

The Cleveland Traction Question.

A turn away from probabilities of an early settlement of the traction question in Cleveland (p. 803) is the latest report. The company refuses to make concessions on points which the Council regards as vital for the protection of the public.

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On the 17th the company submitted a communication proposing terms of settlement which the Council rejected, and on the 19th it made further offers. These were summarized by the Cleveland Press of the 19th as follows:

that all points in dispute be referred to Judge Tayler, the company agreeing to accept any provision he drafts covering these, the city to reserve the right to accept or reject Tayler's draft. The company agrees that arbitrators need not be "experts," but insists they must be "disinterested." The company concedes that the valuation shall be determined before instead of after the passage of the ordinance, and that the fixing of the maximum and initial rates of fare shall be postponed until the last. It also urges that Judge Tayler be sole arbitrator on valuations.

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The Council replied on the 19th. The first paragraph of the reply expresses the Council's understanding of the questions yet at issue:

You accept the city's contention upon the subjects of the time of fixing the valuation and maximum rate of fare. This leaves open for present discussion but three questions, the legal safeguards, the licensee provision, and limitations upon the selection of arbitrators.

As to arbitrators, the Council objects to the requirement of the company that they be "disinterested;" since that would exclude every citizen of Cleveland, and the Council considers it important that the arbitrators be local men. They accept Judge Tayler, a non-resident, as an arbitrator for valuation; but he has expressed an opinion on the question of safeguards for the city in the proposed franchise. For this reason the city objects to him as arbitrator on that question. The company insists upon having him. In these circumstances the Council offers to compromise by postponing to 1917 (the company wants 1919, the year suggested by Judge Tayler) the time when the city may take the property and pass it over to a licensee, upon paying the company at the rate of \$1.10, provided the company will recede from its demand for "disinterested"—that is, non-resident—arbitrators. As to the only remaining question, that of "safeguards," the Council quotes the company's communication where it reads, "We are willing that the safeguards to the city should be as good as the grant to the company," and says:

This, in the opinion of the Council, puts the city

and the company in absolute accord upon the thing to be done, and leaves open merely the question of method. . . . The Council will welcome a plan from any source which will carry out the principle upon which we have now agreed: "That the safeguards to the city shall be as good as the grant to the company."

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Mayor Johnson left Cleveland on the 21st for a week's vacation. During the interval Newton D. Baker, the City Solicitor, acts as chairman of the public meetings of the Council and city officials sitting publicly in committee of the whole for consideration of the traction question.

NEWS NOTES

—The Kootenay district in British Columbia is suffering from gigantic forest fires.

—William Travers Jerome announced publicly on the 23d, that he will be a candidate in November for re-election as District Attorney of New York.

—Mayor Brand Whitlock was nominated for a third term as mayor of Toledo, at the head of a full ticket for city officers, by the Independents in convention on the 25th.

—Arrangements are making in Spokane for join in the general celebration of Henry George's seventieth birthday on the 2d of September. The memorial address is to be delivered by the Rev. W. J. Hindley.

—The British Association for the Advancement of Science is to meet this year in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The sessions were announced to open on Wednesday of this week, with an address by Sir J. J. Thompson of Cambridge, England.

—The 43d convention of the National Peace Society (vol. x, p. 515) closed its sessions at Mystic, Conn., on the 18th. Alfred H. Love was re-elected president. Among the new vice-presidents are President Diaz of Mexico, and Professor Frederick Starr of Chicago.

—Alabama, the ninth State to be added to the original thirteen, is the first to approve the proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution which provides for an income tax. On the 17th Governor Comer signed the ratifying resolution recently passed by the legislature (p. 804).

—Leo Tolstoy's private secretary, Mr. Guseff, according to a news dispatch from Tula, Russia, under date of the 21st, has been exiled to the province of Perm for a period of two years, after having been found guilty of circulating Tolstoy's pamphlet, "Thou Shalt Do no Murder," which is a plea against the infliction of the death penalty.

—By a recent act of the Georgia legislature, signed by Gov. Brown on the 17th, the use by Negro secret societies of the insignia, ritualistic work, grips, etc., of orders composed of whites is prohibited. This law legislates out of existence the Negro organizations of Elks and Knights of Pythias, but the Negro Masonic and Odd Fellows organizations may continue in operation by changing their badges, rit-