

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 Philip 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.