

before the decision, aroused the suspicions of Western brokers as to foreknowledge of the decision on the part of a favored few, and investigation, according to newspaper reports, bore out suspicion. According to the New York Herald members of the Chicago stock exchange, through their Eastern correspondents, traced the leak, they say, to a broker in Boston, who handles transactions occasionally for Judge Grosseup's brother, and who is said to have invested heavily in stocks as early as Monday—two days before the Grosseup decision was given.

+

President Roosevelt's secretary made public the following statement, on the 23d:

The President has directed the Attorney General to immediately take steps for the retrial of the Standard Oil case. The reversal of the decision of the lower court does not in any shape or way touch the merits of the case excepting so far as the size of the fine is concerned. There is absolutely no question as to the guilt of the defendant or the exceptionally grave character of the offense. The President would regard it as a gross miscarriage of justice if, through technicalities of any kind, the defendant escaped the punishment which would have unquestionably been meted out to any weaker defendant who had been guilty of any such offense. The President will do everything in his power to avert or prevent such miscarriage of justice. With this purpose in view the President has directed the Attorney General to bring into consultation Frank B. Kellogg in the matter and to do everything possible to bring the offender to justice.

+

Attorney-General Bonaparte stated on the 24th, according to newspaper reports, that—

It is much to be regretted that, owing to the unreasonable restriction imposed by existing law upon the right of appeal by the United States in criminal cases, this cannot be done in what is obviously the most natural, most prompt, and most effectual method—namely: by a direct appeal to the Supreme court of the United States. In my opinion, it is of vital moment that the statute regulating interstate commerce should be so construed by our courts that it may not be practically impossible to convict law breakers on a vast scale, nor practically impossible to punish them, when convicted, with sufficient severity to assure future obedience to the law. I think it is the duty of my department to foster a wholesome fear of punishment among those often and strongly tempted to do what the law forbids. Such well considered measures will therefore be adopted after due deliberation and conference as will so far as practicable remove any possible danger which may be thought to exist lest the present decision, as a precedent or otherwise, shall prove an impediment to effective administration of these salutary laws.

In regard to Mr. Bonaparte's assertion that the case could not be carried to the United States Supreme Court, it has been explained by the department of

justice in Washington, in answer to inquiries, that no appeal lies under the present law to the Supreme court from a final judgment of the Circuit Court of Appeals in a criminal case as matter of right. The Government, however, has a right to present to the Supreme court an application for a writ of certiorari in cases of this character, and indeed in all cases. It is in the discretion of the court, however, whether a writ of that character should be granted. United States District Attorney Sims announced positively on the 23d that a petition for a rehearing in the case of the Government against the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, would be filed.

+ +

### The Democratic Campaign.

Norman E. Mack of Buffalo was selected as chairman of the Democratic National committee on the 25th, with Dr. E. L. Hall of Nebraska as vice-chairman, Urey Woodson of Kentucky as secretary, Governor C. N. Haskell of Oklahoma as treasurer, Henry Watterson of Kentucky as chairman of publicity bureau, and John I. Martin of Missouri as sergeant-at-arms. The central campaign headquarters are to be in Chicago.

+

Mr. Bryan plans to address himself especially to various groups of citizens. He desires that the railway trainmen shall be appealed to on the labor planks of the platform, which have been said to be not to their liking. He has addressed labor union men in person at his home (p. 392). And in The Commoner of July 24, jointly with Mr. Kern, he makes the following appeal to the farmers:

To the Farmers of the United States: The first contribution made to the Democratic campaign fund this year, so far as we know, was made by an Iowa farmer. Just before the Denver convention met, this man, who modestly prefers not to have his name mentioned, journeyed more than one hundred miles to Lincoln with his contribution of \$100, which he left with Mr. Bryan to be given to the committee when organized for the campaign.

This farmer was born in Sweden and for some time after he was naturalized was a member of the Republican party, but he was a student of public questions and in the course of time became a Democrat. He has been a reader of The Commoner since its establishment, and to manifest his deep interest in the success of the party and in this triumph of Democratic principles, he made this free-will offering to the campaign fund.

