

dent Jordan of California and Wayne MacVeagh are a few representative names from the list, and among its chief endorsers are Cardinal Gibbons, Professor Norton and Robert C. Ogden. The committee will do what it can to commit either or both great political parties to the independence of the Philippines, upon terms similar to those "granted" to Cuba. This announcement is an indication of public sentiment and it will also guide public sentiment. It will give new hope to loyal Filipinos and do something to stir up our Washington officials. Mr. Taft is already aghast at the impertinence of the suggestion. Why, says he, the first thing you know if we make any such promise, the Filipinos will be sending committees here to ask us when we will give them freedom, and some of them will actually suppose that they are to have it during their life-time! Preposterous indeed! Why should people want liberty during their life-time, when it is so much pleasanter after they're dead!—The Union, for April.

#### THE IMPERIALISM WE FACE.

From an editorial in the Weekly Springfield Republican of April 22.

There is a dangerous group of imperialistic and plutocratic Democrats, the center of whose influence is in New York city, who did all in their power to help along the imperialism which began with the Spanish war.

These men must not be permitted to dictate to the Democratic national convention its principles with reference to American foreign policy, or to our military policy, or to our policy toward the retention or the future acquisition of dependencies. It is distinctly false to say that there is now no imperialistic issue before the people of this country. Imperialism did not begin and end with the forcible acquisition of the Philippines. That act signalized a policy which remains and which in the future must be fought, as occasion may require. The process of changing the republic into an empire, with its associated militaristic bedevilment, is a long-continued one, and as such the Democratic party should face it with permanent, irreconcilable opposition, because that process, unchecked, would rip from under it the foundation upon which democracy stands.

There are certain fundamental principles that really stand for tendencies rather than dogmas, which the Democratic party should sustain under whatever conditions, in whatever crisis. It should stand for the interests of the masses of the people, not for the interests of a plutocratic oligarchy; it should

stand for a democratic republic, not for a republican empire; it should be Jeffersonian in the true spirit of Jefferson, who dared to confess that his passion was peace, and whose political philosophy, hammered into the preamble of the declaration of independence, was the outgrowth of the natural aspirations of humanity, and will ring through all the ages to come. It will not be difficult to make the St. Louis platform conform to these essential principles in a sane and even conservative manner.

#### MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

##### HOW TO FIGHT THE RAILROADS.

According to Mayor Johnson Cleveland attorneys for the Pennsylvania Railroad company are largely responsible for the delay in the lake front case now pending in the United States circuit court.

"They now have in their possession," said Mr. Johnson, "the bill of particulars which was filed in this case and which needs only their 'O. K.' to bring an advancement and a rehearing.

"Just so long as this lake front case is unsettled, just so long will Cleveland be deprived of a desirable harbor. If the Pennsylvania company desired to be fair in the matter it would let this case come to trial and abide by the decision of the court. But no, it is delayed year after year, and the railroad continues to enjoy the proprietorship of property worth \$2,500,000, which was simply stolen from the people of Cleveland.

"Nowadays, when a man steals a loaf of bread he is sent to jail or the workhouse, but a railroad company may steal property worth millions and the case cannot be got into the courts. But I am waiting," said Mayor Johnson with a smile, "I am waiting until the Pennsylvania or the Lake Shore Railroad company comes to the city to ask a favor. I want to see them do it. It will give us infinite pleasure to turn them down. If it is to be war, these companies will discover that the city has some weapons of defense."

The lake front case had its original hearing before Judge Hammond, of the United States circuit court, who lives at Memphis, Tenn., and so long as the judge lives no other judge of the same court will take the matter up. In the first hearing Judge Hammond rendered a decision adverse to the city and Hon. George H. Phillips, who was then assistant corporation counsel, gave notice of a motion for a new trial. This motion has never been heard, and cannot be until Judge Hammond returns to Cleveland, which he has since refused to do. On several occasions pressure has been

brought to bear upon him to return to the city, but he has disregarded it. The belief of Mr. Johnson is that if the attorneys representing the railroads involved would consent to an advancement the judge would bring the case forward and return to Cleveland for a hearing of the motion.

Mayor Johnson is one of the strongest advocates of an improved harbor for Cleveland, but he believes that the way to accomplish it most quickly is to get this lake front case again into the courts. The mayor has hopes that Judge Wing may take up the case in the face of Judge Hammond's persistent refusal to do so.—Cleveland Plain Dealer of April 26.

#### WM. J. BRYAN ON IMPERIALISM.

The written part of Mr. Bryan's speech at Chicago on the 23d of April, 1904, on "The New York Platform," printed in full in The Public of April 30, at page 58, contained the following paragraph on imperialism: "Imperialism is an issue. Our government is now administering a colonial policy according to the political principles employed by George III. a century and a quarter ago, and yet there is not in this platform a single word relating to the question of imperialism, not a plank that defines the party's position on that subject, not a protest against the surrender of the doctrines of self-government. The Kansas City platform stated the party's opposition to a colonial policy, but the New York platform not only fails to indorse the Kansas City platform, but fails to take any position at all on this important question." When in reading this paragraph Mr. Bryan said: "Imperialism is an issue," the sentiment was greeted by the large audience with general and great applause; and upon concluding the paragraph he spoke, extemporaneously as follows, as reported stenographically by Robert F. Rose, of Chicago:

I want to ask you, my friends, if we must submit to a retention of a colonial policy under the American flag, without a protest? If we are going to do it, let me call your attention by a natural process of reasoning to that which we may expect in this country. When a prominent English statesman was denouncing the revolutionary war he said his objection to it was that in order to defend that war the English people would have to assert principles which if carried out would destroy liberty in England as well as liberty in America. And my protest against imperialism is not merely that it affects the men in the Philippine islands. My protest against it is that you cannot defend imperialism in the Philippine islands without asserting principles which if carried to their logical conclusion will establish imperialism on American soil. (Applause.)

When will this question of imperialism be settled? It will be settled only when this nation abandons imperialism in the Philippine islands, or establishes