

**The Saratoga Conference.**

At the Democratic conference for New York (p. 794) held at Saratoga on the 9th and 10th, Alton B. Parker was chosen temporary chairman. Both he and Thomas M. Osborne, who as chairman of the provisional executive committee, followed him in a speech, made it clear that the gathering was a conference and not a convention, and that its purpose was not to declare but to suggest policies for the Democratic party. This same idea was emphasized by Edward M. Shepard upon his taking the platform as permanent chairman. A telegram from William J. Bryan, read by Chairman Shepard, was as follows: "I trust the conference will strengthen the party by a straightforward declaration in favor of principles and policies acceptable to the rank and file of the party throughout the land. I am hoping for a strong indorsement of an income tax and for a specific demand for free raw material and a substantial reduction of the tariff on manufactured articles." The proposed declaration of principles, moved on the 10th by Andrew McLean, as chairman of the committee on plan, scope and address, was freely discussed. But the only dissension was over clauses relating to the income tax and the taxation of corporations. As finally adopted by the conference the declaration was as follows:

The Democrats assembled in conference at Saratoga Sept. 9 and 10, 1909, announce the following as their understanding of certain essential Democratic principles and policies:

A strict construction of Constitutions, both State and Federal, that the rights of the State and people respectively may be preserved.

Loyal support of the Federal government in the exercise of all its Constitutional powers; eternal vigilance in watching and detecting, and vigorous and persistent opposition to any and all extensions of Federal power that trench upon those reserved to the States or to the people.

A tariff for revenue only; no government subsidies to special interests, either directly or through protective tariffs.

Equal and uniform taxation, taking no more from the people than the just needs of government, economically administered, require.

The abandonment at the earliest moment practicable of our imperialistic venture in the Philippine Islands, first safeguarding their independence by sufficient guaranties.

Steady adherence to the principle of home rule and local self-government by the State and each of its political subdivisions.

Rigid economy in government expenditures.

Election of United States Senators by the direct vote of the people.

Reform in our registration and in enrollment laws, so that personal registration and enrollment shall be required in every political subdivision of the State.

Reform in our methods of election, so that each elective officer shall be the separate, deliberate, and intelligent selection of the voters of the State.

Reform in our methods of nominating candidates for public office so that nominating conventions shall be composed of Representatives directly chosen by the members of the party.

Reform in our primary laws so as to give to every citizen greater direct influence in naming candidates for office, and surrounding the primaries with such safeguards as will insure their honesty and providing the necessary time and legal machinery to insure the choice of a majority of the voters being respected and enforced, in convention and committee.

No interference with the personal liberty of any citizen except such as is essential to secure the equal rights of all the citizens.

Taxation of corporations by the State alone.

A Constitutional amendment authorizing the levy of a Federal income tax.

Enforcement of Federal and State laws against criminal trusts and combinations in restraint of trade.

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**Free Speech Campaign.**

Under the protection of the Free Speech Committee (210 East 13th street, New York City) Emma Goldman is making a tour of the country testing the American right of free speech. In some places this right has been grossly violated by the authorities; in some it has been protected, and in others—as on the occasion at East Orange, N. J., (pp. 532, 580, 660)—the unlawful acts of the police have been circumvented by public spirited citizens who, though not in sympathy with the Goldman doctrines of anarchism, are practical believers in the American doctrine of free speech.

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From Jacob Haussling, the Mayor of Newark, N. J., the Free Speech Committee received a response to their inquiries which breathes the old time spirit of the American ideal. Mayor Haussling wrote:

I have no official knowledge of anything tending to show that there will be an attempt to suppress the exercises of free speech by the speaker [Emma Goldman] or by anybody else in connection with the meeting, but I can assure you that if there were any such intention on the part of any of the police authorities it will not be carried out. I will not permit any interference with the rights of free speech or public assemblage while I am Mayor of this city.

Quite in contrast with Mayor Haussling's letter was the action of James E. Burke, the Mayor of Burlington, Vt. Without the slightest knowledge of what the lecturer intended to say except that she was to lecture on anarchism, and apparently with no knowledge of what anarchism means, Mayor Burke adopted the un-American method of preventing her from discussing what he called "her un-American doctrines." He first withdrew the city hall from her use, and then, supported by policemen, stationed himself at the door of a private hall her agent had hired, and "in the

name of peace, of society, and of law and order" forbade her entering.

