledged to work for tax reform, the following were elected: John N. Kimball, Ernest M. Cross, Hugo Krause, and M. P. Dempsey. Eighteen of the thirty-six Aldermen elected had the indorsement of the Municipal Voters' League and sixteen, the indorsement of the United Societies. In the twenty-seventh ward the Socialist candidate, John C. Kennedy, received a plurality of the male vote over his nearest opponent, the Independent, Oliver I. Watson. The vote was 5,020 to 4,495. But Watson received 3,391 women's votes against 2,206 for Kennedy, and thus overcame the adverse male Socialist plurality. Under the Public Policy law two questions were voted on. One for a \$134,000,000 bond issue to build a subway throughout the city. On this the vote stood: for, 115,692; against, 264,400. The other was for home rule in the regulation of public utilities. On this the vote was: for, 176,850; against, 168,682. [See current volume, pages 131, 157, 316, 344.]



Local elections throughout Illinois on April 7 were mainly contests on the liquor question. Twenty-two counties voted for prohibition, making a total of fifty-two dry counties in the State out of 102; 115 wet townships voted to become dry and one dry one to become wet. Bloomington, Elgin, Galesburg, Decatur, Freeport and other important cities voted to become dry. [See vol. xvi, p. 1093; current volume, page 300.]



The election on April 7 in the Seventh New Jersey District for a successor to former Congressman Robert G. Bremner, Democrat, resulted as follows: Dow H. Drukker, Republican, 10,469; O'Byrne, Democrat, 5,143; Demarest, Socialist, 5,118; Whitehead, Progressive, 611. At the election of 1912 the vote stood: Democratic, 9,990; Republican, 6,666; Progressive, 4,746. [See current volume, pages 149 and 339.]



The proposition in New York State for a Constitutional convention in 1915 carried at the election on April 7 by about 25,000 majority. Delegates to the convention will now be elected in November.



Gifford Pinchot's Platform.

In announcing his candidacy for the Senatorial nomination of the Washington party (as the Progressive Party in Pennsylvania is officially called), Gifford Pinchot declares that "this country belongs of right to its inhabitants." He pledges himself as follows:

I believe in the Conservation of Human Rights. If nominated and elected, I will work for:

The destruction of private monopoly in natural resources or the products of industry. The power of the monopolists lies in exclusive privileges. To end their power to raise the cost of living, their exclusive privileges must be destroyed. That is our greatest task.

The regulation of all large corporations not monopolies. Honest competition and fair dealing with the public must be assured.

The right of workmen to organize in unions, and by every fair means to compel recognition of such unions by employers. Only through their unions can the workmen meet the employers on equal terms.

A constitutional convention in Pennsylvania, so that our constitution may be adjusted to the needs of our time, and our system of taxation may be thoroughly revised.

A protective tariff which shall equalize the conditions of competition between the United States and foreign countries, and which shall be based upon the findings of a non-partisan scientific commission. The tariff must be taken out of politics.

A sharply graduated inheritance tax. Swollen fortunes drain the public.

A law to prevent fraud in clothing. Honest clothes are more necessary than undoctored whiskey.

He further declares for a national conservation policy, for the Initiative, Referendum, Recall and Direct Primaries, and for the various palliative and restrictive laws usually contained in Progressive party platforms. [See current volume, page 158.]



A Pro-Trust Decision.

Federal Judges Gray, Buffington and McPherson, of the Third judicial circuit, decided at Trenton, New Jersey, on April 7, in a suit of the Federal Government against the Delaware and Lackawanna, that there is no law or decision prohibiting the same set of individuals holding stock in two distinct corporations, even though they may be engaged in kindred business. The decision makes it possible for railroad stockholders to form coal mining corporations and ship over their own roads without violating the law prohibiting common ownership of railroads and mines.



Tax Reform News.

