

to slip in. Roosevelt, I need hardly say, is behind Odell.

Grout, meanwhile, is in a difficult position. It is the general expectation that the Murphy-McClellan combination will provide a respectable administration. There will be no smell of the barroom and none of the manners of ward-heelerism. Some people who think they speak with authority say that even "Tim" Sullivan will be ordered to the rear, or at least will be ignored. But that, I believe, is impossible. Sullivan is a power in the organization, perhaps the power, but he does not show himself unnecessarily—whether from tact or another reason I cannot tell. As I said, however, the common belief is that there will not be a repetition of the Van Wyck recklessness. There will be an attempt to make a "respectable" administration.

The purpose of this policy will not be so much to promote respectability in municipal affairs, as to kill off the opposition of the anti-"red" light-ers and other respectables, and to keep New York Democratic, at least during the next year, for the gubernatorial and presidential elections.

But the real difficulty that this programme has to "go up against" is that a lot of franchise problems are rapidly rising here. Popular thought is radicalizing. If the city hall crowd under McClellan stand for the monopolies, then they are in danger of losing power with the people; if they stand against the monopolies, they will win with the people, but lose with the monopolists. Yet they cannot afford to lose support anywhere if they are to carry this State next year. Grout has to decide which crowd he will go with, the radicals or the conservatives.

Whitney is close behind the new Democratic dispensation here. He has been the active man in the franchise amalgamations, which are now divided into three classes: (1) the Consolidated Gas, including all the gas companies and the Edison monopoly; (2) the Interurban Street Railroad company, including practically all the suburban lines in Manhattan and the Bronx; and (3) the Interborough company, including the Manhattan elevated and the underground, now building. William Rockefeller, Baldwin, of the Pennsylvania, Belmont, and Whitney are the four foremost men in these combinations, which are dove-tailed together and, as against the public, have a common policy and do their work together. Of course they are in politics and of course they are in it with their barrels.

Both Whitney and Belmont took the trouble to occupy boxes at one of the most important Democratic meetings during the recent municipal fight, thus publicly identifying themselves with that side. Whitney has not publicly

figured in politics before in years. Rumor says that Whitney has been hit in the "street" of late. I fancy that that may be true, as many besides him have been hit and hit badly. Rumor also says that the Rockefellerers have been after Whitney. That may be so, but I do not think it. Whitney has been doing their work and is one of the directors in the Consolidated Gas company.

Immediately after the election decision the Herald and the World announced that indications pointed to Cleveland as the Democratic candidate for president. But Gorman seems to have the best chance at present, and Hearst comes next—at least in the estimation of Hearst's friends.

Tammany is in the hollow of a few men's hands and those few men would, I think, prefer Cleveland. Next, perhaps, Gorman. Parker is too close to Hill to suit the Tammany people. They want Hill down and out, like McLaughlin. I cannot see any indications that the Tammany "leaders" or those who direct them are at all excited over Hearst.

Meanwhile the black cloud of hard times is rising. There are many evidences of it here, in the "street," in the wholesale districts, in the retail districts where luxuries are sold, and particularly in the theatrical world. I am informed that a large proportion of the road companies are coming back, and that theatrical business as a whole has not been so bad for 20 years.

If this pall comes up in strength soon enough, the Democratic party will get a great lift; but if it lingers in the coming, then the Republicans will be able to use Mark Hanna's argument: "Behold signs of public fear of Democratic success at the polls!" and the Republicans will sweep in again. Then it will be "up to them" to "make good."
ASTERISK.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 23.—That the Republicans are prepared to prove to the trusts their complete subservency to those monopolistic organizations, is shown in the action of Congressman Watson, of Indiana, a new member of the ways and means committee, who declared just before the vote on the Cuban reciprocity bill, that the Democrats were responsible for the four days' debate, and this in the face of the offer made prior to the commencement of the debate on Monday, by Congressman Williams, of Mississippi, the minority leader, that if the Republicans would permit the Democrats to offer one amendment—that removing the differential on sugar—and allow twenty minutes for debate, they would be willing to vote on the bill then. Watson's unblushing effrontery in charging the Democrats

with delaying the vote on the bill, will doubtless be emulated by the monopolistic press for the purpose of befogging the public mind and distracting attention from the fact that the Cuban bill gives the sugar trust practically the whole amount of the 20 per cent. reduction on refined sugar.

However some may differ with the political wisdom of Mr. Williams in calling a caucus for the purpose of lining up the minority in favor of the bill, all real Democrats must applaud his forceful attack on the protectionist superstition. He punctured many of the pet theories of the protectionists, insisting that while industries could thus be hot-housed into life, it was a wasteful process and simply resulted in withdrawing labor and capital from forms of production that are naturally profitable to induce them to engage in those naturally unprofitable, and that the cost of such waste is borne by the consumer.

At the other end of Pennsylvania avenue the American exponent of strenuousness has been giving points to the effete monarchs of Europe in the great game of gobbling small and weak states. For three long years the Boers pleaded in vain for recognition of their republic. It takes barely three minutes for him to recognize a made-to-order republic. Such little matters as the pledged faith of the nation are swept aside when an opportunity is afforded to serve the transcontinental railroads and the Wall street syndicate controlling a large block of Panama stock. Although the Spooner amendment directed him to adopt the Nicaragua route in case of failure to come to terms with Colombia, yet, responding to the demands of the Pacific roads for a route, which, if ever completed, will offer the least possibility of opposition to their monopoly, he hardly awaits the receipt of what was without doubt an anxiously awaited cablegram announcing the establishment of a one-hour old de facto government, to instantly recognize it.

