

chief officer, Mr. Sargent, whom he has recently appointed to an important Federal office; and the Brotherhood made him a "grand honorary member" and invested him with the grand password of the order to enable him to attend its national meetings. Mr. Roosevelt's next set speech was at Asheville, N. C., on the 9th. He arrived at his home in Oyster Bay on the 10th.

Wm. J. Bryan began a speaking tour for the Democracy on the 9th at the opening at Joplin of the Missouri campaign. The subject of his speech was closely confined to trusts and tariffs.

As soon as possible after the Democratic convention of Ohio closed, the State leader, Tom L. Johnson, began the popular campaign in support of its ticket, headed by Herbert S. Bigelow of Cincinnati. The first meeting was held on the 6th at Lorain, in the Republican county of Lorain. It was held in a large tent, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bigelow being the principal speakers. At the close of the Lorain meeting the tent was taken to Norwalk, Huron county, also strongly Republican, where it accommodated a large audience on the 8th who were addressed by Mayor Rowley, Johnson, Bigelow, Echo M. Heisley, and others. The next place in which the tent was pitched was Bellevue, also in Huron county. The meeting was held here on the 9th. On the 10th the tent covered a meeting of enormous size at Fremont, in the Democratic county of Sandusky. Between his Bellevue and Fremont meetings Mr. Johnson addressed the legislative committee at Columbus on the municipal code, pressing the point, according to the press dispatches, that—

it is not right to permit a municipality to grant valuable rights until the people shall first ratify the action of city councils; that the Ohio statutes are vicious on the subject of franchises and that the terms of the Nash code are more so. He also declared in favor of home rule wherever possible, and expressed the belief that the effort of Senator Foraker to secure a "curative clause" for the benefit of the Cincinnati Traction company is more vicious than either the present laws or the Nash code.

The Republican campaign in Ohio is announced to open at Akron, Summit county, on the 27th, with Sena-

tor Hanna as the principal speaker. To offset Johnson's "tent caravan," Mr. Hanna purposes using a special railroad train of palace cars.

An investigation into the corruption of the St. Louis city council, begun last Spring (p. 10), resulted this week in the indictment of nearly a score of prominent citizens of St. Louis, all delegates to a former city council. They were members of a "combine" of the council organized to sell legislation, the speaker of the house of delegates being their chief or chairman. The specific charges relate to bribery in connection with the Suburban street railway.

A full confession has been made by the chief of the combine, J. K. Murrell, who announces his intention of helping to bring all the guilty parties to justice regardless of the effect upon himself. He withholds details, having put the circuit attorney in possession of them, but in general he publicly reveals the plot. Mr. Murrell says:

I held the key to the box in the Lincoln Trust company containing the \$75,000 bribe money to go to the house of delegates upon the passage of the Suburban bill. This money was put up as the purchase price for the votes of the combine, that price having been agreed upon. The combine of the house of delegates was composed of 19 men. This combine held frequent meetings in the room adjoining the house of delegates' chamber. There most of the schemes to get money for votes were concocted. When the Suburban matter came up before the combine I was selected to negotiate with Philio Stock, the representative of the Suburban railway, as to the best price we could get for our votes upon the passage of the bill. I reported the various negotiations to the combine meetings, and was instructed by the combine from time to time what to do. When the price was agreed on they designated me as the person to hold the key to the box containing the \$75,000, which we were to get when the bill was passed and signed by the mayor. The deposit of the money, the amount, and the conditions were duly reported by me to the combine meetings. I am not permitted to make the operations of the combine on this particular matter public at this time. The purpose of the combine was to control legislation and sell legislation for the benefit of the members of the combine. Shortly before the Suburban bill the combine sold their votes on the

lighting bills for \$47,500. This money was handled by Kelly, and was paid to the members of the combine at a meeting arranged for that purpose at Julius Lehmann's house. Each member of the combine received \$2,500. I was present and saw the money paid to the various parties. These are only two instances, but there are others, evidence of which is in the possession of the circuit attorney. These two instances show, however, what has been going on in the municipal assembly.

According to further statements in Mr. Murrell's confession, the "combine" was bound together by an oath which, under the circumstances, is extraordinary in the extreme. He says:

The oath was as follows: "I do solemnly swear before the Almighty God that in associating myself and in becoming a member of this combine I will vote and act with the combine whenever, and wherever I may be ordered so to do. And I further solemnly swear that I will not, at any place or time, reveal the fact that there is a combine and that I will not communicate to any person or persons anything that may take place at any meeting of the combine. And I do solemnly agree that in case I should reveal the fact that any person in this combine has received money I hereby permit and authorize other members of this combine to take the forfeit of my life in such manner as they may deem proper and that my throat may be cut, my tongue torn out and my body cast into the Mississippi river. And all of this I do solemnly swear, so help me God."

A crisis in the anthracite coal strike (pp. 278, 337, 340) is apparently near at hand, though nothing both definite and trustworthy regarding it has come to light. Our last report on the progress of this strike (p. 278) was made in August and related principally to the stationing of State troops under Gen. Gobin at Shenandoah. Since then there have been occasional reports in the daily press of violent incidents and of some unimportant collisions between the strikers and the troops, in consequence of which Gen. Gobin issued an order to the troops on the 3d to "shoot to kill." What has attracted most attention, however, has been persistent rumors of the certainty of an early settlement.

Senator Platt, of New York, stated positively on the 31st that the strike would be settled within two weeks.

Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania, had already intimated the probability of an early settlement, and it was known that he and Senator Penrose, of the same State, were strenuously trying to get some kind of terms from the coal trust that the strikers would accept. At the same time it appeared that Senator Hanna, of Ohio, had given up in despair. "I have exhausted all my efforts," said he in an interview at Buffalo, on the 24th; "I have done all in my power and can do no more. I will make no further attempts, for it would be useless." Nevertheless, it was hoped that Quay and Penrose might succeed, until their overtures for arbitration were definitely rejected on the 3d through a letter from George F. Baer, president of the Reading company, who argued that the questions at issue do not admit of arbitration. "You cannot arbitrate a question of wages," he wrote, "when an increase will destroy the business and a decrease will be unacceptable to the workmen." Soon after this, rumors gained currency that the governor of Pennsylvania was about to take steps to compel a settlement through arbitration to be imposed by a law to be enacted at a special session of the legislature which he designed calling. He was reported on the 3d as saying that "an extra session of the legislature would cost the state less money than it is costing to maintain the militia in the anthracite region to prevent and suppress riots." Apparently in furtherance of his design to force a settlement, Gov. Stone came to New York on the 8th, and on the 9th held a conference with J. Pierpont Morgan, through P. A. B. Widener, of Philadelphia, as intermediary.

Mr. Morgan is reported on the one hand to have declined to interfere, and on the other to have agreed to use his "good offices." The only authoritative report was given out by Gov. Stone himself. It is as follows:

Attorney General Elkin, Senator Flynn and myself have been in consultation for some hours to-day with P. A. B. Widener, of Philadelphia, who is a director in the United States Steel corporation, and is associated with Mr. Morgan in many business interests. Mr. Widener is anxious to see the strike settled, and to-day took up the matter with Mr. Morgan. We are doing what we can.

The soft coal strike in West Virginia (p. 279), which began June 7

(p. 119), has ended in the defeat of the strikers. The strikers in the Norfolk and Western railway fields held mass meetings on the 4th at which they decided to accept the terms of the operators on condition that all the strikers are taken back. This was agreed to, and work was resumed on the 8th. Before that time the local unions throughout the whole field of the strike were authorized each to resume on the best terms it could get, without regard to the action of the others. This ended the strike. The employers had made no concessions.

Conditions in the Mohammedan regions of the Philippines (p. 311) have not improved and Gen. Chaffee has ordered an expedition to subdue the restless Moros. The expedition, ordered on the 6th, is to be under the command of Gen. Sumner, and is to invade the Maciu country, which is supposed to be the stronghold of the hostile Moros. Gen. Sumner is to have a command of eight companies of infantry, two troops of cavalry and a battery of artillery. It seems that Gen. Chaffee decided upon this expedition after an attack had been made on United States troops near Camp Vicars on the 1st, in resisting which an officer and two soldiers were killed and one soldier was wounded.

There are intimations, also, of the probability of a conflict with the sultan of Bacolodad, Negros island, who is reported as maintaining a hostile attitude toward the Americans.

China and Great Britain concluded a commercial treaty on the 8th which has been in process of negotiation during the most of the summer. The important feature of this treaty is a clause exempting British goods from the "liken" or provincial tax, in consideration of permission to increase Chinese import duties 150 per cent. In anticipation of this and of similar clauses in treaties with the foreign powers generally the Chinese government issued an edict on the 29th abolishing all "liken" stations throughout the empire. Russia and France have not yet consented to the increase of import taxes, but the other powers have. It is expected that the abolition of the "liken" tax will open the interior of China freely to the commerce of the world.

From Great Britain there comes no important news, other than de-

sultory despatches regarding the operation of the Crimes act (p. 346) in Ireland, unless the publication of a "blue book" giving the official version of the efforts of the Boer generals in Europe to get better terms than those of the peace treaty be excepted. France gives indications of bitterness still prevailing in connection with the closing of the Catholic schools (p. 295); and Germany is chiefly concerned with the emperor's army maneuvers. But if Germany is making no news at home she has been making some on our side of the Atlantic through the action of one of her naval commanders in connection with the revolution in Hayti.

Hayti's revolution, last mentioned on page 236, when the revolutionary forces appeared to be making headway against the provisional government, had reached a stage on the 3d at which the revolutionist naval vessel, the Crete-a-Pierrot, commanded by Admiral Killick, undertook to search a German merchant vessel, the Markomania, which was engaged in carrying arms and ammunition for the provisional government, into the harbor of Cape Haytien. The captain and the German consul protested, but the search was made and the goods were seized as contraband of war. Three days later, on the 6th, the German gunboat Panther approached the Crete-a-Pierrot in the harbor of Gonaives, the seat of the revolutionary government, and retaliated by demanding its surrender, giving Admiral Killick 5 minutes in which to reply. At Killick's request the time was extended to 15 minutes. Before abandoning the ship Killick's crew set it on fire and then the Panther bombarded it until it sunk. It is rumored that Admiral Killick lost his life. The provisional government, against which the Crete-a-Pierrot had been operating, has naturally enough advised Germany that Hayti regarded the Crete-a-Pierrot as a pirate and her own dignity as unoffended by the act of the Panther.

On the 6th the provisional president of Hayti, Borsrond Canal, issued an order closing the ports of Gonaives, Saint Marc, and Port de Paix to foreign commerce.

Reports of a battle on the 4th and 5th between the provisional and the revolutionary forces, are to the effect that the revolutionists captured Gen.