

yesterday afternoon. Somewhere in the radius of a hundred miles of Lake Huron, dispatches indicate that the America II., the Swiss Helvetia and Azures, the French Isle de France and the German Harburg III., and Dusseldorf II., are keeping close company with the leader. H. E. Honeywell, in the balloon St. Louis No. 4, is thought to be well up in the front with the foreign aeronauts. Nothing definite had been heard at a late hour from Colonel Theodore Schaeck in the Helvetia or Lieutenant Messner in the Azures and nothing since early afternoon from Jacques Faure in the Condor. The latter is reported to have attempted the passage of Lake Michigan without success and to have drifted farther north along the Wisconsin shores. Nine of the ten balloons are still sailing. Six are known to have crossed Lake Michigan and others are thought to be flying across Lake Huron or to have passed into Canada. S. Louis von Phul, in the Million Population club, one of the three American entrants, was forced to descend at a point six and a half miles north of Racine, Wis., this morning at 7:25 o'clock because of a lack of ballast. Leaving Milwaukee and flying at a high altitude the aeronauts traversed a perilous stretch of more than 100 miles of water. The America II. passed over Manistee, Mich., during the afternoon and others were reported over Muskegon, Shelby and Pentwater. The Million club landed with eight bags of ballast in sight of Lake Michigan. The pilot, St. Louis von Phul, did not think he had a chance of crossing the water. Only one balloon, the Helvetia, a Swiss entry and winner of the 1908 race from Berlin, has not been seen or identified up to 12 o'clock noon. Four unidentified aerostats passed completely over Lake Michigan before noon. The balloons which passed into Michigan were more than 400 miles from St. Louis."

The German balloon, Germania, starting from St. Louis in the international balloon races, landed 179 miles north of Quebec. This is approximately 1,195 miles and may mean that all world's records have been broken. Three balloons, which started in the race, are reported missing in the wilds of Canada, and relief parties have been sent to their rescue.

The Vermont legislature re-elected unanimously, United States Senator C. S. Page.

The state of Massachusetts has a population of 3,366,416, according to the enumeration made in the thirteenth census as announced by the director of the census. This is an increase of 561,000, or 20 per cent, over the population of 1900, when the total was 2,805,346. The increase from 1890 to 1900 was 566,403, or 25.3 per cent. The population of Clay county, Neb., is 15,729, as compared with 15,735 in 1900 and 16,310 in 1890. The population of Rock Rapids, Ia., is 2,005, as compared with 1,766 in 1900 and 1,394 in 1890. In 1890 Massachusetts was the sixth state in the union in point of population, but in 1900 Texas forced Massachusetts into seventh place. Whether Massachusetts will retain seventh place in the 1910 census can not be determined until the report has been completed. Indiana is believed to be pressing close to Massachusetts for seventh place.

A Boston dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "The longest contested probate case in the world, it is claimed, was settled when William C. Russell of Melrose, declared that Daniel Blake Russell

of Dickinson, N. D., was his brother and co-heir with him to the \$500,000 estate of his father, the late Daniel Russell. The acknowledgment was made in writing and throws out the claims of the alleged Daniel Blake Russell, of Fresno, Cal. 'Fresno Dan' was publicly acknowledged as the long lost brother by William Russell last April at the conclusion of a trial in which the claims of 'Dakota Dan,' the Dakota claimant, were thrown out. 'Fresno Dan' had since lived in Melrose with William Russell as his brother. Efforts were made at the recent case, which lasted 123 trial days to prove that 'Dakota Dan' was James D. Rousseau, of Massena, N. Y. 'Dakota Dan's' attorney was State Senator Leslie A. Simpson, of Dickinson, N. D., and 'Fresno Dan's' lawyer was George N. Cartwright of Fresno, Cal."

