

mony, explained to newspaper correspondents as follows:

The meaning I intended to convey when I mentioned Judge Parker was this: Judge Parker, when a candidate for the Presidency last year, did not personally ask me for campaign funds, but friends of his did so repeatedly. Judge Parker, as chairman of the State Democratic committee several years ago, did, however, accept proffered contributions to the campaign fund.

Judge Parker's interpretation of the deeper significance of these campaign contributions was in some degree corroborated by the following special dispatch from Washington to the Chicago Record-Herald, a Republican paper, in which the dispatch appeared on the 17th:

Significance attaches to the admission of Mr. Perkins that the large insurance companies paid large sums to the Republicans in the year that Theodore Roosevelt was running for President. The reason for this may be shown when the insurance lobby comes here with a bill placing all insurance business under Federal control. This bill has already been drawn and introduced in the Senate. By the same token President Roosevelt has become interested in it and has started an agitation in favor of the measure. The measure was drawn by James M. Beck, former assistant attorney general, now counsel for the Mutual Life Insurance Company; and one of its most earnest supporters is Senator Dryden, of New Jersey, president of the Prudential Life Insurance Company. John A. McCall, during the national campaign of 1904, came out in favor of Roosevelt's election, although he and Alton B. Parker had been great friends. Mr. McCall was one of those who journeyed to Oyster Bay and saw the President. Since then he had been entertained at the White House. George W. Perkins is a frequent visitor at the White House, and so are important men interested in the Equitable and Mutual Life.

President Roosevelt has made no statement and Cornelius N. Bliss refuses to make any. But on the 20th it was unauthoritatively reported in the dispatches from Oyster Bay that President Roosevelt had summoned George B. Cortelyou, the chairman of the Republican campaign committee; Secretary Root, who knows intimately the machinery of the big insurance companies; Senator Lodge, his personal representative in the Senate, and Joseph H. Choate, upon whose legal knowl-

edge he relies implicitly, to a secret conference to consider the advisability of paying back to the treasuries of life insurance companies all money contributed by them to the last campaign.

Bryan to Roosevelt on peace plans.

Apropos of the reports of President Roosevelt's services in connection with the Russian-Japanese treaty of peace (pp. 353, 357) William J. Bryan addressed him the following letter from Lincoln, Neb., on the 14th:

Circumstances have placed you in a position where, as Chief Executive of the nation, you were able to bring Russia and Japan together to effect an honorable peace. You performed your duty in a manner creditable to yourself and your country. You have been hailed as a peacemaker, and you realize how the peaceful victory thus achieved by you outshines your military exploits. Why not use your present opportunity to put on foot a movement for the establishment of permanent peace? Last winter you asked for authority to enter into agreements which would be in effect arbitration treaties, and the Senate (wisely, I believe,) refused to surrender the treaty-making power. But now, if you had been intrusted with the authority asked, you would have hesitated to submit the question involving the nation's honor, and it is not always possible to know in advance what questions may be involved. Why not ask Congress for authority to submit all international questions (when an agreement cannot be reached by the parties interested) to an impartial board for investigation and report. Investigation will, in nearly every case, reveal the cause of complaint and reconcile the parties. Questions which a nation might be unwilling to submit to arbitration in advance could be settled by investigation by an impartial international board. It was a glorious thing to end the war between Russia and Japan, but it would have been more glorious to have prevented the war and saved the frightful loss of life. The moral prestige which our nation now enjoys in all probability would enable it to lead a successful peace movement. The congratulations which you have received from the heads of European governments strengthen the chances of success. If leading nations of the world would enter into an agreement to join in the creation of such a board and pledge themselves to submit all disputes to the board, for investigation before declaring war, the danger of war would be reduced to a minimum. Few men have had it in their power to do so much for humanity. Will you improve the opportunity?

Peace conference of the Powers.

It was reported from St. Petersburg on the 18th that the Czar has issued invitations to the world Powers for a second peace conference (vol. vii, pp. 375, 475) at The Hague, and from Oyster Bay that President Roosevelt will leave to the Czar the honor of making this call; but nothing authoritative on the subject has yet been made public.

The printers' eight-hour day in Chicago.

According to the reports of the printers' union of Chicago, apparently confirmed by other circumstances, the printers' strike for an eight-hour day (p. 377) is virtually won. On the 15th agreements for an eight-hour day were reported by representatives of the union as having been signed by over 75 establishments. This number had risen to 168 on the 19th. Among these are several members of the Typothetae. The Employers' Association, of which F. W. Job is secretary, has been active in supporting the resisting establishments, but that these establishments are crippled in their work is evident and the reports of the Typographical union seem well founded. The latest general news on the subject is to the effect that these establishments are trying to utilize typewriter girls as operators of linotype machines.

Progress of the Chicago traction movement.

At the adjourned meeting of the local transportation committee of the City Council of Chicago on the 15th, held for the purpose of receiving proposals from the existing companies (p. 375), no progress was made. All the traction interests were represented, and Col. E. R. Bliss acted as their spokesman. Col. Bliss stated that he had a proposition to make, but refused to submit it, though he said:

Our proposition is along the same lines as the Mayor's contract plan, with four or five sections omitted. Write the name of the Chicago City Railway Company in it in place of the Mayor's five directors and we will accept it."

"Will you agree to give the city all the earnings but 5 per cent. and to exercise control," the Mayor asked.

