

thereby lessening the burden upon the farmers and home owners. The burden should be placed upon monopoly, where it belongs. Defeats are but incidents. Our next campaign has already begun. The truth may lose some battles but it never lost a war. My ambition in politics is to see the grasp of monopoly upon the people broken. I want to see the people own their streets, their street railroads, their water works and their lighting plant. In other words, I want soon to see the day when valuable public franchises will no longer be handed over to private interests to be manipulated for private profit.

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#### Presidential Politics.

Reports of the 16th from Washington were to the effect that all the delegates to the Republican national convention (p. 156) have now been elected and that the nomination of William H. Taft for President is indicated by a majority of 92 on the first ballot. According to the reported figures, 483 delegates are instructed for him, 68 were elected along with an endorsement of him, and 31 have declared for him, making a total of 582 for Taft, and leaving 227 pledged to other candidates, and 171 unpledged. There are 92 contests. Among the other candidates instructed for are Hughes, Cannon, Knox, Foraker, La Follette, Roosevelt and Fairbanks. A report of the 18th gives Taft's total strength at 614.

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In Democratic politics (p. 156) enough delegates have been instructed for Bryan to assure his nomination provided the States that have not yet acted shall instruct for him as it is now conceded they will. The New York Herald of the 18th gives his indicated total as 801, which is 129 more than the necessary two-thirds. The opposition to his nomination is noticeably dying down. At the Alabama primaries on the 18th, which Governor Johnson's managers expected to carry for Johnson, the vote was 3 to 1 for Bryan; and on the 19th both California and Washington instructed for him.

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#### The Socialist Party Convention.

The Socialist Party convention in session at Chicago (p. 156) nominated on the 14th Eugene V. Debs of Indiana for President of the United States, and Ben Hanford of New York for Vice-President. The candidates in opposition to Debs were A. M. Simons of Illinois, Carl D. Thompson of Wisconsin, and Wm. L. Carey of Massachusetts. With 152 votes for Debs the nomination was made unanimous. For Vice-President, Hanford received 106 votes, Seymour Stedman 43, May Wood Simons 20, and W. B. Slayton 15.

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A proposition to unite with the Socialist Labor party was defeated; seven organizers for the Southern States were authorized; a resolution was

adopted opposing stimulated immigration and providing for a committee to investigate the subject of Asiatic exclusion.

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The platform as adopted finally on the 17th, after several days' discussion between the opportunist and the academic factions, which was at times intense, is in the hands of a committee for literary revision. It will be given out for publication by this committee.

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The Convention adjourned finally on the 17th after a ratification meeting at Orchestra Hall on the 16th. The proceedings were meagerly and poorly reported by the local newspapers except the Daily Socialist.

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An episode relating to the disposition of the Chicago police to censor public meetings occurred early in the week's work of the convention. Arrangements had been made to exhibit lantern slide pictures on the outer wall of the convention hall. The exposure of some of these pictures was prohibited by Chief of Police Shippy on the ground that they made contrasts of poverty and wealth which might excite the populace to violent outbreaks. The censored views were as follows:

A picture of a bull dog. A picture of a poodle dog. A picture of the interior of a workingman's home. A picture of the home of W. K. Vanderbilt in New York. A bed line in the Bowery. A bed room in the St. Regis hotel. Unemployed men sleeping outdoors in winter on a grating. A private palace car. A man riding on the trucks under a freight car. The picture of a New Jersey judge. The banquet hall of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York. A coffee wagon. The Volunteers of America's bread wagon. Waiting for a free breakfast. Sleeping on the roof of a tenement house. Sleeping on fire escape of tenement, East Side, New York. A party of wealthy children. Two ragged little boys.

Two nights afterward the Socialists challenged the Chief of Police by exhibiting every view he had ordered suppressed, and displaying taunting lines along with each view. No arrests were made.

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#### The Labor Movement in Politics.

At the meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor on the 18th, practical steps were taken for influencing politics (p. 133) by action under the new primary law of Illinois in order to secure in both parties nominees friendly to organized labor. The report of a committee representing 25 unions was adopted, as follows:

That proper steps be taken to form an organization in every precinct in the City of Chicago for the purpose of securing the nomination of candidates for public offices who are friendly to organized labor. That the Federation elect or appoint a committee on political action, for the purpose of putting this plan into effect and for taking such other action as may