

well as north, are now drawn toward the republican party, so democrats of all past party affiliations are repelled by its pro-slavery trend. The process of again separating the goats from the sheep in the politics of this country is advancing with gratifying speed.

In deciding to begin the campaign of 1904 now, and to keep up the work throughout the coming four years, the democratic national committee has done much to inspire public confidence. There is hard work and delicate work to be done. Not only are the McKinley elements of the republican party to be fought and the democratic elements of that party to be awakened, but the plutocratic and Bourbon elements of the democratic party, encouraged by Bryan's second defeat, are to be headed off in their efforts to recapture the organization. In this work the committee will get many rebuffs and but cold comfort at the most from the democratic press of cities. It must make sentiment through the country by means of a literary bureau; and to make that efficient every energy should be devoted to its maintenance. Important as local organization is, this is even more important if a choice must be made.

Having consented, under the pressure of a tremendous strike, to make an increase of ten per cent. in wages in the anthracite coal fields, the monopolists of that region are recouping by adding 50 cents a ton to the wholesale price of coal. According to the estimate of the Philadelphia Record, this will more than cover the advance in wages. So it is not the coal field monopolists, but the already overburdened coal consumer, whom the anthracite strikers overcame. What they have gained, and more than they have gained, the consumer loses. The monopolist alone comes out ahead. All of which goes to show that so long as monopoly is maintained by law, labor conflicts are in

effect not between laborers and monopolists, but between some laborers and other laborers.

It cannot be disputed that one of the marked effects of the election has been a further boom in McKinley prosperity. Standard Oil trust certificates have gone up with a leap. Railway shares have passed the highest point since 1885. The ice trust has secured control of 90 per cent. of the ice business on the Atlantic seaboard. A steel billet pool has been formed which conspires to raise prices to \$20 a ton. A rice trust has been incorporated. The salt trust has marked up the price of common salt from \$1.10 to \$2.50 per hundred pounds. The meat trust has put a cent a pound upon the commodity it controls, which raises the price to consumers from two to three cents or more. John D. Rockefeller is forming a trust to master the Texas cattle business. And the New York stock exchange has been in hysterics over the largest aggregate of gambling transactions in its history. But business in general, the legitimate trading of the country as distinguished from stock exchange gambling and the arbitrary decrees of trusts, has remained quiet; while wages have not gone up, though the steel trust at its plant at Mingo Junction, O., and a plow factory at Racine, Wis., are reported to have made a reduction. Of such is the prosperity of McKinley.

It is probable that the extraordinary trading on the stock exchanges consists in the unloading by trust magnates of their trust holdings upon innocent lambs. This probability is confirmed by reports that the public is greedily buying "industrials." Having raised a general expectation that McKinley's election would boom business, the manipulators of trust stocks are letting go of them at high prices to a gullible public, with the intention of buying them back later on at lower prices. Much piteous bleating may be expected in due time.

John J. Lentz, the eloquent Ohio congressman who fought the imperial administration so hard in the house as to draw its especial attention to his district when he came up for reelection last week, appears upon the face of the returns to have been defeated by eight votes. Mr. Lentz claims that this result was procured by corrupt means, in which Hanna, Dick and McKinley participated; and he announces his purpose of subjecting all three to a rigid cross-examination in the contest he intends to make. Though refusing at this stage to discuss the matter, he declares that while he has no personal desire to retain his seat in congress he does feel that the people of the United States should learn something of the wholesale bribery that was carried on in his district. A contested election case from Lentz's district, in which Hanna, Dick and McKinley were compelled to tell what they know about the distribution of campaign funds, would certainly lack none of the elements of general interest.

The proceedings of the Cuban constitutional convention will bear close watching. The convention is composed of 31 delegates. A majority, therefore, would be only 16; and 16 men are not a large number to influence. Should this majority lend itself to the schemes of the American syndicates that direct the policies of the administration at Washington, the people of Cuba could be sold, assigned, transferred and delivered, bound hand and foot, by a constitution not of their own adoption. True, they have elected the delegates. But the delegates may decide not to submit the constitution they frame to approval by the people. And this is the decision they are in danger of making. It is not for his health that the secretary of war, Mr. Root, has gone to Cuba. Neither is it exclusively to fish for fish, although he has taken fishing tackle with him. He may have man tackle also in his baggage. If the Cuban people understand the situation they will demand

that any constitution which the Cuban convention frames shall be submitted for approval to popular vote. Every move against that course may be safely regarded as a move against Cuban independence.

