

them by the State for transportation purposes, and have tended, and even sometimes sought, to corrupt legislation to such an extent as to threaten the stability of republican government.

Proceeding then from the enacting clause the bill proposes—

That on and after [blank date] any responsible party shall have the right to use a locomotive and cars on any railroad track in this State, on application to the State Train Dispatcher as hereinafter provided. There shall be a man of ability and experience appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature as Train Dispatcher for each railroad in the State, with power to appoint his assistants, and all yard masters and switchmen. He shall have ample compensation, and be responsible to the State only, under heavy penalties for any discrimination among applicants for right of way, each party taking their turn, as boats on the canal. On application of any railroad company for the transfer of title of the road bed and appurtenances to the State, a commission shall be appointed, part by the Governor and part by the local authorities of some of the largest towns on the railroad, to ascertain and report to the legislature, what would be a just compensation for the same, and in no case more than it would cost to duplicate it. On the acquisition by the State of one or more railroad beds and track fixed appurtenances, a permanent commission shall be appointed in such manner as the legislature shall provide, under which said road bed, tracks and fixed appurtenances shall be maintained in complete order and condition at State expense for public use. No tolls or charges of any kind shall be levied for the use of these roads. The expense to the State of the salaries of train dispatcher, yard masters, and switchmen, shall be considered as track rent and ample compensation to the Railroad companies, until the transfer of title.

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The author of this measure asks everyone into whose hands it falls to read it carefully and then talk it over with his friends. We repeat the request. For ought we know, a practicable bill might have to go much more into detail, and differently into detail in different States. But the principle has here been hammered into good general form so as to be adaptable to the railway laws of any State. The only seriously doubtful point is that which is raised by the preamble, and this will not be doubtful if public sentiment overwhelmingly supports it. The courts—even those whose judges are appointed and for life—also have their “ears to the ground.”

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A good many years ago the people of England sent all their criminals to Australia. They began raising corn and wheat, cattle and sheep; they waxed rich in a couple of generations, and the people of the parent country found that the descendants of their criminals were better than they were, and England organized land syndicates to take the land away from them.—Commonsense, of Cleveland.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

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Week ending Tuesday, May 26, 1908.

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### Presidential Politics.

William Jennings Bryan was the guest of honor at the banquet of the Bankers' Club of Chicago on the 22nd. He spoke with absolute plainness, yet with courtesy. At one point he declared, amid profound silence, as the scene is reported, that officials of banks should be held to criminal account for violating the law which forbids loans of more than 10 per cent of a bank's capital to one person. In the same silence he is reported to have asked why any one should be squeamish about applying as harsh laws to bankers as are applied to the poorest citizen in the land. In the course of his speech, which is characterized by the local papers as one of the most notable he has ever made in Chicago, Mr. Bryan proposed that—

Absolute security should be guaranteed depositors.

The Oklahoma system should be adopted and every bank in a certain district should stand behind every other bank; all banks should guarantee each other. This should be done by a tax of one-quarter of 1 per cent on the amount of the deposits.

There should be a criminal penalty for infringement by bank officials of the present law, which forbids the loaning of more than 10 per cent of the capital and surplus to one person.

An emergency currency should be issued by the government, and not by the banks.

The emergency currency should be given to the banks on liberal terms as to security, and bonds should not be insisted upon as security.

No foreign system of banking should be introduced; the American system should be improved so as to make it a secure system.

“Despite the almost unbroken silence which met the main portions of Mr. Bryan's speech and greeted all his chief suggestions,” says the Record-Herald, “the audience seemed to be impressed by the very force and audacity of the Nebraska.” From Chicago Mr. Bryan went to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he made a political speech in which he is reported to have said that there is—

Only one Republican candidate for President who could really be considered as representative of the reforms that the people demand and that is Senator La Follette of this State. How much sympathy the Republican leaders of the country have for these reforms is shown by the fact that save in Wiscon-

sin, Sentaor La Follette has received no support in his Presidential aspirations.

Referring to President Roosevelt's policies, Mr. Bryan said in his speech:

A Republican asked me if I did not think President Roosevelt had talked too much and acted too little. I answered by asking the man what could a person do whose hands were tied behind his back by a lot of highwaymen and who had nothing left but his voice. Would you not give him credit for making a noise?

