

Returns from the Florida election give Bloxham, Democratic candidate for governor, a plurality of 25,000. A constitutional amendment abolishing Oorober elections was ratified.

The telegraphers' strike on the Canadian Pacific has been declared off. A settlement was arrived at through a board of conciliation. The company agrees that all men will be taken back except those guilty of destroying property. It also agrees to recognize the Order of Railway Telegraphers and its members.

Seven men started in a skiff to cross the river from Canton, Mo., where they had been attending a political meeting. About fifty feet from the Illinois side the boat upset. John Reed, George Withrow and John Simms were drowned. All were in the government river service.

In a fog at Argentine, Kan., five east-bound Santa Fe trains were mixed up in a rear-end collision just outside the railway yards, the trains following each other closely. Several cars and two of the engines were wrecked, but miraculously enough no one was killed. Four persons were slightly injured.

A dispatch from Lowell observatory, Flagstaff, Ariz., announces that the astronomers of the observatory have discovered that the planets Mercury and Venus each turns once on its axis during one revolution of the sun, making the day just equal to the year on these planets. They find further that Venus is not cloud covered, as has been reported, but has about it a thick atmosphere, while Mercury has none.

It has been semi-officially announced in Constantinople that the Turkish government, after weighing the matter and consulting certain advisors, came to a decision not to admit the United States warship Hancock through the Dardanelles, and therefore she will not be able to act as the guardship of the United States legation in these waters. The porte, it is said, also decided not to admit the guardships of Greece and Holland.

The British ship Kilburn, which has just arrived in San Francisco, reports the loss of two of her crew on the voyage from Newcastle. She was only nine days out when she ran into a storm. The two men were sent aloft to stow away the topsail, and while they were so engaged a violent lurch caused John Anderson, a Swede, to lose his hold, and falling he struck against John Harvey, an American, knocking him off the yardarm and together they fell. Anderson was thrown into the sea and drowned and Harvey struck on the deck, but died in a few hours.

The killing of Frank Hepburn, son of Congressman Hepburn, at Chester, Ark., is now attributed to a political conspiracy. The first report stated that a duel was fought.

Lee Ah Mee, a waiter, was shot and instantly killed by unknown assassins in San Francisco, as a result of a high-binder war. Another shooting affair occurred the same evening, but no one was killed.

Three dead bodies have been taken from the Chicago river, and men are at work dragging the stream for more. The remains are those of infants and had been in the water for some time. The doctors assert that they had all been drowned, and it is thought that they have been the victims of a baby-farmer.

A fatal collision occurred on the Southern Pacific railway, half a mile south of Green's station, Oregon, resulting in the death of John McGonigle, of Portland, fireman, and A. N. Toy, a brakeman. Five others were seriously injured. The collision was due to a conductor's carelessness in mislaying his papers and orders.

Cases of poisoning from eating smoked whitefish continue to be reported from Wisconsin. At Merrill, in that state, Albert Radloff and another man died of poisoning. Twenty-five cases in all are reported from that town. Twenty additional cases are reported from Brotherton, on the east shore of Lake Winnebago, some of whom cannot recover. Milwaukee has also received her share, and fifty people have been poisoned in Oshkosh. The news is causing a panic among fish eaters and dealers.

For the third time in six months the Sonora stage has been held up, near Cloudman, Cal. Two masked men suddenly appeared on either side of the road and covering with shotguns the driver, ordered him to "hold up." He was then ordered to throw out the mail sacks and told to drive on. The mail sacks were rifled of registered letters and left on the road where they were subsequently found by the postmaster of Cloudman. The amount secured by the robbers is unknown, but is believed to have been large.

There has been a run on the society known as the Cuida Economica in Rio de Janeiro. The funds of the society are guaranteed by the government, but numerous persons withdrew their deposits. Coffee producers and exporters are greatly alarmed at the falling prices in Europe. The agricultural congress in San Paulo proposed the foundation of a bank for the needs of the rural depositors. Foreign capital, it is said, can be procured to open such an institution, and immediate steps will be taken to start it.

Secretary Herbert has awarded the contract for building one of the 30-knot torpedo-boats (the largest, of 250 tons), to the Union iron works, San Francisco, and the contract for two smaller 30-knot boats, upon the plans projected by the French builder, Normand, to the Bath iron works, of Maine, as recommended originally by the heads of bureaus of construction and steam engineering.