Maxwell Edgar, a lawyer, brought suit against the Illinois Central Railroad company for \$10,000,000. He seeks to hold the directors of the road responsible for the losses to the stockholders through the graft recently exposed. Mr. Edgar charged that the directors of the Illinois Central were "dummy officials," who, he said, were elected by Charles A. Peabody, a director of the Union Pacific. He asked that suit be brought against Mr. Peabody and A. G. Hackstaff to recover bonds for \$50,000 and \$100,000 which, he alleged, belonged to the road. Presi-

dent Harahan said he attached no weight to Edgar's suit. The plaintiff in the suit is Mrs. Edgar, who owns two shares of stock in the railroad.

A Columbus, Ohio, dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "An amendment to the constitution of the church calling for the establishment of missionary districts along racial lines was voted down decisively by the house of deputies at the Episcopal triennial convention in session here. The negroes have long wanted a bishop of their own. The Rev. Joseph Dunn of the diocese of southern Virginia, in speaking against the adoption of the amendment said: 'The emancipation of the negroes was a dire disaster, as the negro at that very time was in need of all the teachings and help that could be given to him by his white brother. They lost all of this and the church has forty-five years of misguidance to undo.'"

The Rhode Island republican state convention met at Providence. It adopted resolutions giving an endorsement of the administration of President Taft and of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill and expressions of regret at the retirement of United States Senator Nelson W. Aldrich. Governor Pothier was renominated for a third term by acclamation. All the other state officers were unanimously renominated.

## A California Platform

Editor Commoner: I notice that you have been publishing progressive democratic platforms. I therefore take leave in sending you a copy of the platform adopted by the democratic convention of Stanislaus county held on the 27th day of August, 1910. The San Francisco Star in an editorial devoted to this platform in its issue of September 3 called it a model. The Stockton Mail in an editorial published September 6 called this platform "the most comprehensive of any in the state."

LEON YANCKWICK.

The following is a synopsis of the platform:

### National Affairs

1. We condemn the tariff adopted by the republican majority in congress. We assert that the tariff adopted is a burden on the consumers, and that in adopting it the republican party violated its promise made to the voters of the county. We repudiate the high protective system which fosters privileged monopoly and poverty. We assert our belief in free commerce, and declare revenue to be the only justification for a tariff. We are opposed to the taxation of the products of industry and prefer direct taxation of wealth and existing franchises and privileges to all other systems of taxation, and favor the tariff as a fiscal measure as an ultimate resort only.
2. We commend the attitude of the democratic representatives in congress, who, under the intelligent leadership of Champ Clark, fought for an honest revision of the tariff. We condemn the California representatives in congress who voted for the retention of the High tariff on necessities, and for the infamous wool and sugar schedules.

We condemn the democratic representatives in congress who voted for the retention of schedules which had been condemned by the party platform, and condemn the New York democratic members of the house who voted for the retention

of the autocratic rules of the house of representatives.

3. We assert our belief in the policy of conservation of the nation's resources, and favor the leasing of coal and mineral lands on a royalty basis.

4. We oppose the granting of privileges that would inure to the benefit of a few, and are opposed to the granting of ship or any other subsidies. We believe in free ships as one of the best means of restoring our merchant marine to its ancient glory.

5. We assert that it was not the intention of the framers of the anti-trust law to make it apply to the labor unions. The measure was intended to serve as a defense of the plain people against the rapacity of the trusts and monopolies. We therefore demand the amendment of the anti-trust law so as to prevent its application to labor organizations.

6. We favor the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people and a graduated income and inheritance tax.

7. We favor an employers' liability law for all employes engaged in interstate commerce, based on the principle of assumption of risk by the employer.

8. We favor strict regulation of railroads and other common carriers, and assert that when regulation has proved unsuccessful, government ownership of interstate railroads is the best solution of the railroad problem. We favor a parcels post.

9. We favor retrenchment of public expenditures, so that the expenditures may keep pace with the increase of the wealth of the nation.

10. We believe in international peace, international arbitration of disputes between nations, and favor retrenchment in expenditures for military purposes.

11. We favor the exclusion of all Asiatic laborers, including Hindoos.

### State Affairs

1. We assert the emancipation of the state government from corporate rule and the restoration of the government to the people, to be the par-



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