

deal this fact when every man, woman and child knows it is so. Now everybody wants the truth told here and why don't you tell it? Every tub ought to stand upon its own bottom, and you folks ought not to dodge this question further." The witness refused to answer, however.

A mass meeting of socialists was held in New York protesting against the imprisonment of certain members of the Western Federation of Miners in connection with the murder of former Governor Steunenberg of Idaho. Resolutions were adopted announcing the arrest as a conspiracy, and urging wage-earners to rally to the defense of their comrade.

Judge Julius B. Bissell, former judge of the Colorado court of appeals, died at Denver.

General Wood cables from the Philippines and says that the slaughter of women and children in the recent battle with the Moros was unavoidable. He said that many of the women wore trousers and that the children were used as shields.

The testimony given before the interstate commerce commission at Kansas City revealed that the Standard Oil company was allowed to lay its pipe line along the right of way of the Santa Fe railroad for hundreds of miles; that a Standard representative was present at the meeting at which the rail rate was advanced to a prohibitive figure, and that independent producers are unable to ship outside the state of Kansas.

Senator Rayner of Maryland addressed the senate in behalf of rate legislation. He charged that the railroads had a joker inserted in the rate bill, and a heated debate followed. Senator Rayner said that the democrats would favor an amendment providing specific jurisdiction to review decisions of the interstate commerce commission to the extent of deciding whether a prescribed rate is "just compensation," and striking out the words recognizing the rights of the courts to suspend an order. He declared that the joker was the suspension clause in the Hepburn bill. Senator Foraker demanded to know who put the joker in the bill, and Rayner replied that the Ohio senator knew the man very well and if he insisted upon it he (Rayner) would after the senate adjournment give the names. In closing his speech Mr. Rayner said if he had any influence he would advise the railroads to consent to allowing the suspension feature to be struck from the bill, because if the people were aroused through the failure of adequate legislation their wrath in the end would be fatal to the railroad companies. This brought both Senators Lodge and Foraker to their feet. "What do you mean by referring, as you have, to getting the consent of the railroads?" demanded Senator Lodge. "Do you mean to say the railroads can say what shall or shall not be? Are the railroads sitting as legislators? Do you mean to say it?" "I mean," exclaimed Senator Rayner, quick as a flash, "that if the railroads met tonight and agreed to strike out the words 'to suspend' they would be struck out."

In view of the recent charges by the United States supreme court Mayor Dunne of Chicago is now mapping out a program for the acquirement by the city of the street railways. He says that the people will endorse the Mueller law certificates and municipal measures now submitted to them, and his plan, according to the Chicago Record-Herald, is about as follows: "The arrangement of a friendly suit by which the Mueller law certificates, \$75,000,000 of which are to be issued, will be speed-

ily tested before the supreme court of the state; Negotiations with the companies during the period the legal proceedings are under way looking toward agreement as to the value of the tangible properties and the fragments of franchise grants still held by them; the incorporation of a company under the laws of Illinois by five persons to be selected by the city council, who shall be trustees for the people of Chicago and shall assume at once the responsibility of acquiring the traction properties through the use of Mueller certificates, if, as the mayor believes, these certificates shall be held valid by the supreme tribunal; the operation of the street railway lines, as fast as taken over, by this municipality created company, and the turning in of all receipts to the city treasury; Gradual extension of the municipal system, radical improvement of the service and eventual wiping away of the certificate obligations; ultimate operation of all the surface roads in Chicago directly by the municipality."

C. I. Hildebrand has been nominated as a republican candidate to succeed Representative Scroggy from the Sixth congressional district of Ohio. It is said that neither republican candidate will be nominated in the same district, owing to a party quarrel.

Senator Tillman reported the railroad rate bill to the house March 15. He made a strong argument in favor of the proposed reform.

Judge Alton B. Parker, who was the democratic nominee for president in 1905, delivered a speech March 16 at Charlotte, South Carolina. Judge Parker pleaded for "conservatism" and said that ever since 1896 the party had failed of victory. He said that the democratic party must now turn to the south for a leader.

Representative Shackelford of Missouri undertook on March 16 to give the house a plain talk upon one-man rule. Mr. Shackelford referred to the manner in which Representative Brooks succeeded in bringing up a bill providing for the lease of 5,000 acres of Colorado land to a rubber company. According to the Associated Press report Mr. Shackelford said: "The gentleman was not recognized until he had first surrendered his constitutional rights as a representative of the people and crept into your private room, Mr. Speaker, there to supplicate you to extend to him your grace. No member can submit any matter to a vote of the house until he shall first have sought and found favor in your sight. The constitution contem-

plates that the speaker shall be the servant of the house. In defiance of the constitution you have made yourself its master. You have packed every committee so that no bill can be reported without your consent. Unless you are willing no member can move to discharge a committee from the consideration of a bill and take it up in the house. You sit an enthroned despot, subjecting the rights and destinies of this great people to the dictates of your own unbridled will. Who stands today between a progressive, enlightened people and the statehood to which they are entitled? You, sir, only you. You crack your whip and a majority of this house cowers at your feet. You turn your thumbs down and the house deals a death blow to prostrate, bleeding Oklahoma." Here Mr. Shackelford said he had read in the morning papers that "Uncle Joe" had given it out flatfooted that he would not permit the house to concur in the senate amendment on the statehood bill, and then proceeded: "A horrible announcement to be made in a free country!" The press report says: "The confusion in the house throughout Mr. Shackelford's remarks was such that very few members knew what he had said, when Mr. Tawney stopped him with an objection."

It is announced in the White House that as Justice Brown will not retire until June, when the supreme court will take a vacation until October, the president will take further time to choose Justice Brown's successor. The president is evidently anxious that Secretary Taft take the place, but Mr. Taft's friends think he should become a candidate for president.

A wreck on March 16 resulted from a head-on collision of two passenger trains on the Denver and Rio Grande railroad, four miles east of Florence, Colo. The trains met on a sharp curve and were less than two hundred yards apart when the engineers discovered that a collision was imminent. All of the crew of the east-bound train were killed. Fire swept over the wreck and the scenes that followed were heart-rending. Twenty-five people were killed, while twenty-four others were injured.

Friends of the ship subsidy bill are calling the attention of congressmen to the fact that the war and navy departments are deeply interested in the passage of that measure.

Terrible stories come from St. Petersburg showing acts of brutality toward men and women in Russian prisons.

PRIMARY PLEDGE PLAN

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge, which is printed on page 14.

The following letters are self-explanatory:

Dr. J. D. Case, Dorchester, Nebr.—Please find enclosed primary pledge with thirty-five signatures. Could get more if I had the time to give to

it, as every one seems pleased with the plan.

Thomas Darnall, Cobden, Ill.—Find herewith primary pledge bearing thirty-five signatures.

J. W. Stogsdill, Many Springs, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge and order for ten subscription cards. Will remit as soon as sold. I am in line with The Commoner.

W. H. Tisch, Grass Lake, Mich.—I enclose twenty-six primary pledges properly signed. This makes seventy-four pledges I have secured. I appeal to every young democrat in this great land to enlist in The Commoner's great plan by carrying a primary pledge sheet in his pocket. I always carry one in my pocket and ask every democrat I meet to sign, and as a result I get his signature without the least bit of trouble. Many seem to be glad to get a chance to sign. I am a young democrat, twenty-two years old. I have always done what I could for the democratic cause in my precinct and the primary

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