A nickel-in-the-slot machine, which takes an X-ray photograph of any object you choose, for the most sum of five cents, has been invented by a resident of Hartford, Conn.

Thousands Are Homeless.
Three-fourths of the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador, has been reduced to ashes by a fire which raged for twenty-four hours, sweeping everything in its path. Some estimate the financial loss at upwards of \$50,000,000. Many lives were lost in the fire, and 55,000 people are homeless. Two thousand houses, including every bank in the city, of which there are five, were burned. It is impossible from the present food supply there to feed all the victims, and the suffering will undoubtedly be great.

Chicago Day Celebrated.
Chicago day, the anniversary of the great fire twenty-five years ago, was celebrated in that city chiefly as a political holiday. Republicans and Democrats celebrated separately, each party having its own big street parade, as well as monster gathering indoors. Practically every factory and store in the city was closed, also the board of trade and banks. From early morning the streets were jammed with cheering thousands, struggling to gain some point of vantage.

An Overzealous Parson.
The Rev. Lang, an evangelist, who had been holding a revival at Seward, O. T., during one of his sermons declared "that all women who dance are immoral." A storm broke at once, and Lang was chased to the Santa Fe station by fifty enraged church members. At the station he was beaten almost to jelly by two farmers and a number of women. Subsequently he was rescued from a coat of tar and feathers by a train crew.

Crime of a Madman.
Albert Bray, aged 39, of Noblesville, Ind., a farmer and a very religious man, out the throats of his wife, 9-year-old son, Carl, 2-year-old daughter, Edna, and himself. The wife and children died without a struggle. Bray, with a gaping wound in his throat, lived for some hours without regaining consciousness. Bray crushed the skulls of his victims with an ax after he had cut their throats.

She Fought a Burglar.
Miss Ella Emerson, 16 years old, of Fruitvale, Cal., battled with a burglar who tried to chloroform, gag and bind her, and after a desperate struggle, she succeeded in making her escape by dragging through an open window and dropping to the ground, a distance of twelve feet.

Du Maurier Is Dead.
George Du Maurier, artist, novelist, and author of "Trilby," died in London. His end was painless. He passed away surrounded by his friends. For days he has been hovering between life and death, at intervals conversing with friends regarding his work. Upon one occasion a friend at the dying man's bedside referred to the success of "Trilby" as a book and a play, whereupon Du Maurier replied: "Yes, it has been successful, but popularity has killed me at last." The immediate cause of his death is given as heart trouble.

For the Good of the Cow.
Instructor Winterhalter, of the agricultural college at the university of California, is making a comprehensive dairy report which will cover practically the entire state. The work is being done under the supervision of Professor E. W. Hilgard, who is advocating the use of the Babcock tester to discover disease in cows. Professor Hilgard says the report will show the value of such tests and suggest methods of re-compensing the dairymen for the loss of cattle.

Freight Thieves Captured.
Secret service agents of the Chicago & Northwestern railway have arrested in Chicago the members and stopped the operations of the most skillful as well as successful gang of freight-car pilferers with whom the railroad detectives of that city have had to deal in many years. It is known that for that five railroads have suffered through the operations of the gang, and it is believed not less than \$10,000 worth of property has been stolen within the last six months.

An Election Lynching.
The state election caused a murder and lynching at Mount Junction, Ga. Gus Williams, Populist (negro), struck a ticket out of a Democratic negro voter's hand. The Democratic negro struck Williams for his insolence, and Williams fired at his assailant, but missed his aim and shot and instantly killed Engineer Middleton, of the Central railway, who was an onlooker. Bystanders took Williams and lynched him and riddled his body with bullets.

Wheat Is Advancing.
Manitoba wheat is advancing daily. At some points where competition is unusually keen as high as 67 cents has been paid to the farmer, while 60 cents is now the general price for No. 1 hard throughout the province.

Ten Were Drowned.
In a collision between the steamers Alexander and Emden, on the Hamburg, near Hull, the former sank, drowning ten of the crew.

A Lightship Founders.
It is reported in Queenstown that the Daunt's rock lightship, having on board a crew of eight men, has foundered.

The Borland's Crew.
Captain Anderson and 20 other unfortunate men, composing the crew of the ill-fated bark James A. Borland, arrived in San Francisco on the Alaska Packers' Association steamer Afnogak, which came in from Port Townsend. The Borland went on the rocks while trying to make the harbor at Tugidak island, Alaska, September 10. The vessel and cargo, consisting of 30,000 cases of salmon, were a total loss, but all the members of the crew escaped.

