

of Pennsylvania, Alabama, Tennessee, West Virginia, etc., the union expended more than \$753,724. The referendum vote of the members resulted in the re-election of John Mitchell as President, who thus enters upon his eighth consecutive term as the head of one of the largest and strongest trade unions in the country.

Chicago's
Municipal Ownership
Fight

Mayor Dunne, of Chicago, is at last having his own way with his municipal ownership programme. The City Council, which has heretofore been in opposition, has suddenly veered to the Mayor's side, and on January 19 it passed two ordinances which the Mayor has been advocating. One was to authorize the issue of \$75,000,000 in Mueller Law certificates for the purpose of purchasing or constructing a municipal street railway system. This ordinance will go to a referendum at the April election, and if approved by popular vote will thereupon be in effect. The other ordinance provides for submitting the question of municipal operation, which under the Mueller Law must be placed before the electors as a separate proposition. In order to carry, the municipal operation proposition must be supported by three-fifths of those voting thereon. The ordinance authorizing the issue of certificates will go into effect if approved by the majority of those acting thereon. This sudden action upon the municipal ownership ordinances came as a surprise to Mayor Dunne as well as to the community, and is the culmination of a bitter fight that has been waging between the Mayor and the Council. Mayor Dunne did not from the outset display great tact or conspicuous executive capacity in giving effect to his plans. He was soon at war with the Council, the majority of which openly took issue with his various municipal ownership plans and proceeded to negotiate franchise-renewal ordinances with the existing companies, intending to submit the ordinances to popular vote before they should become effective. The ordinances as drawn carried a twenty-year franchise renewal, with a reservation to the city of the right to

purchase after ten years. In their detailed provisions these ordinances were objectionable not only to the municipal ownership advocates but as well to many believers in the policy of franchise renewal. The companies evinced a disposition not to accept suggested amendments. Nevertheless, it was decided to have the Council in committee of the whole formulate its views for submission to the companies for final acceptance or rejection.

The "Gray Wolves' Peculiar Action" At this meeting affairs took a very peculiar turn. It is the boast of Chicago that it has an honest City Council, but there are remaining in that body of seventy members about a dozen Aldermen of the old-time gang type, commonly referred to as "gray wolves." It was this "gray wolf" contingent—that was believed to be looking without success for bribes to aid the franchise renewals—that turned the tide in favor of Mayor Dunne and his municipal ownership measures. One of these Aldermen moved the substitution of the Mayor's municipal ownership ordinances for the franchise-renewal ordinances. The motion prevailed by a vote of thirty-six to twenty-eight. The Council thereupon rose from committee of the whole and passed the Mayor's ordinances forthwith. The sudden reversal in attitude of the "gray wolf" Aldermen had changed the Mayor's minority in the Council to a majority. While the radical municipal ownership advocates were greatly elated over the victory, there is in Chicago considerable disquietude over the sudden haste in dealing with this important subject and the procedure by which the victory was attained. There are those who think that the "gray wolves" acted in the interest of the traction companies, by proposing the least practicable plan for municipal ownership and the one least likely to be carried through with success. The proposed ordinances will be subjected to considerable litigation before results can be obtained under them. The entire certificate feature of the Mueller Law—which authorizes the issuing of certificates that shall be a lien only on the property, and

not be a debt of the city, subject to the constitutional limitation on municipal indebtedness—is admittedly experimental and of uncertain constitutionality. In addition, some critics of this ordinance claim that it is not drawn in conformity with the Mueller Law and is therefore illegal on its face even if the Mueller Law itself be constitutional. Many also contend that this particular ordinance was not the best of several plans proposed by Mayor Dunne for bringing about municipal ownership. While there is a disposition in many quarters to blame Mayor Dunne and his adherents for confusing an already tangled situation, there is another side to the matter. The private traction interests in Chicago, by their stubborn refusal to deal fairly with the city, have done more than any other agency possibly could do to fan the flames of radicalism. The conservative elements generally, both in the City Council and in the community, instead of recognizing that municipal ownership must inevitably come sooner or later and taking the leadership of that movement and trying to direct it aright, have tried to thwart the well-known will of the majority of the people as expressed on several occasions.



*The Imperial
Chinese Commission*

Unheralded to the public, though directly accredited by the Emperor of China to the President of the United States, the Imperial Chinese Commission have surprised the country by their quiet arrival. The dignity of the Commissioners and the great importance of their mission were recognized in advance by our Government, which not only sent orders to its officers at San Francisco and Chicago to offer the Commission every attention and facility, but sent Professor Jeremiah W. Jenks, of Cornell University, as its special representative to meet them and conduct them to Washington. The Mayor of Chicago announced their coming to the city by arrangements for their civic reception and itinerary befitting the high rank and purpose of the Commissioners. The two Viceroys were attended by twenty high-class officials and educators, some

of whom won their degrees in the universities of this country and Europe. At the head of the Commission is Tuan-Fang, the Chinese hero of the Boxer rebellion, whose independent and courageous disobedience of the Imperial edict to kill all foreigners of his province of Shensi, strangely enough, led to his subsequent promotion to be the Governor of two provinces with thirty millions of inhabitants. He is one of the few progressive leaders who are initiating and furthering the amazing movement for constitutional government in China. To prepare the way for it two commissions have been sent to study the constitutions and institutions of the representative governments in America and Europe. The one now here goes to Germany, Belgium, Russia, and Italy. Another, under Prince Tsai-Chen, follows to England, France, Holland, and Switzerland. The impressions received and given again by the Commissioners at Chicago indicate the momentous importance of this new movement of China, and the spirit of the men who are carrying it on and out. The commercial value of their visit to such great industries as our packing-houses, harvester works, and steel plants is obvious. But the significance of their incisive insight into our charitable, reformatory, educational, and social agencies appeals to the higher hope for human progress in China. When, after their three crowded days of observation, they were asked what most impressed them in Chicago, the reply of the Viceroy, Tuan-Fang, was most hopefully significant: "Public care of the insane, the house where the lady was [meaning Miss Adams, at Hull House], and the Young Men's Christian Association building." Their wise and courteous silence regarding our unjust personal discrimination against their whole race, which men of such caliber and culture must deeply resent, only emphasizes the National necessity of the belated turn which American sentiment is taking toward a more just and generous attitude in our relations to the Chinese. Our reversion to the higher type of American ideals is coming not a day too soon, if the people of the United States are to exert the influence upon the commercial, educa-