

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