Radical revision of the tax system of the District of Columbia was proposed by District Commissioner Oliver P. Newman on April 8 in an address before the Commercial Club of Washington. Mr. Newman proposed abolition of the half and half system of defraying the expenses of the local government. This system, he said, "cannot be justified in equity, from the standpoint of either the United States or the District of Columbia." Instead Mr. Newman proposes an arrangement whereby the Federal government shall contribute to local governmental expenses in proportion to the taxable property it owns in the same manner as a private property owner. Mr. New-

man presented figures showing the ownership of property in the District to be approximately as follows:

Land.	
United States	\$ 90,000,000
Private parties	225,000,000
Improvements.	
United States	\$210,000,000
Private parties	262,500,000

This does not include the public streets, the triangles and circles caused by intersections or Rock Creek park and Potomac park. It does include all other public parks and grounds about public buildings. Mr. Newman argues that the streets and parks excluded are such as any other city of the size of Washington would be expected to have and consequently should not be included in the taxable area. In raising local revenue he suggests that improvements be exempt from taxation since these "are the result of the energy and thrift of the individual for the manifestation of which he is now penalized." Before presenting the suggested change to the Commercial Club Commissioner Newman placed it in the hands of President Wilson for his consideration. [See vol. xvi, p. 633, current volume, page 253.]

About seventy-five property owners of Houston, Texas held a meeting on April 7 to express dissatisfaction with the Houston system. Resolutions were adopted protesting against increase of assessment, objecting to continuance of the Houston plan and urging return to old methods. On the other hand up to April 7, 9,092 property owners had signed the assessment roll, thus expressing approval of Tax Commissioner Pastoriza's assessments, and the approval of about two hundred more was expected. The objectors are nearly all large holders of vacant lots. Commenting on the protest, Mayor Ben Campbell was reported by the Houston Press as saying:

If that bunch of tax-dodgers doesn't like the Houston plan of taxation, I don't give a hang. This government is being run for the people now and the plan won't be changed. If any man has a just complaint, he can make it to the equalization board or the council. If it is found just, it will be cheerfully rectified. We invite such complaints. Our patience will never be exhausted attending to them.

Isn't everybody who has land faring alike? Isn't everybody who has houses faring alike? Isn't everybody who has money faring alike? There is absolutely no discrimination. The fact that everybody has been treated alike is what has caused the overwhelming majority to sign and be satisfied. And it has also caused a very few who want discrimination in their favor to be dissatisfied. Under our present system of taxation Houston has prospered like it has never done before. We have accomplished a great deal under our new form of taxation. One of the best features of the Houston plan is that it is no longer necessary for people to commit perjury when making their assessments. Men can be gentle-

men now when they do their assessing. It is no longer necessary for people to send their money to New York the last of December and have it sent here January 15 in order to keep from paying taxes on their money. It is my observation that some of those who are behind this new movement, trying to stir up trouble, have done little for the upbuilding of Houston, although many of them have been in a position to do so. There are some who wish to be parasites on the community and to get rich from the industry of others. These men who have purchased in Houston at extremely low figures in the past and who are now holding it for purely speculative purposes without improving it, do nothing for the advancement of Houston.

[See current volume, page 341.]

The Hennessy-Fisk home rule in taxation bill which had passed the New Jersey State Senate was defeated on April 8 in the House by a vote of 31 to 15. [See current volume, page 324].

Self-Government for Washington.

Congressman Warren Worth Bailey of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania district introduced on April 10 a bill to give local self-government to the District of Columbia. It amends the Act of June 11, 1878, under which the District is now governed by making the Commissioners elective instead of appointive, but otherwise makes the act the charter under which the District is to be governed. Amendments to the charter may be made through initiative petition of five per cent of the voters. In the same way a charter convention may be called.

Final Outcome of Mulhall Charges.

The Judiciary Committee of the House on April 7 voted to censure Congressman J. T. McDermott of Chicago for his part in the lobby scandal. It further decided to do nothing to punish the officials of the National Association of Manufacturers, holding that the House lacks power to inflict penalties on private citizens for acts of contempt during a previous session. [See current volume, page 323.]

On April 8 an anti-lobbying bill was introduced by Congressman Floyd of Arkansas by direction of the House Judiciary Committee. All lobbyists are required, under this bill, to register the names of the interests for which they are working. A penalty of a fine is provided for violations.

The Labor War.

The Supreme Court of Colorado on April 8 issued a writ of habeas corpus for the release of "Mother" Jones, held as a military prisoner at Walsenburg. The writ is returnable in ten days.