It is very appropriate that the first contribution should come from that great body of our population known as agriculturalists, for the farmer has nothing to gain by privilege and favoritism; his hope is in the application of the doctrine of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none." He has been the victim of all special legislation, and has suffered from the

control of politics by the great predatory corporations. Now that the Democratic party has announced its determination not to accept contributions from corporations, not to accept excessive contributions even from individuals, and to publish all contributions above a reasonable minimum, it ought to be able to secure a sufficient campaign fund from those patriotic citizens who ask from the government nothing but protection to their rights and consideration for the general welfare. There are hundreds of thousands of farmers who are abundantly able to contribute to the campaign fund. There are thousands who could give \$100 apiece without feeling it; there are tens of thousands who could give \$50 apiece without sacrifice, and still more who could give \$25 or \$10 or \$5.

As the National Committee has not yet been organized, we will ask The Commoner to call for subscriptions to this farmers' fund. Those giving can indicate whether they are willing to have their names mentioned and, if the contribution is not more than \$100 their wishes will be complied with. All contributions above \$100 must be made known, no matter from whom they come.

The farmers' fund will be turned over to the national committee as soon as its permanent officers have been selected. Who will be the first to respond? The Denver convention was a people's convention; it adopted a strong, clear, honest platform, and its nominations were made with practical unanimity. Our fight is a fight for the whole people. Our aim is equal and exact justice to all; our purpose is to restore the government to the hands of the freely chosen representatives of the voters. How many farmers will join in furnishing the fund necessary to present the issues?

+

In the same issue of The Commoner as the foregoing appears the following statement:

To the Readers of The Commoner:

My candidacy makes it necessary for me to suspend editorial work, and I desire to have it known that I should not be held personally responsible for matter appearing in The Commoner during the campaign, except that which appears over my signature.

My brother, Mr. Charles W. Bryan, who has had charge of the publication since its establishment, will assume control until November, and the associate editor, Mr. Richard L. Metcalf, will, during that time, be editor.

The Commoner will publish such speeches, letters etc., as I may prepare for the general public, and the readers of The Commoner will have full and accurate information as to the issues discussed. I bespeak for the paper the cordial support which, from the beginning, has made my connection with it so pleasant.

All profits from The Commoner, over and above actual expenses, from now until election will be turned over to the Democratic National Committee for the benefit of the campaign.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

+ +

### The Republican Campaign.

The Republican national campaign (p. 371) is

to be conducted from headquarters in Chicago, with subsidiary headquarters in New York. The Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Frank H. Hitchcock (p. 371), named the new executive board of the committee on the 26th, as follows: Charles F. Brooker of Connecticut, T. Coleman Du Pont of Delaware, William E. Borah of Idaho, Frank O. Lowden of Illinois, Charles Nagel of Missouri, Victor Rosewater of Nebraska, William L. Ward of New York, Edward C. Duncan of North Carolina, and Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania. As previously announced (p. 371), George R. Sheldon of New York is the treasurer of the committee, and on the 27th Fred W. Upham of Chicago was appointed assistant treasurer.

+

Hon. Wm. H. Taft was duly notified of his nomination for President by the Republican party, in Cincinnati on the 28th, with great celebration and festivity. The occasion took on a non-partisan character, and the municipality did honor to its illustrious citizen. Mr. Sherman is to be notified of his nomination to the Vice-Presidency some time between August 10 and 15, at his home in Utica, N. Y.

+ +

### The Prohibition Campaign.

The Prohibition candidate for the Presidency, Eugene W. Chafin (pp. 385, 391), has been speaking at various points in Illinois. He is quoted as saying at Wenona on the 24th: "If I am elected President of the United States on the 3d of November and have a Congress which will pass a prohibitory law, and there are any communities that refuse to obey the law and the civic authorities are unable to enforce it, I shall use the power conferred upon me by the Constitution and call out the militia, the standing army, and the navy, and enforce prohibition on every inch of territory under the American flag."

+

Mr. Chafin is to be officially notified of his nomination, in Chicago, on August 18.

+ +

### The Independence Party Convention.

The Independence party held its first national convention in Chicago on the 27th and 28th and into the early morning hours of the 29th. A platform was adopted, including planks for initiative, referendum and recall; for no injunction to issue without notice and hearing, and all contempt cases to be tried by a jury; for issuance of all money by the government; for tariff revision; for imprisonment of individuals criminally responsible for trusts; for government ownership of railroads; for postal savings banks; for a court to review the censorship and arbitrary rulings of the postoffice department; for opposition to Asiatic