A Terrible Fire.
Information from Guayaquil, Ecuador, states that it is estimated 20,000 people are deprived of their homes by destructive fires, which occurred there. The losses to foreign companies are placed at over \$2,000,000. The custom-house and its contents were destroyed, among other buildings. It is estimated the amount of the loss will reach as high as \$6,000,000. The insurance amounts to \$500,000. Thousands of persons are left homeless by the conflagration. The fire is believed to have been incendiary.

THE OVERTON CLAIM.

By MARTHA MOULLOCH WILLIAMS.

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A thunderous knocking fell on the door. Mr. Hildreth's voice called: "Major Overton! Major Overton! Can you open the door?" As it swung wide Royal Cleve smiled softly and said in gasps: "Dare! Now I am dead—and you—safe—you won't take back your forgiveness!" His soul went out with the last word.

CHAPTER XXII.

"This caps the climax of villainy, but I see Hawkins in it all," Mr. Hildreth said when a few minutes' rapid speech had made him master of the facts. "How did you happen to come thus in the nick of time?" Major Overton asked. Dare had risen, but stood with eyes still fast on the dead man's face.

"Ask those two," Hildreth said, with a shrug, pointing to Vance and Allen Fauntleroy. "All I know is that they came upon me like a whirlwind about dark, had me sworn a special deputy, had a posse all ready for me and then rode either side of me, telling me: 'Go fast! Go fast!' We went first to Ridgeley. It seems they had got an inkling of what your danger was. There we found ourselves three hours too late, but with a plain trail to follow, which, thank God, we did not lose. But I tell you it was rough experience, pushing through these hills, this tangle, and never knowing but the next hollow might lead you into ambush. Our beasts are so blown that little as I like the place, I think we must stay here till morning. Luckily that is not far off. It must be 2 o'clock now."

"Later," said Vance. "But, Fauntleroy, why don't you speak? Major, it is all his doing. He has been watching your enemies, and as soon as they were ready for this grand coup he was ready with checkmate for it."

"I thank him deeply," the old man said, with his stateliest courtesy. Dare went impulsively forward, saying, with quivering lips: "Oh, Mr. Fauntleroy! I hope you will never know how it feels to be snatched from the very jaws of death."

"I did nothing," Allen said. Then in a low whisper: "Dare, I envy that dead man. Whatever his sins, he truly died for you."

"Hear the wind, the thunder! This is a storm to remember," Vance said, with a shiver. "Suppose we were out in it on those black hills again!" Nobody answered him. The room, lit here and there by a smoky glimmer of lanterns, was weirdly spectral. In their light the dead man's face seemed to mop and now as though the soul had come back and sat there mocking its fellows.



Allen drew Dare to him.

Vance laid a handkerchief over it and motioned to two of the posse standing huddled about the door to lift the corpse to the long table at one side.

One came forward readily enough. The other hung back, whispering: "Wait, wait! Don't ye know lightning'll strike ye if ye try to move a dead man while it's thunderin' this way?" Truly the rush and roar of wind, rain, thunder, were appalling. The windows of heaven seemed to be open, the eternal hills to be cracking about their ears. Still Vance bent above the dead man, looking almost in pity at the face, so white, so still, so goodly. Two or three others came forward and made to lift the poor clay from the floor, where it lay so inert.

Slowly, slowly they raised it, laid it fair and straight. Before a hand fell to the side there came straight overhead an appalling flash, a deafening noise. The old house shook and quivered, groaning through all its timbers as its big stone chimney toppled half an earth.

"I knowed it," I told ye, but ye didn't believe it," said the man who had shrunk from laying hands on the dead man. The rest stood silent, in awed expectation of they knew not what. It might be even a deadlier flash. But the storm king had done his worst. Very shortly the wind subsided itself out; the rain ceased; the thunder drew away to the river valley. As the east reddened for dawn, stars were peeping in the sky through veils of lacy mist.

"Thank God and my friends for daylight! I never thought to see it again," Major Overton said fervently, his hand on Dare's shoulder. Suddenly Vance gave a sharp, low cry. He stood at the room's end, critically contemplating the lightning's work. As the rest turned to look he darted across the wide hearth, caught something that lay amid the masses of loosened rock, waved it in front of them, crying out:

"The record, the record! Major, no matter who saved your life, I have as good as found your fortune." There indeed was the missing volume, released by the lightning stroke from its 50 years' entombment.