In the federal court at New York Judge Brown has decided that as Puerto Rico "is subject solely to the sovereignty and dominion of this country" it is "not a foreign port." This decision was made in a pilotage case, which depended, with reference to pilots' fees, upon whether Puerto Rican ports are American or foreign. Though the decision is not reported in full, there is no probability that it vitally touches the great question of the application of the American constitution, by its own force, to Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico might be American territory, and yet, from the imperialist point of view, not be subject to the American constitution. But two cases are now before the supreme court, to be argued December 17, which do involve the main question. They turn upon the right of the United States to collect tariff duties on goods imported into the United States from the Philippines and Puerto Rico after the Spanish cession. Should these cases be decided against the government, the whole protective system would receive a shock, which could hardly fail to prove fatal either to that system or to imperial colonization. In the event of a contrary decision, the question of the application of the liberty clauses of the constitution to "our colonies" will still be an open one.

An important decision relative to federal authority in the states has been made by the federal court of appeals at San Francisco upon an appeal from the conviction of ten Idaho strikers for obstructing the mails by stopping a mail train. These men had been fined and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment by the lower federal court, but the court of appeals has released them on the ground that

the indictment did not allege that they knew the train they obstructed carried mails. This court held that it is not a federal crime to hinder and delay the passage of a railroad mail train unless the train is actually carrying mails and the obstructors know it. Should the decision be generally recognized as sound, it will serve to protect the country from one of its most menacing dangers—the usurpation of power by the federal government. For the undoubted right of the federal government to protect the mails and to punish their obstruction has been used at the solicitation of great private corporations as a subterfuge to excuse the unwarranted exercise of federal authority, both judicial and military, for the suppression of local disturbances. If the federal authority cannot interfere with strikes, on pretense that they obstruct the mails, unless the strikers intend such obstruction, railway corporations will be obliged to look for protection to the local authorities, where alone it is safe to lodge police powers, and the dangers of concentrated imperial power, directed from Washington, will be to that degree removed.

When George A. Schilling made the speech in English at the thirteenth annual Chicago meeting in commemoration of the execution in 1887 of the so-called Chicago anarchists, he said that if he were ever tried as those men were he hoped it would be by a jury of millionaires. His reason was that if one of the millionaires were a man of convictions he would hang out for acquittal without fear of losing his job. "Of all the things I should dread," Schilling added, "it would be to be tried by a jury of the hired men of millionaires." This is not an irrational dread. Hired men have come to be so hopelessly dependent for opportunities to earn a living that the most potent fear in the great majority of homes to-day is the fear of losing employment. It is not confined to the poorer classes. The same specter of possible poverty that grins at the struggling me-

chanic invades the parlors of the well to do, glares through the windows of counting-rooms, and even stalks along the corridors of the rich. It does make of the hireling an abject creature, as Schilling says, so abject that even as a juror, with the life and death of a fellow-man hanging in the balance, he swaps his conscience for his employer's favor. For that reason, a jury of millionaires would be safer for an innocent prisoner against whom the prejudice of the rich had been aroused. But millionaires themselves must be men of courage in such circumstances, or they, too, will surrender their convictions. So complex are the ramifications of business that not many millionaires could stand up against the vengeance of their fellows. Among all the millionaires of Chicago there are few who could not be ruined by the others. This is not because such power resides with any one naturally. It is due to the vast system of legal monopolies we have been creating and fostering. In a state of free competition no one could coerce anyone else. By checking competition, until now its regulative power is all but destroyed, we have corrupted our business, our newspaper press, our politics, and even our jury system. We have cultivated a race of cowards by inspiring men with fear of poverty.

Another university professor loses his chair for holding opinions adverse to parasitical pecuniary interests. Prof. Ross, of Leland Stanford university, has learned that if one will not labor for plutocratic privileges he shall not eat of plutocratic crumbs. And so the good work of exposing the claws beneath the velvet of plutocracy goes on, thanks to our friend the enemy.

RECOMPENSE.

I have loved justice and hated iniquity; and therefore I die in exile.—Pope Gregory VII.

When Bryan was in Jefferson City in 1897 he stated, in a private conversation, that he did not expect his reward at the hands of the people