

Then, after deploring the post office scandals, this platform proceeds:

As the most alarming features of our present conditions are the evils which come from trusts, and as these evils are made possible by privileges and by monopoly of original sources of supply of natural products, therefore, to the end that the evils connected with the growth of trusts may be eliminated, we call for the removal of the tariff from all trust goods and demand that all tariff schedules be adjusted with a view to raising revenue only. We ask for such changes in our laws, statutory or constitutional, as will limit the charges by railroads to such an amount as will yield only a reasonable return on the capital actually invested and will render it impossible for transportation favors to be granted to anyone, and such as will make certain that all railway companies will be treated alike, such statutes to provide penalties that will be effectual to secure a compliance with them. When the sources of supply of any product are in the ownership of those who combine to extort from the people an unreasonable amount for such products then we believe it is the duty of the government to take such steps as may be necessary to secure an equitable distribution thereof, with fair compensation to the owners of the same, and so that the design of nature in making provision for the wants of man may not be perverted into means for his oppression.

An informal hearing before Judge Grosscup, of the United States Circuit Court at Chicago, in the receivership proceedings in connection with the Chicago traction question (p. 170), took place on the 18th. In accordance with the announcement made last week, the city of Chicago refused to appear in response to the invitation of the receivers and the judge. The whole day was devoted to the hearing, in which only the counsel for the traction interests participated. Their arguments, as classified and summarized with apparent intelligence by the court reporter of the Chicago Record-Herald in the issue of that paper of the 19th, were as follows:

1. The General Assembly of Illinois had under the Constitution of 1848, unlimited power to deal with the property rights and franchises of municipal corporations, and, therefore, to make regulations regarding the street railways of Chicago as it in its discretion deemed most advisable for the public good.

2. The 99-year act of 1865 was not in violation of the provisions of the Con-

stitution of 1848, which required that "no private or local law which may be passed by the General Assembly shall embrace more than one subject, and that subject shall be expressed in the title."

3. Long acquiescence in the validity of the act by the city and its representatives constitutes such laches as precludes them at this late day from objecting to the constitutionality of the act on the ground that its title is defective.

4. The acceptance by the companies of the ordinance of 1883 did not constitute a waiver by the companies of their rights under their original charters as amended by the act of 1865.

At the close of the argument, Judge Grosscup made a statement in which he said:

I do not not know when, or how, I shall announce my conclusions upon the validity of this so-called 99-year act. I do not know whether I shall make any announcement at all. The hearing here to-day is not a litigation; it is not a case; it is simply a method I adopted to obtain in an open, public way, such information and argument as may be needed properly to conserve the property intrusted to my care, while, at the same time, taking heed of the just interests of the city. It is true that as administrator of this property I could have informed myself privately, or by personal conferences, or by personal inspection of the pertinent documents, but it seemed to me that an open hearing was preferable. . . . I am unwilling, even now, to close the inquiry, if parties who think that the act of 1865 [meaning the 99-year act] is invalid wish either by personal conference, letter, or brief, to bring to my attention omitted information. In case I receive no further aid, I shall have to rely, of course, upon my own researches. But I trust it will not be forgotten that I have legitimate use for complete information; for on correct information depends what I shall do in requiring considerable sums to be expended upon improvements, as well as in determining what steps I am bound to take when the 30th of July of this year arrives; and if, through lack of information, I err, the responsibility will not be on me.

On the following day, the 19th a conference, at the request of Judge Grosscup, took place in his chambers between Edwin Burritt Smith, as special counsel for the city, the receivers and their attorneys, and Judge Grosscup. Neither the nature nor the result of this conference has been divulged.

As to the negotiations with the

Chicago City Railway (p. 170), which is not involved in the receivership proceedings, the local transportation committee of the Chicago city council referred back to the sub-committee on the 19th the three sections of a proposed franchise ordinance, quoted last week (p. 170), with instructions to proceed with the negotiations with the representatives of the Chicago City Railway Co., "and that on completion of the draft of an entire ordinance," they report the same to the full committee for consideration as a whole. Since then the sub-committee has been in continuous conference with representatives of this company.

Another Negro lynching (pp. 154, 155), and burning at the stake is to be added this week to the long and growing list of horrors in this one-sided race war. No other outrage in that catalogue is more atrocious than this one. It occurred near Wilmington, Del., on the 22d, and the victim was a Negro of the name of George G. White. White had been arrested for a brutal crime upon a school girl of 18, who had been stabbed and found in a dying condition on the highway three miles out of Wilmington. Suspicion fell upon White, who had but recently been released from the workhouse, and a coroner's jury attributed the death of the young girl to him. He denied the crime. Owing to the intensity of public feeling, the court refused a request to call a special grand jury in order to secure a summary indictment and speedy conviction of White. As Judge Grubb of the County Court explained, a fair trial at this time would have been impossible. The authorities meanwhile had removed the prisoner to the workhouse to prevent a lynching which might have been effected without much difficulty at the county jail. When the mob appeared at the workhouse, some 4,000 strong, resistance was made and shots were fired by the keepers and the police, and one boy was mortally wounded thereby. The mob secured the prisoner, however, and led by about 20 men on horseback and dressed as women, carried him to the place of his supposed crime, where a stake and fuel had been provided in advance. There they wound their prisoner about with ropes, tying him to the stake, and after he had confessed, as is reported, lighted the fire. The ropes gave way as the blaze

licked them, and the victim, already cruelly burned, made a dash for liberty, but only to be struck with a rail and thrown helpless back into the fire, where his body was consumed. About 2 o'clock the next morning the mob dispersed. One arrest has been made and others are promised.