"Open it quick, quick," Major Overton almost shouted. Vance hurriedly turned leaf after leaf, then silently held the book before the old man's eyes.

Then a fine hubbub broke out, for there, plain to view, undisputed, indisputable, the Overton claim was fully confirmed upon those yellow pages.

"I remember now. They were building this chimney when the first hint came that our title was in dispute. Bruce Stirling no doubt stole the book and gave it to old Joe to hide for him. Like as a conjure man easily terrified the black chimney builders into putting the where, if need were, it could have been reclaimed. Dare was right. That accounts for the path. Jincey knew and all these years has come here to gloat over her secret."

"She repented at last. See what she gave me," Dare said, laying in the lawyer's hands the papers from the bottom of the chest. After one glance he said: "The day of miracles is not past, major. With the deeds, the record, our case is won. You, Miss Dare, are the greatest heiress in the state."

Allen Fauntleroy came forward, holding out a hand to the major and to his granddaughter. Royal were eagerly clasped, though Dare drew her hand quickly away, noting that it bore yet the stain of Royal Cleve's blood.

"Heaven only knows how glad I am that this wrong is righted at last; that after so many, many years you are to come into your own," Allen said, looking full into the old man's humid eyes. Major Overton half turned away his head, saying:

"Sir, in the presence of death we forget much, very much. I am an old, old man; you just upon the threshold. Into your hands I commit both the fortune and the name of the woman who saved it. I do not say, 'Take care of them.' Your conduct for the last month proves to me that you could do nothing else."

Allen drew Dare to him and led her out into the fresh dripping morning. As they crossed the threshold where their fate had so strangely culminated he said, looking over his shoulder at the rigid figure they left behind:

"Dare, darling, I do not envy him any more. Poor fellow! He loved and lost you. And though he died for your happiness, it is my privilege to live for your happiness."

Dare said, "I love you, Allen," but she, too, looked back at the dead, and her sigh was half a sob.

CHAPTER XXIII.

"We must bring him here and at once. It is the only way to do," Vance said to Major Overton as the struggling daylight fell full on the tall, dead man, so straight and stock and still. The old man nodded, saying:

"Yes. It will take half a day to get out of this wilderness. Besides we could never carry him, and to come back"—he stopped with a half shudder—"is impossible and impolitic," Vance finished. Even as they spoke came a noise of pick and shovel outside. Dozens of rusty tools lay under the rotting sheds about, and willing hands were plying them to put out of sight the poor, reckless creature, who had paid the fullest penalty of his sins. By time the sun was above the tree tops a long grave had been scooped in the little glade back of the old house. Dare at the springside, her face, her hands, refreshed and spotless, turned to Allen, saying softly:

"Ask them, please, grandfather and Mr. Hildreth, if we may line the grave with boughs and put others above him." "Surely, my dear," Allen said, pressing her soft palm to his cheek. "My Dare, and I shall see that the boughs are put on the wedding."

"Yes," said Vance as the old man almost smiled, "but first let me tell you that Miss Dare is even more an heiress than we thought. Our friend, the parson, has just put into my hands a deed of gift to Exeter and all it contains, executed by Mrs. Hawkins within five minutes of her marriage. It may not be quite valid, but I think it will stand."

"No. I fear we have lost Hawkins for good and always," Hildreth said as Major Overton's eyelids fell in sleep. Two hours later, robed all in white, with a white rose in her hair and another at her breast, Dare gave her hand to Allen Fauntleroy, standing just where her mother had made her bridal vows. He had flung wide door and windows. Outside the summer sun fell golden; the summer winds laughed softly through the leaves. Within the heavy tarnished splendors kept still their note of gloom, though Patsy had done her faithful paragon, grays of scarlet trumpet vine and white August lilies.

Stretched helpless upon a rich faded couch, Major Overton looked through tears at the last of his line, given thus at his own wish into the keeping of her hereditary enemy. But they were not bitter tears. Though Dare's eyes were modestly downcast, happy blushes chased one the other eloquently over her face. Allen's countenance said even more plainly that he had come through storm and stress to his heart's dear desire.

"I pronounce you man and wife. What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder," the minister said sonorously. And with one thought the wedded pair turned from him to kneel in front of Major Overton and bow their heads for his blessing.

He had seemed past speech and motion, but with a last flash of the will that had never quailed he half raised himself, laid his hand on Dare's head and said, with clear distinctness, "God bless my children and keep their hearts full of love."

