

THE FORUM—Continued.**NOTES.**

The first election of directors of the Alumni Association of the University of Minnesota by P.R. was held in February. As 5 of the 10 directors to be chosen were to serve 2 years and the other 5 only 1 year, it was necessary to carry out two separate elections simultaneously.

The report is that the elections were carried out successfully and the counting of the votes was easily handled.

The Commerce Club of Halifax had an energetic group of business men who considered an improved system of City Government for Halifax. The group expects to hear some addresses during the summer on City Government.

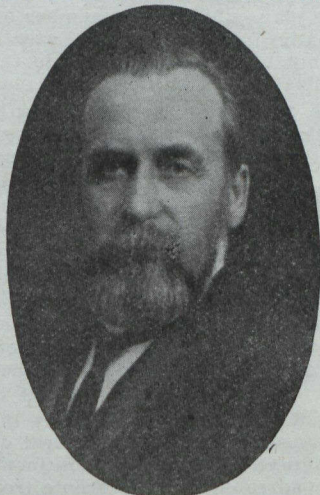
The tour of the General Secretary of the American P.R. League, Mr. C. G. Hoag, has among other results led to a movement started in Oregon to apply the Hare system of P.R. to the election of the state legislature. The measure is to be initiated this Spring and submitted to the voters of the state at the regular election next November. Apparently it will receive strong support and there seems to be a good chance of making Oregon in 1918 the first P.R. state.

The leader of the movement is Professor Robert D. Leigh of Reed College, Portland. The American P.R. League is expecting to co-operate in every possible way.

Among the audiences addressed by Mr. Hoag were one official charter commission, six Chambers of Commerce, one City Club, one Municipal League, 2 Public Forums, 5 university convocations, 2 university classes, 2 single tax clubs, one Rotary Club, 3 luncheon clubs, 2 political party organizations, one woman's club, 3 labor councils, 2 Y.M.C.A. groups, 5 public meetings and 14 smaller or more private groups.

Investigation of the Department of Justice into the deportation of 1,186 copper mine workers from Bisbee, and the Warren district, Arizona, last July has developed violations of the law; and special representatives of the Department have gone to Tucson, where a Federal Grand Jury is in session. Investigators express the opinion that a number of citizens of Bisbee and other towns responsible for the deportation are subject to penalties of the Federal Statutes of not over \$5,000 fine, and imprisonment for not more than ten years.

The Singletax plan of land regulation and control was adopted by the Mizrahi Zionist Organization in convention in Philadelphia on the 7th, as the best system under which the Jews can return to possession of Palestine under the protection of the Allies. Mr. Rosenblatt who presented the resolution, pointed out that the land would take on a greatly increased value as a result of the English occupation and the working out of the "Promised Land" idea, which consists of the colonization of the entire Holy Land by Jews. The plan proposed is that the land be valued and assessed at the figure at which it stood before the war in 1914, making allowances for improvements.

IN THE BIRTHDAY HONORS LIST.

HON. SIR HORMISDAS LAPORTE, K.B.,
Late Mayor of Montreal.

BOOK REVIEWS.

AMERICAN CITY PROGRESS AND THE LAW, by Howard Lee McBain, Professor of Municipal Science and Administration in Columbia University, is published by Columbia University Press in New York City.

It is significant (and shows how important is the subject) one of the recent books by Professor McBain, was "The Law and Practice of Municipal Home Rule." The first and perhaps the most striking chapter in his new book is Legislative Home Rule, which deals with the chief argument for municipal home rule; home rule by constitutional grant; the legal problem involved in a legislative grant of home rule; the delegation of legislative power to the corporate authorities of cities; the reference of charters to the electors; the delegation of charter-making power to the corporate authorities and the electors and legislative grants of home rule. The book is a valuable contribution in a not over-worked field.

Other interesting chapters are: Municipal Ownership of Public Utilities; Control Over Living Costs, and Promotion of Commerce and Industry. The author emphasizes the fact that his book is limited to an examination of legal principles. What a pity so much valuable time must be spent in stating what the law is—and it is useful, and difficult work unfortunately—and so little time spent by recognized authorities like Professor McBain on stating what the law should be and why. Unfortunately many of our universities do not encourage intensive cultivation of the politico-economic field.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM IN WAR AND IN PEACE, by Charles Harris Whitaker, Editor of the journal of the American Institute of Architects, Frederick L. Ackerman, Architect of New York City; Richard S. Childs, Secretary of the Committee on Industrial Towns, New York City, and Edith Elmer Wood, is published by The Journal of the American Institute of Architects, Washington, D.C.

"The housing of our working-classes is, and always has been, their most deadly enemy." Philip Thompson, architect, in recent number of Housing Journal.

Practically all of the material is reprinted from the Journal of the American Institute of Architects. The following all important problems are dealt with: Why has the provision of shelter for workmen come to be called "housing?" Why has housing become a problem? Why cannot workmen build their own homes? Why will nobody build houses at the present time?

To those who class municipal buildings for workmen as visionary and foreign to American tradition the authors point the government's homestead policy under which (act of 1862) more than 85,000,000 acres of farmland was made over to settlers. This source of relief to congestion being at an end a substitute must be found.

They also point out that the best contribution the United States has made to contemporary civilization is the public school system which costs over half a billion dollars a year and is well worth it.

"Yet, if we come down to basic realities, if it is a question between the mental, moral, and physical development of the people, which ought to take precedence? Are not health and morals more fundamental than formal education can ever be? And if a community has not the energy and resourcefulness to do both, should it not make sure that its children are properly housed before it troubles about their book-learning?"

The authors believe that the backbone of modern war-making is decent housing and that the United States lacked decent houses for millions of the workmen upon whom the burden rests. They think their country has never been prepared for peace. "Of all the nations of the world, the United States—says the authors—stands alone in its tenacious adherence to the policy that decent houses can be provided by rigid "tenement-house laws." Such an archaic policy is about as well calculated to produce good houses as a regiment of archers would be useful in France at the present time." Reference is made to the appropriation by Congress of \$50,000,000 with which to make a start toward housing the workers in the shipyards.

The splendid illustrations are published as examples of the scope and thoroughness with which others (particularly Great Britain, France and Germany) have already dealt with the question.

Reference is made to the housing enterprise for educational purposes being carried on near Lowell by the Massachusetts Homestead Commission with an appropriation of \$50,000, made by the State legislature.