

That brokers be prohibited from dealing in the account of any clerk or subordinate employe of any bank, trust company, insurance company, or other moneyed corporation or banker.

"The most fruitful policy," according to the report, "will be found in measures which will lessen speculation by persons not qualified to engage in it."

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Charter-making in Colorado.

An organization of the charter convention of Grand Junction, Colo. (p. 589) was effected on the 12th with the election of James W. Bucklin as permanent president. The convention has, under the general charter law, until the 7th of August next for the completion of its work. This charter convention bids fair to be of intense general interest because, as there is reason to believe, it will go farther in the direction of establishing a practical municipal democracy than any charter-framing body has yet gone. The indications are that, while it will build in line with the Des Moines, Berkeley and Colorado Springs charters, and will go as far as either with reference to the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, it will go farther with reference to election methods. In an outline proposed by the president of the convention the following discussion of that subject appears:

The present election system has established partisan and machine politics in our cities; it also deprives the voter of his rights to express his preference between three or more candidates except for first choice, thereby frequently electing officials by minority vote. An improvement over this method was established by the Des Moines charter, of direct primary elections. That charter authorizes nominations by petition, but still deprives the voter of his right to vote except for his first choice. The Berkeley and Colorado Springs charters improved this plan of direct primaries by adopting from European countries the plan of second ballots, or second elections, and also included non-partisan petitions for nominations. But the Berkeley plan, like the Des Moines plan, included the expense and complication of two elections in all cases where any office did not secure a majority vote. The Idaho system of preferential voting secures and establishes a far more perfect and complete expression of the voter's will with a single election only, by permitting each elector not only to vote his first choice, but on the same ballot to vote also his preference between any other candidates. This preferential and non-partisan ballot, together with individual petitions for nomination, appears to be the best and least expensive system, and should become a part of our charter.

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Nullification of the Illinois Primary Law.

The third direct primary law of Illinois (vol. x, pp. 1039, 1112) was declared by the Supreme Court of the State on the 16th to be unconstitutional. The question came before the court in the cases of primary frauds (vol. xi, p. 895) institut-

ed by a special grand jury after the primaries in Chicago of a year ago. As the basis of its decision, the court, following previous decisions, holds that a primary law is an election law within the meaning of the Constitution and must therefore in no wise curtail the rights of voters. The court then holds that this law does curtail some of those rights, because (1) it makes no provision for registration within 30 days of the primary, and thereby disfranchises all persons qualified to vote at the time of the primary but not qualified at the last preceding election, all who had not registered for that election though qualified then to do so, and all who had meanwhile moved into other voting precincts; and because (2) it restricts the voter at the primary "to one vote for each of as many candidates as the Senatorial Committee has decided shall be nominated," in contravention of the Constitutional provision for cumulative voting.

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The Cleveland Traction Fight.

Date for the Cleveland referendum on the Schmidt traction ordinance (p. 585) was fixed by the City Council at its regular meeting of the 14th, a sufficient petition having been filed. To the petition filed at noon of that day by the Mayor there were 15,197 signatures, with 300 petitions yet to be heard from. The Chamber of Commerce filed one in the evening with 22,000 signatures, to which 5,000 more were added in the evening. The day fixed by the Council for the referendum is August 3d.

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At the same meeting the Council gave formal notice of the city's intention to revoke the low fare grants now held by the Cleveland Railway Company. These grants were made to low-fare companies prior to the settlement of a year and a half ago; and at the settlement they were turned over to the Cleveland Railway Company, which then leased all its franchises to the Municipal (or "holding") Company, which is now in the hands of receivers. A "gentleman's agreement" accompanied this transaction, under which the low-fare grants were to go back to the original low-fare companies, if for any reason the settlement failed. But the Cleveland Railway Company, although acknowledging the "gentleman's agreement," refuses to abide by it and claims to own the low-fare grants, notwithstanding that the settlement has failed through the refusal of the people to ratify it at the referendum last fall. It happens, however, that these grants are revocable on six months' notice, and it is this notice which the City Council has now given. It is understood that these revoked grants will be remade as additions to the Schmidt grant, if that is sustained at the referendum of August 3d. Mr. Schmidt stated in an interview in the Cleveland Press of the 16th that

most of the stockholders of the company to be formed on the grant to him, if it is confirmed by the referendum, will be those who held stock in the old low-fare companies.