"I won't answer that question, but we will accept it with sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 omitted."

The sections enumerated by Col. Bliss are in substance as follows:

Section 3 provides for naming directors of a new company to establish and operate a traction plant in the interest of the city.

Sec. 4 prohibits issue of more stock than is actually necessary for construction, and provides for placing the stock in trust to secure performance of conditions of the proposed franchise.

Sec. 5 requires earnings to be distributed for (a) operation and maintenance; (b) salaries of directors, to be fixed by City Council; (c) five per cent. dividends on stock; and (d) sinking fund to be credited to the city on purchase of the plant by it.

Sec. 6 reserves to the city the right to buy and take over the plant at any time upon payment of actual cost.

Sec. 7 allows underwriting of the stock if necessary at not more than 2½ per cent.

Alderman Foreman asked Col. Bliss:

"In order that the City of Chicago may take over and own your lines at such time or times as it desires so to do, which time shall be fixed and the price at which the property shall be turned over definitely ascertained, will your company stipulate as follows. That in any settlement agreement it shall be provided that at a determined period or periods during the life of the agreement the city may take over your lines and that the price and the method of fixing the price and time of fixing the same shall be therein provided."

To this Col. Bliss replied:

"We will not say now that we will agree to sell to the city at an intermediate period. If you will substitute the Mayor's ordinance, striking out a few paragraphs, we will accept that."

Alderman Finn asked him:

"Will you agree to sell at any time the city asks you to for the cost of construction, irrespective of franchise rights?"

Col. Bliss replied:

"We will not."

Alderman Finn again asked:

"What is the earliest time you will sell to the city, irrespective of franchise rights?"

To this Col. Bliss replied:

"We cannot answer now, and will not say that we will sell at any time."

Asked if he had a plan to offer, Col. Bliss replied that he had, but would not offer it then. Aldermen Finn and Dever tried to get the plan before the committee, but were voted down, seven to five, on Alderman Foreman's motion to continue with the questions. The committee adjourned until the 26th.

It was decided by the executive committee of the Municipal Ownership League (p. 376) on the 14th to rescind the resolution for a general meeting of the League to consider Mayor Dunne's contract plan, inquiry having shown that the sentiment of the league was in favor of the plan; and on the 19th the executive committee of the Committee of One Hundred (vol. vii, p. 697) also approved the Mayor's plan.

Ward meetings are now being organized for the purpose of inviting Mayor Dunne to come directly before the people and explain his plan. The first was held in the Twenty-sixth ward on the 19th. The hall, holding about 300, was crowded, and many people were turned away for want of room. Alderman Lipps, of the ward, a Republican accounted hostile to Mayor Dunne by the traction newspapers, presided. The meeting was addressed by Comptroller McGann and Mayor Dunne, and the Mayor's plan, as he explained it, was welcomed with the enthusiasm of a political meeting in the heat of a political campaign, notwithstanding that no political campaign is on. In the course of his speech Mayor Dunne said with reference both to his own plan and to all others:

I promise you that no ordinance will pass, except over my veto, unless it first has been submitted to the people for their approval.

Public service utilities in New Jersey.

In New Jersey the public utilities question (p. 50) is full of excitement, though it takes a different form there than in Chicago. New Jersey is so tied up with franchise interests that a movement against perpetual franchises and in favor of a twenty-five years' limitation is regarded as extremely radical. Another point of difference is the fact that the anti-franchise movement has taken a strong hold upon the Republican party. Mayor Fagan of Jersey City has stood almost alone as a Republican leader in this movement, but he is now joined by Assemblyman Colby, of Newark, whose astounding success at the Republican primaries on the 12th, and at the county convention on the 16th, puts these two men well to the front in Republican leadership in their

State. Colby, a man of only 30, aided by Fagan, made a people's campaign before the Republican voters of Newark, Colby seeking the nomination for State senator. Not only was he nominated over the county boss, who is also twin-boss of the State, but he carried 70 per cent. of the county convention. This enabled him to completely smash the Republican machine, dominated by the franchise interests, and nominate a full anti-franchise ticket. On top of this it is reported that the local Democratic leaders, recognizing the popularity of Colby and the value of the platform he stands on and which the Republican county convention adopted without a dissenting vote, have agreed that they will have their convention endorse Mr. Colby and thus render his election sure by the largest vote ever given a candidate of any party in Essex county. Colby purposes leading a movement in the next legislature to pass a bill limiting all franchises for every sort of public utility in the future to a period of twenty-five years, and providing that all railroads, trolley lines, gas and electric light companies and the like shall pay a tax rate at the same ratio per thousand that the private property owner now pays. His election under these circumstances is reported by the New York Times to be regarded by New Jersey politicians "as not the forerunner, but the accomplishment, of a change in State methods and politics, of the same sweeping character as the achievements of La Follette in Wisconsin and Folk in Missouri." The Times further explains that Colby's anti-corporation and anti-boss campaign had its spring in the efforts of the Public Service Corporation, which controls all the trolley systems of the State, to induce Newark, Jersey City, and other municipalities to grant to it street franchises in perpetuity.

Philadelphia politics.

In Philadelphia Mayor Weaver's fight against the local Republican ring (p. 359) has become so bitter that he is threatened with impeachment through ring influence. The ring, frightened by the popular headway Mayor Weaver has been making, withdrew its municipal ticket, nomi-