"Amen!" said the minister, and every listener only echoed it. Then a solemn hush fell on them all, for the old face, "Gentlemen, good friends, please forget that—that you have spoken. Whatever we may know, Dare has no suspicion of the treachery of her own blood. Pray do not make it necessary that she should be saddened with such knowledge."

"Agreed, on one condition, major—that you let us settle with Hawkins. He is not the man a gentleman can touch. I know you want to shoot him, but that would result in some awkward explanations," Vance said, laying a hand on Major Overton's arm. Still Hildreth smiled quietly, looking a little over his shoulder to where Allen and Dare walked in blissful company. At last he said: "Major, here we are at the back side of Exeter. I move that we go in and breakfast with Mrs. Townley, or without her."

Major Overton sat up very straight, saying: "Excuse me, sir. I cannot break bread there. The sight of that woman—"

"Major, I ask it as a personal favor," Hildreth interrupted. Vance looked at him hard.

"In that case I have no choice after last night," Major Overton said, with a

shade of the old faddy stateliness. Hildreth said only, "Thank you."

Five minutes later Black Patsy was crying out: "De lawdy, Miss Dare, yo' des done foun' yo'self des too late, Miss Mel, des de 'ne got ma'ried ter dat der crank mouf Mr. Hawkins an drib 'way lickety split wid libery stable horses—say de got ter ketch de train. But she know somehow yo' was comin, comin hyer, tole me git breakfast ready, an hab it good, an gib her love, an say she wish yo' well, an she gwine write of she can't wait ter see yo'. De preacher, he's in de parlor room yet, an how come it yo' got sech er many gentlemen ter fine an fetch yo' outen dat dar coalin's place?"

"I'll tell you, Patsy. There's another wedding on hand," Vance said, his eyes twinkling; then as he got down from his horse: "Let me help you a bit, major. I think you will be the better for breakfast and six hours of rest." Major Overton waved him back a trifle impatiently and made to dismount in the old alert fashion. But even as he swung himself from stirrup a pallor overspread his face.

He tottered and hung limp across the saddle. Kind hands lifted him reverently thence, bore him inside and laid him in the wide dim hall. Dare knelt at his side, chafing the nervous, veiny hands that were learning thus late in life what it was to tremble.

"Drink this. You are overwrought," Hildreth said, holding to the old man's lips a draft of milk and brandy. Major Overton drained it; then, as his face grew less gray, beckoned to Vance and half whispered:

"I know what it means, the beginning of the end. I must live a few hours longer—though. Dare—Allen—she must not!"

"What is it that you wish, major? We will do it or hang, but never think of dying. You are good for years yet," Vance said, trying to speak in his old cheery voice. Major Overton's lips moved, but hardly a sound came from them. Allen, hurrying to his side, caught the old man's eyes of appeal.

Kneeling, he took Dare's hands within his own, then laid the two clasped across the other nerveless palm. Instantly Major Overton's eyes brightened. He whispered painfully, "Yes, take her—now." Dare laid her cheek softly to the withered one on the pillow and said, sobbing: "Oh, grandfather, surely you do not want to be rid of me. Let everything go until you are well again."

"I am—well—now. Life has—been—a fever," the old man said in a strange, husky whisper. Hildreth touched Allen's arm.

"I have sent a swift messenger for a license," he said half under his breath. "In two hours it will be here. You must marry Dare at once. It is what the major wishes and the only thing to do. Poor old fellow! He has lived on his now and courage this 40 years or more. Now that the strain is ended, no wonder he has broken down."

"I am more than ready to do as he wishes," Allen said in the same hushed voice. "But Dare—can she bear further excitement after all she has undergone?" "Ask her," Hildreth said, stepping to the bedside. There he took Major Overton's hand in his and said aloud: "Now, major, all is as you would have it. The minister is here; the license soon will be. You must drink some more brandy, and during the ceremony I will hold you to the wedding."

"Most smiled," but first let me tell you that Miss Dare is even more an heiress than we thought. Our friend, the parson, has just put into my hands a deed of gift to Exeter and all it contains, executed by Mrs. Hawkins within five minutes of her marriage. It may not be quite valid, but I think it will stand."

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POPULIST PLATFORM.

Adopted by the National Convention Held at St. Louis.

