

forces of General Flores. The Carbajal delegates are reported at General Carranza's headquarters.



Changes in Geo. A. Fowlds' Route.

Some changes have been made in the itinerary of Honorable George A. Fowlds of New Zealand, who is visiting this country and will address a number of meetings. He will be in Montreal on August 10; Quebec, August 11; Ottawa, August 12 and 13; Toronto, August 14; Niagara Falls, Rochester and Wyoming, N. Y., on August 15 and 16; Chicago, August 17 and 18; Milwaukee, August 19 and 20; Arco, Minnesota, August 21, 22 and 23; Minneapolis, August 24; Winnipeg, August 25; Shellmouth, August 26; Calgary, August 27; Edmonton, August 28 and 29; Vancouver, August 31, September 1 and 2. Thence to New Zealand. [See current volume, page 709.]



Governor Sulzer for Home Rule.

Former Governor of New York William Sulzer, now a candidate for re-election, gave assurances on July 28 to a committee of Singletaxers and to the Lower Rent Society that he is heartily in favor of Home Rule in Taxation and of the untaxing of industry. He gave this committee a signed statement to the effect and urged that other gubernatorial candidates be challenged to debate with him. [See current volume, page 709.]



Protest Against Pending Water Power Bill.

The National Conservation Association on July 26 through its president, Gifford Pinchot, issued a public statement concerning the Adamson water power bill now pending in Congress. Mr. Pinchot said in part:

Every friend of Conservation will receive with keen disappointment the recent announcements from the White House that the Administration endorses the Adamson Dam Bill in its amended form. This is an unfortunate and needless surrender to the power interests on the threshold of victory for the people. . . . In a statement on June 1 I called attention to the fact that the Adamson bill was much more favorable to the water power interests than to the public interest. It was precisely the kind of bill the power people wanted. It did not protect the public, and therefore was indefensible. This was fully proved when the bill came before the House for consideration during the first week in July. Its most important provisions are in conflict with the present Dam Act and the policies now in force in the Departments of Agriculture and of the Interior. The recent amendments to the bill, approved at the White House conferences, unbelievable as it may seem, fail to bring the bill into line with these policies. The bill as it stands is a thoroughly bad bill.

It does not require the power companies to pay to the public for the valuable privileges they receive.

After the seven years' fight to make the power

interests adequately compensate the Government for special privileges, they are now invited to help themselves to what they may choose on our navigable streams. . . . It does not protect consumers within the States from extortion in case the State Governments fail to act.

It makes substantially impossible the taking back of the public rights granted even when the ostensible fifty-year period of the grant has expired.

It gives the water power people the right to saddle the Government with the unearned increment in land values if it ever should succeed in resuming its rights.

It would apparently require the Government to take over the whole electric lighting plant of a city in order to get possession again of the water power owned by the people, if that power were the source from which the lighting plant was supplied.

This bill prevents the amendment or repeal of a grant or franchise except when Congress "determines that the conditions of consent have been violated." The Conservationists have always insisted that the grant should be made for a definite period, and that fifty years was a reasonable period. The Adamson bill provides that the grant shall be for "fifty years from and after the date of the completion of the dam described in the original approval, and after the expiration of said fifty years such rights shall continue until compensation has been made to said grantee for the fair value of its property." This is substantially an indeterminate grant, and clearly not a grant for a fifty year period, for the grantee, at the end of the grant, can by litigation of the question of "fair value" not only extend the grant to an indefinite period but also tie the hands of Congress.

The Adamson bill in its present form is full of jokers, and is lacking in important safeguards to protect the public interest. . . . Its passage would be a sweeping victory for the water power monopolists. [See current volume, page 9.]



Nebraska Politics.

State conventions of the Democratic, Progressive and Republican parties were held in Nebraska on July 28. The Democratic convention endorsed the record of Senator Hitchcock and of the Democratic congressmen. On state matters the platform endorses the pending constitutional amendments giving the legislature greater latitude in selecting subjects for taxation, and allowing five-sixths of a jury to render a verdict in civil cases and in criminal cases involving less than felonies. The Progressive convention declared for home rule in taxation for cities and public ownership of public utilities. It also endorses the pending constitutional amendments. It further declared for presidential primaries, majority votes on all measures submitted under the Initiative and Referendum, Equal Suffrage, the short ballot, the recall of all elective officers and of judicial decisions, preferential voting, simplification of the direct primary, a progressive inheritance tax and a graduated state income tax "discriminating sharply