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At Providence, the Goldman lecture was not interfered with, but the police exercised the astonishing authority of forbidding the charge of an admission fee. More or less difficulty has been encountered through these police interferences, but during the summer the right of free speech in this connection has been acknowledged in at least 10 places; and the committee announces that, beginning with September 22, specific tests of the right will be made in important cities where the police have heretofore unlawfully interfered. Among the cities selected for these tests are Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Buffalo, Indianapolis and Chicago.

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Worcester, Massachusetts, is one of the places where the intervention of public spirited American citizens thwarted the unlawful interference of the local police. The Rev. and Mrs. Eliot White, though holding opposite opinions to Miss Goldman's, intervened to secure to her the right of free speech and to their fellow townsmen the right of free assemblage. Local hall owners had been so intimidated by the police that it was with difficulty a hall was secured for a Goldman lecture for September 8; and after one had been secured, the owner canceled his contract because he was threatened by the police with revocation of his hall license. In this emergency Mr. and Mrs. White threw open their home in the outskirts for the lecture. Thereupon 19 policemen were sent out for the "protection of property," a service which they performed by roughly rushing the assembled men and women from the lawn; but this was stopped by Mr. White, as soon as he could make the police lieutenant understand that the "trespass" was desired by the property owner. The people were then invited back to the lawn, and here Emma Goldman delivered her lecture, which the police of so many places are for some occult reason so keen to suppress. Describing the event Mr. White writes:

Then ensued the remarkable event of a lecture on the topic, "What Is Anarchism?" by Miss Goldman, from an improvised platform under the summer stars, with an audience of 300 Worcester citizens and 19 attentive policemen, who offered no slightest remonstrance to the speaker's keen criticisms of the authorities and the detailed expositions of philosophical anarchy. The local press acknowledged it a victory for the upholders of free speech. The morning paper reported the lecture well, and now Worcester is trying to discover why permission should have been denied in the first place to set forth this technical economic doctrine, and why when denying it categorically the authorities should not have foreseen the helpless submission they would have to make to

that supreme American talisman—private property right.

The following resolutions were passed by the Worcester Free Speech Committee, Sept. 9, 1909:

Resolved, that as citizens of Worcester, we seriously regret that the Mayor should have abdicated his office recently in favor of the Chief of Police, on a question so vital not only to Worcester but to the country at large, as the denial of the constitutional right of free speech in this city. And, that we hereby register our thoro disapproval of the procedure of the Chief of Police and acting mayor, in arbitrarily refusing his permission to Miss Emma Goldman to exercise a right guaranteed by the Federal Constitution to all the people without discrimination. And, that we regret the absence of Mayor Logan and Chief Matthews from the lecture on Anarchism delivered in this city by Miss Goldman, where it would have been possible for them to gain personal knowledge of the doctrines of the speaker and the spirit in which she sets them forth; such knowledge being we believe very necessary for dealing intelligently with possible situations in the future, similar to that just handled in such an un-American and unconvincing manner.

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#### End of the McKee's Rocks Strike.

After nearly two months of conflict, the McKee's Rocks strike (p. 847) is at an end, the strikers having returned to work. As reported in the dispatches, they were granted everything they asked save an increase in wages, which the company convinced them could not be given at this time because of slack business. It has promised, however, to restore the wage scale of 1907 as soon as business picks up. The last concession was made on the 7th, when it was announced by the employers that even the half dozen strike leaders would be given their old jobs if they chose to take them. But these men decided not to take chances. They say they will leave the neighborhood now that the strike has been won. Among the changes agreed to by the company are the following: No Sunday work hereafter; half holiday on Saturday; the promise of an increase in wages; the indefinite suspension of T. A. Farrell, chief of the company police; a printed list of prices to be exhibited in all departments, so the men will know exactly what they are to receive for piece work, and a guarantee that better conditions are to prevail throughout the mill.

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Relative to the peonage investigation the acting attorney general of the United States officially announced on the 11th that it does not appear from the evidence that a prosecution for violation of the so-called peonage law, or of the labor section of the immigration law, or of any Federal statute can be sustained; but that much of the testimony tends to show violation of the New York and Pennsylvania State law. He has addressed letters to Governors Hughes of New York, and