Following is the Populist platform, as agreed upon by the committee on resolutions and adopted by the St. Louis convention:

The People's Party, assembled in national convention, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles declared by the founders of the republic, and also to the fundamental principles of just government as enunciated in the platform of the party in 1892. We recognize that, through the connivance of the present and preceding administrations, the country has reached a crisis in its national life, as predicted in our declaration four years ago, and that prompt and patriotic action is the supreme duty of the hour. We realize that, while we have political independence, our financial and industrial independence is yet to be obtained by restoring to our country the constitutional control and exercise of the functions necessary to a people's government, which functions have been basely surrendered by our public servants to corporate monopolies. The influence of European money changers has been more potent in shaping legislation than the voice of the American people! Executive power and patronage have been used to corrupt our legislatures and defeat the will of the people, and plutocracy has thereby been enthroned upon the ruins of democracy. To restore the government intended by the fathers of the country, for the welfare and prosperity of this and future generations, we demand the establishment of an economic and financial system which shall make us masters of our own affairs and independent of European control by the adoption of the following declaration of principles:

Finance.
First—We demand a national money, safe and sound, issued by the general government only, without the intervention of banks of issue, to be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private; a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people and through the lawful disbursements of the government.

Second—We demand the free and unrestricted coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, and without waiting for the consent of foreign nations.

Third—We demand that the volume of circulating medium be speedily increased to an amount sufficient to meet the demands of the business and the population of this country, and to restore the just level of prices and labor production.

Fourth—We demand the sale of bonds and the increase of the public interest-bearing debt, made by the present administration, as unnecessary and without authority of law, and we demand that no more bonds be issued except by specific action of congress.

Fifth—We demand such legislation as will prevent the demonetizing of the lawful money of the United States by private contract.

Sixth—We demand that the government, in payment of its obligations, shall use its option as to the kind of lawful money in which they are to be paid, and we denounce the present and preceding administration for repudiation of the option to the holders of government obligation securities.

Seventh—We demand a graduated income tax, to the end that aggregate wealth shall bear its just proportion of taxation, and we regard the recent decision of the supreme court, relative to the income-tax law, as a misinterpretation of the constitution, an invasion of the rightful powers of congress on the subject of taxation.

Eighth—We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the savings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

Transportation.
First—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people on a nonpartisan basis, to the end that all may be accorded the same treatment in transportation, and that the tyranny of political power, now exercised by the great railroad corporations, which result in the impairment, if not the destruction of the political rights and personal liberty of the citizen may be destroyed. Such ownership is to be accomplished gradually in a manner consistent with sound public policy.

Second—The interest of the United States in the public highways built with public moneys and the proceeds of extensive grants of land to the Pacific railroads should never have been alienated, mortgaged or sold, but guarded and protected for the general welfare as provided by the laws organizing such railroads. The foreclosure of existing liens of the United States on these roads should at once follow default in the payment thereof by the debtor companies, and at the foreclosure sales of said roads the government should purchase the same, if it becomes necessary, to protect its interests, or if they can be purchased at a reasonable price, and the government shall operate said railroads as public highways for the benefit of the whole people, and not in the interest of the few, under suitable provisions for protection of life and property, giving to all the transportation interests equal privileges and equal rates for fares and freights.

Third—We denounce the present infamous schemes for refunding the said debts, and demand that the laws now applicable thereto be executed and administered according to their true intent and spirit.

Fourth—The telegraph, like the post-office system, being a necessity for the transaction of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

Land.
First—The true policy demands that the national and state legislation shall be such as will ultimately enable every prudent and industrious citizen to secure a home, and therefore the land should not be monopolized for speculative purposes. All lands now held by railways and other corporations in excess of their actual needs should, by lawful means, be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only, and private land monopoly, as well as alien ownership, should be prohibited.

Second—We condemn the frauds by which the land grants to Pacific rail-

road companies have, through the connivance of the interior department, robbed multitudes of bona-fide settlers of their homes and miners of their claims, and we demand legislation by congress which will enforce the exemption of mineral land from such grants after, as well as before, patenting.

Third—We demand that bona-fide settlers on all public lands be granted free homes, as provided in the national homestead law, and that no exception be made in the case of Indian reservations when opened for settlement, and that all lands not now patented come under this demand.

Direct Legislation.
We favor a system of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum, under proper constitutional safeguards.

General Propositions.
First—We demand the election of president, vice-president and United States senators by direct vote of the people.

Second—We tender to the patriotic people of Cuba our deepest sympathy in their struggle for political freedom and independence, and we believe the time has come when the United States, the great republic of the world, should recognize that Cuba is, and of right ought to be, a free and independent state.