Another attempt to lynch a Negro was reported on the 23d, this time from Peoria, Ill. The Negro's name is John E. McCray. Charged with committing a robbery, and arrested by an officer, Wm. E. Murphy, he shot the officer, who died of the wound within the hour. A mob of 1,000 persons attempted to seize the Negro after his arrest by another officer, but the sheriff held them at bay by pointing out the jail fence as a "dead line" and announcing that any man who touched it would be shot. The danger of a lynching is reported now to have passed, although an angry mob still gathers in the streets.

While the later news of these race lynchings was on the wires, a meeting of Negroes at Quinn chapel, Chicago, listened to an address by the Rev. C. H. Thomas, a Negro clergyman who was in Bellville, Ill., when David T. Wyatt, the colored teacher, was lynched there recently (p. 154). The special object of this meeting was to raise a fund for the grief-stricken widow, left destitute with five children to support, and who sat upon the platform. But the discussion gave indications of a disposition to fight back. Mr. Thomas is reported to have said in the course of his speech:

If this lynching and burning is not stopped by the constituted authorities, then I say to every black man, "go sell your coat and buy a gun to defend yourself."

To similar effect was a speech at the same meeting by Ida Wells Barnett, who is reported as follows:

You cannot expect the white men to fight your battles when you will not fight them for yourselves. If the white men are our friends let them show us that they are by their actions and by giving us their protection; but it is for us to arouse ourselves. Burning and lynching of Negroes is becoming so common in this country that the consciences of the people are becoming seared, and they no longer arouse popular indignation. I remember when the first Negro was lynched in this country, there was a cry sent up from every corner, but now it has

got so that even ministers of the gospel, white men, mind you, tell the people from their pulpits that it is right to burn Negroes.

In reference to a dispute at the meeting over the inaction of the Illinois authorities at the time of the Bellville lynching, Mrs. Barnett said:

What do we care whether Gov. Yates was in the chair at Springfield or not? Somebody was there in authority, if not the governor, somebody put there by him, and the question is, are you or are you not going to hold him responsible. If you don't, these things will go on until some day there will be a burning in Chicago.

To lend a new aspect to this race war, news is beginning to come up out of the rural districts of Alabama and Georgia of a system of Negro peonage, not far removed from slavery, which it appears has long prevailed in those remote regions. Two prosecutions for this form of crime have come before the Federal courts, one in Alabama and the other in Georgia. In the Alabama case J. W. Pace, a leading planter of Talapoosa county, pleaded guilty in the United States court at Montgomery on the 24th to eleven indictments returned against him by the Federal grand jury. His attorneys filed demurrers in each case, which the court overruled. He then entered pleas of guilty and appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals at New Orleans. On his plea of guilty the court sentenced him to five years' imprisonment in each case, to be served concurrently. Pending appeal he is under \$5,000 bail. In the Georgia case, three young farmers—Slay, Clarkson and Turner—were convicted in the Federal court at Macon, also on the 24th, of having seized a Negro debtor of theirs, and, by whipping, forced him to work for them. They were sentenced to fines of \$1,000, and required to pay \$100, the remainder of the sentence being suspended pending their good behavior.

NEWS NOTES.

—Cardinal Vaughan, archbishop of Westminster, England, died at London on the 20th, aged 71 years.

—After a vain struggle of three months for a ten per cent. increase of pay the striking textile operatives at Lowell, Mass., abandoned their strike on the 19th.

—A Chicago Republican Voters' League, for the purification of the Republican party within the party, was incorporated on the 20th. It declares

for direct primaries, the merit system and home rule.

—At the sixteenth American Derby race at Chicago on the 20th an unknown colt, The Picket, won the race by six lengths in 2:33. There were 18 horses in the race.

—The revolution in Morocco (p. 38), reported in April to have succeeded, appears still to meet with resistance, for on the 20th, by way of Madrid, Spain, it was reported that the Moorish war minister had lost 6,000 men in a battle fought with the rebels at Anniedinna.

—The return of the Rev. R. A. Torrey, of Chicago (Moody's successor), from an evangelizing tour around the world, was celebrated on the 23d by an audience that packed the great hall of the Auditorium and listened intently to Mr. Torrey's account of experiences on his trip.

—The Supreme Court of Illinois decided on the 23d that city council privileges for the erection of structures over streets beyond the lot lines are illegal, on the ground that a city can have no authority to accept public streets on any other condition than that they shall be for public use.

—The Chicago waiters' strike (p. 169) was declared off on the 19th. The employers agreed to take back all the strikers, 75 per cent. at once and 25 per cent. within ten days; the employes waived their demand for unionization, and both parties agreed to submit all other differences to arbitration.

—In a street car strike in Richmond, Va., a posse of street car guards fired buckshot into a mob of strike sympathizers on the 24th, seriously wounding two and slightly wounding four more. Twelve companies of militia were guarding the car lines on the 24th and six more were to arrive on the 25th.

—The Ziegler polar expedition sailed on the 23d from Trondhjem, Norway, on board the steam whaler America for Franz Josef land, where the America will pass the winter and whence expeditions will be sent out with dog sledges. Material for the construction of winter quarters was taken on board the steamer.

—The full returns from the German parliamentary elections (p. 169), as reported on the 19th are as follows: Socialists, 54, 122 reballots; center party, 88, 36 reballots; conservatives and free conservatives, 37, 53 reballots; national liberals, 5, 65 reballots; Richter radicals, 24 reballots; Barth radicals, 11 reballots; South German radicals, 8 reballots; Poles, 14, 8 reballots; Alsations, 6, 4 reballots; Hanoverians, 8 reballots; Danes, 1 elected; anti-Semites, 1, 8 reballots. Many socialist workingmen who absented themselves from work election day,