

## The Illinois Senatorial Scandal

A special grand jury in Chicago has charge of the Illinois scandal. The people are beginning to learn now why certain men elected to the legislature as democrats helped to elect to the United States senate, William Lorimer, a stand-pat republican. An editorial appearing in The Commoner of June 25, 1909—soon after Lorimer's election—will be interesting at this time. That editorial follows:

"Democracy as defined by the democrats in the Illinois legislature is about as loathsome an article as one can imagine. A republican boss has been sent to the United States senate by the aid of democratic votes. If the democratic members of the legislature had voted for Hopkins—objectionable as he was—they might have pleaded as an excuse that he had received a plurality in the primary of the dominant party; if they had helped in the selection of some clean and upright republican they might have justified their act, but to join in the selection of Speaker Cannon's right hand man is indefensible whether considered from the standpoint of party or from the standpoint of patriotism.

"Why did they do it? Well, you can not judge from the reasons given publicly. Watch the democrats who voted for him and you may be able to discover from their movements what led them to so grossly abuse the authority vested in them."

### The Grand Jury's Work

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Chicago, May 4.—In the special grand jury investigation of the alleged bribery in connection with the election of United States Senator William Lorimer, the first witnesses today were Representative Charles White who alleges he accepted \$1,000 to cast his vote for Lorimer; Senator Albert E. Easley of Newton, who made the first speech in the legislature denouncing Lorimer as a candidate, and Representative Henry E. Sheppard of Jerseyville.

Representative Thomas Tippet of Olney was present in the state attorney's office. Tippet was a candidate for the minority leadership against Lee O'Neill Browne, who is alleged by Representative White to have disbursed the so-called Lorimer "slush fund." The three legislators, all of whom are democrats, said they were present in answer to telegrams from the state's attorney.

Tippet and Sheppard voted for Lorimer, but Easley held out for the democratic candidate, Steinger.

To reporters, Mr. Easley said he would testify as to common gossip at Springfield that democratic votes were being sought with money in behalf of the Lorimer candidacy.

That States Attorney Burke of Sangamon county, of which Springfield is the county seat, intends to push an independent inquiry into the bribery charges was made evident here today.

"I have two democratic state representatives who will give important evidence before the special grand jury in regard to the alleged bribery in the election of William Lorimer as United States senator," said States Attorney John Wayman today on his return from a mysterious visit to St. Louis and the southern part of Illinois.

"These witnesses will appear before the grand jury on Saturday and tell some important things about the election of Mr. Lorimer," continued Mr. Wayman. "I am not at liberty to give their names, but I will say they are members of the state legislature, whose names have not been mentioned thus far in the investigation. Their identity will be a surprise."

### Indictments Returned

Chicago, May 6.—Lee O'Neil Browne of Ottawa, democratic leader of the Illinois house of representatives, was indicted on a charge of bribery, and Representative Robert E. Wilson of Chicago and Representative Michael S. Link of Mitchell were indicted on charges of perjury here today by the special grand jury which for a week has been investigating the election on May 26, 1909, of William Lorimer of Chicago to the United States senate. The charge upon which the indictments were returned in Judge Kersten's court was supplied by Representative Charles White of O'Fallon and Representative H. J. C. Beckemeyer of Carylie. Wilson and Link as well as White and Beckemeyer are democratic members of the legislature.—Associated Press Report.

### "APPROACHED WITH CAUTION"

Washington, May 8.—Associated Press Dispatch: Although President Taft was quoted in his Boston address not long ago as being in favor of a central bank, it was learned today that he is opposed to a central bank of issue at the present time. To the scores of bankers who have been sending inquiries, Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh has been authorized by the president to make the following statement:

"Mr. Taft was misquoted in the reports of his Boston address. The president is not in favor of a central bank at the present time and he has personally required me to advise you that he is not advocating the establishment of such an institution."

It is said that the president has learned by his trips through various states that the opposition to the central bank is such that THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE APPROACHED WITH CAUTION. Moreover, he is said to have reached the conclusion that such a change would involve unsettled conditions.

### THE SALOON'S DEMAND FOR COMPENSATION

The liquor interests often demand, with a show of righteous indignation, that they shall, as a matter of equity, be compensated for loss that may come to saloon property by the refusal of a license. They should remember the ancient rule that those who seek equity must do equity and enter a court of equity with clean hands. Do they compensate the mother when they drag her boy down to ruin? Do they compensate the wife when they destroy the earning capacity of her husband? Do they compensate the children whose lives are blighted by a father's dissipation? Do they compensate society when they convert wealth producers into paupers? Do they compensate the state when they blunt the sensibilities of citizens and make a drink more potent than an argument in securing votes?

The man who profits by cultivating in others the appetite for strong drink ought to be the last one to insist upon recovering compensation for any loss that he may suffer because of the enforcement of laws enacted for the protection of society.

### DEMOCRACY LOSES A FRIEND

The death of Judge J. O. Booth of Grant's Pass, Oregon, removes from the council of the democratic party one whose loss will be severely felt. He was a man of strong character, of high purpose, of strict integrity, and of great industry. He was a democrat from conviction, and ever ready to give a reason for the faith that was in him. Incorruptible, fearless, and ever at work in the propagation of the truths which he held dear, he was a tower of strength to his party. Mr. Bryan joins Judge Booth's host of friends in mourning his death.

### COMMONER CIRCULATION

J. W. Berkheimer, Niagara, N. D.—Please find check enclosed for \$6 for ten subscriptions for The Commoner. Kindly send me another blank, as I think I can get ten more subscribers. I will also send you a few names for you to write to, as I think they will be good men to work for The Commoner. I am your, "Old Hickory."

Dr. B. H. McKinney, New Douglas, Ill.—Please find money order for \$6.60 for eleven subscriptions to The Commoner. I may send in a little later from one to three more, as others talked favorable. I like The Commoner.

I. W. Brown, Burnsville, W. Va.—I am sending you twenty-two subscriptions for The Commoner and furthermore wish to inform you that although I am 68 years old and lost one arm in the service of the confederacy, I am still working for the principles of democracy and still an adherent to the teachings of the "great commoner."

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