Prior to these speeches Mr. Bryan had addressed the Methodist General Conference at Baltimore on the 19th.

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On the 22nd the Democratic conventions (p. 178) of Missouri and South Carolina respectively instructed for Bryan, as did the Democratic convention of Michigan. At Harrisburgh on the same day the Pennsylvania convention, controlled by Colonel Guffy, refused to instruct by a vote of 187 to 123. Most of the 64 district delegates are under local instructions for Bryan. Counting only those that are instructed, Bryan now has 473 votes, which is but 199 short of the necessary two-thirds. A large number of the uninstructed delegates are Bryan men.

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A rumor having been started in consequence of a European trip which William Randolph Hearst contemplates taking, that the Independence Party (pp. 60, 133, 156) would be abandoned, Mr. Hearst published the following interview in his own papers on the 20th:

The best answer will be the events of the next two months. The Independence Party already has organized in thirty-three States, and I make the statement confidently that on the 27th of July delegates from every State in the Union will assemble at the convention of the Independence Party in Chicago. I am going abroad now to take a brief rest before the campaign. I shall come back for the convention and for the campaign. I am not a candidate for the nomination myself and have not been, but I am preparing to work to the utmost of my ability for the men whom the convention of the Independence Party shall see fit to nominate. It is not true that I have abandoned the Independence Party; it is not true that I am going to support Mr. Bryan or Mr. Taft or any but an Independence Party nominee; it is not true that Mr. Hisgen has declined to run if nominated; it is not true that I have seen Mr. Connors many times or even once.

A conference of Independence Party leaders has been called here, and from the Far West, from the Middle West, from the South and from New England, these leaders are already in the city ready to plan organization and activity from now until the convention. That organization will be complete, and that activity sufficient to satisfy the Independence Party and to surprise both of the old parties.

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Mr. Bryan has challenged Mr. Taft to join him

in asking Congress for a law requiring publicity of campaign expenditures. He did so on the 26th in the following telegram from Lincoln to Mr. Taft at Washington:

I beg to suggest that as leading candidates of our respective parties we join in asking Congress to pass a bill requiring publication of campaign contributions prior to election. If you think best we can ask other candidates to unite with us in the request.

To this suggestion Mr. Taft made the following reply on the same day:

Your telegram received. On April 30 last I sent the following letter to Senator Burrows, the chairman of the committee on privileges and elections of the Senate:

My Dear Mr. Burrows—I sincerely believe that it would greatly tend to the absence of corruption in politics if the expenditures for nominations and elections of all candidates and all contributions received and expenditures made by political committees could be made public, both in respect to State and national politics. For that reason I am strongly in favor of the passage of the bill which is now pending in the Senate and House to bring about this result as far as the national politics is concerned. I mark this letter personal, because I am anxious to avoid assuming an attitude in the campaign which it is quite possible I shall never have the right to assume, but so far as my personal influence is concerned I am anxious to give it for the passage of the bill. Very sincerely yours, William H. Taft.

Since writing the above, in answer to inquiry I have said publicly I hoped that a bill would pass.

Mr. Taft has not yet indicated his willingness to join Mr. Bryan in asking Congress to pass such a bill.

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Congress.

Hope of an agreement on financial legislation by the conference committee of the two Houses (p. 179) was reported on the 20th as having been abandoned; but members of the lower House are holding back appropriations for local improvements throughout the country in order to force action by the Senate on financial measures. On the 21st the anti-injunction bill, which is urged by the President, was reported to have been dropped; and the postoffice appropriation bill is reported as not likely to pass with the ship subsidy clause in it. The campaign publicity bill, when it came before the House on the 22nd, was passed with an amendment, the Crumpacker bill, requiring a report upon the number of male citizens in each State to whom the right of voting has been denied or in any way abridged except for crime. The amendment is intended to expose officially the suppression of the Negro vote in Southern States.

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The Cleveland Street Car Strike.

The first agreement for arbitration of the Cleveland street car strike (p. 180) fell through and violence was renewed. There were no mobs, but trolley wires were cut, stones were thrown