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Immediately after the Council meeting on the 14th, Mayor Johnson went to a tent meeting at Superior avenue and 81st street, where he addressed a tremendous crowd on the pending referendum, in what the Plain-Dealer's report describes as "one of the most vigorous speeches he has made in years." In this speech he explained in detail the plans for securing public rights in the traction system.

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At the time of the next tent meeting, held on the 18th, Mayor Johnson was absent in New York, and the speakers were Councilman Bernstein, Peter Witt, and Newton D. Baker, the City Solicitor. Councilman Selzer presided. It was explained by Councilman Bernstein that arrangements have been made to grant extensions to the Schmidt ordinance which will enable the people at the referendum to vote for a 3-cent fare with universal transfers on 80 per cent of the present system. Mr. Baker addressed himself to an explanation of the Schmidt ordinance. He also defended the action of the Council in signifying its intention to revoke the old low-fare ordinances now held by the monopoly company. Mr. Baker "made no attempt," says the Plain-Dealer's report, "to explain or palliate the action. In vigorous terms he declared the proposed action to be right and just and holy rather than criminal, as charged. 'I abominate the Cleveland Railway Company directors who repudiated a plain gentlemen's agreement and now presume to hold the low-fare lines,' he said. 'I have told the directors so to their faces. But thank God for the revocable features of the grants. I am glad for any part I played in inserting the revocation clause in the ordinances. It is the evident belief of the railway company that it can steal the golden goose, put it into a bag and get away without any squawking. How mightily mistaken they are.'" Turning then from the pending ordinance to the record of Mayor Johnson in connection with the traction controversy, Mr. Baker took advantage of the Mayor's absence to pay "him a tribute," reports the Plain-Dealer, "with such a display of feeling and sincerity that the voices of enemies within the tent were stilled while friends of the city Executive shouted in their enthusiasm." Continuing, the Plain-Dealer's report makes this description and quotation:

Twice during his forensic effort the voice of the speaker broke with emotion. The City Solicitor approached a meed of praise for his chief that he could not well have pronounced were the Mayor

present, by detailing what depended upon the result of the referendum vote. He portrayed the bitterness and strife of the campaign just ahead. He told of how "venomous shafts of malice and hatred" would be aimed at the Mayor. He asked the people of Cleveland to stand by Mayor Johnson in "this, his greatest fight for the people." "But a few years await Mayor Johnson before the muffled pick will open the grave," said Mr. Baker. "He wants no monument of bronze or marble. But he does want a monument that will be his, if this great railway war is settled and settled right. It is up to the people of Cleveland to build this monument by standing by their guns in this campaign—to reward a man who has given everything for the people, to stand by the leader who has constantly bared his face where the blows were the thickest, to stand by a man whose enemies have assailed him with a venom almost beyond belief, a man who has lost rather than put together a fortune, a man whose family has all but been exiled because of the bitterness of this great fight.

NEWS NOTES

—In place of the late Edward Everett Hale, the Rev. M. G. Pierce, D. D., pastor of All Souls' Unitarian Church at Washington, of which President Taft is a member, was chosen Chaplain of the Senate on the 18th.

—Raymond Robins, one of the retiring members of the Chicago school board, is to deliver the oration at the graduating exercises of the Chicago Normal School, 68th street and Stewart avenue, on the 25th, at 10 a. m.

—The bill fixing a maximum price for public school books, passed by the Illinois legislature (p. 507), has become a law without the signature of the Governor. The Attorney General had advised him that it is unconstitutional.

—The jury in the case of Patrick Calhoun, the traction magnate, at San Francisco (p. 63), were discharged on the 20th without having agreed. They stood 10 for acquittal to 2 for conviction. The trial began on the 12th of last January.

—Henry George, Jr., who recently made a trip to Japan for Collier's (p. 300), is reported by Associated Press dispatches of the 19th from Tula, Russia, to be on his way home by the westward route and as being at that time the guest of Leo Tolstoy at Yasnaya Pollana.

—The ninth council of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches of the Presbyterian system, embracing 86 denominations, met at New York on the 15th with something more than 300 delegates from England, Scotland, Germany, France, Holland and other countries of Europe, and from the United States.

—The death of Louis Prang at Los Angeles on the 14th was reported in the Eastern papers two days later. Mr. Prang was past 85 years old, a native of Germany, a German revolutionist in '48, an American abolitionist in the '50's and '60's, a single taxer in his later years, and by profession a specialist in