We may expect the same kind of press campaign in the interest of the poor widow and orphan stockholders of Panama stock, that the sugar trust has carried on for the benefit of the "suffering sugar planter of Cuba—" 25 per cent. to 35 per cent. of whom is this same colossal infant, the Sugar Trust.

It is gratifying to know that Chamberlain's attempt to ensnare the British people with the protection fetich is to be combated, in the only way it can be successfully opposed, by an active and influential element of the Liberal party. There is now visiting this country the President of the New Reform Club, of London, Dr. Henry S. Lunn. This organization has largely taken the place of the Reform Club,

which up to recent years occupied the same relation to the Liberal party that the Carlton Club occupies to the Tory party, those two clubs being recognized as the official home of all who are prominent in their respective parties throughout Great Britain.

No club or organization in this country has ever had the relation to party government here, that those two clubs have had there for a long period of years. The Reform Club, New York City, for several years prior to the Bryan campaign of 1896, carried on an extensive propaganda for tariff reform in some of the debatable States; but it was never recognized, officially or unofficially, as the mouthpiece, organ or agent of the Democratic party. The American Tariff League has collected immense funds from trusts and protected interests for years, but it has never been the oracle of the Republican party; and in spite of its lurid appeals issued daily for weeks to Republicans to oppose what it is pleased to term the "free trade" reciprocity measure, but six Republican members, all from beet-sugar States, opposed the Cuban bill.

But whenever the Carlton or the Reform Club (in the past) at any meeting put forth a declaration of policy, that declaration was recognized all over the United Kingdom as a party pronouncement.

The New Reform Club having largely superseded the old Reform Club, it is interesting to know that its president is a real free-trader, that he is an outright tariff abolitionist, that he stands for free production as well as free commerce. At a meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York a few days ago he made his position clear on this subject. But it is more interesting to know that in the citadel of "protection," Philadelphia, before an audience composed almost entirely of the chief beneficiaries of that robbing system, and at which were also present the street-railway monarchs of the U. S., he asserted that the cause of the wonderful prosperity and growth of this country was not protection, but its almost boundless natural resources and its system of untrammelled commerce over a greater area than free trade has existed in in any other place in the world.

In addition to setting before the American people the fact that the Chamberlain policy is being combatted in England by real free traders, Dr. Lunn, who is accompanied by Lord Lyveden, comes to this country to arrange for a parliamentary mission to attend the World's Fair at St. Louis. After calling upon President Roosevelt and seeing influential leaders of the Republican party, he will return to Brooklyn to speak in Plymouth Church Thanksgiving eve, and go thence to Chicago and other Western cities. I recommend our friends to secure a

public address from him in every city he visits.

ROBERT BAKER.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Nov. 26.

Nothing was accomplished in the way of settling the Chicago street car strike, by the Mayor's committee (pp. 519-20) which was appointed last week. To the efforts of this committee, as to those of the State board of arbitration, the street car company opposed a stubborn negative. But on the 20th the lawyers for both sides came together, and at once a settlement seemed assured. It was even announced on the 23d that one had been made. But that announcement was premature. The strike was still on late on the 24th and the lines of the company were rendering only a limited and perfunctory service. Early in the morning of the 25th, however, terms of settlement were agreed upon, subject to approval by the strikers, who were to take a referendum vote thereon during the day.

A mutiny on the 23d in two gangs of "strike breakers" employed at \$3 a day, with board, lodging and tobacco in addition, crippled the company to some extent, and there were some instances of violence; but the principal difficulty in the way of full operation of the lines appeared to be the inability of the company to procure an adequate supply of competent men.

On the 22d an immense mass meeting in sympathy with the strike was held at Tattersalls. Speeches were made by Darrow, Prentiss, Cruice and other leaders. The audience is estimated by the local press at 15,000 and the parade preceding it at 5,000. Resolutions were adopted calling upon the city council "to at once cease all negotiations looking to the further granting of franchises" to the Chicago City Railway company, and "to institute proceedings at once to take over the lines operated by this company, and place them immediately under municipal ownership and operation." These resolutions were presented to the city council

along with others of like tenor from labor organizations at its meeting on the 23d.

At the same meeting of the city council a resolution was offered declaring that there should be no traction franchise legislation until after the vote on the Mueller bill next Spring. The defeat of this resolution by 53 to 15 has excited suspicions among the advocates of municipal ownership of a design to rush a franchise through the council at some favorable opportunity before the April election. An ordinance extending the franchises of the Chicago City Railway company to February 29, 1904, offered on the 23d by Chairman Bennett, of the traction committee, has not weakened this suspicion. It is regarded as designed to allay public feeling against franchises and thus to afford a better opportunity for traction legislation.

Application by the receivers was made on the 20th to the Federal Court, under the 99-year act, for an order of that court compelling the city to grant the permits for reconstruction which the commissioner of public works had refused (p. 520); and on the 21st Judge Grosscup set December 3 for a hearing on the legal questions involved, at the same time intimating his desire that the city council meanwhile act favorably. He also extended until January 16th the treaty between his court and the city (p. 248) which expires November 30.

The city council has not fallen in with Judge Grosscup's suggestion. On the 21st, the very day it was made, the traction committee decided to recommend to the council that the permits be refused; and at the council meeting on the 23d they were refused in effect by the placing of the application of Judge Grosscup's receivers "on file."

The first five articles of the treaty between the United States and Panama, an outline of which was given last week (p. 521), are now published in full. Following is a fair condensation:

Article I. The United States guarantees and agrees to maintain the independence of the Republic of Panama.