

or other Committee, or from any individual for any speech which I made during the campaigns of 1896 and 1900. Neither did I ever have any negotiations with any person or committee in regard to compensation for any speech. I have been informed that in some instances the expense of the special train which carried the members of the Committee, the newspaper men and myself was borne by the towns visited, but I never knew of the details of such arrangements and never received any of the proceeds therefrom; neither was it ever suggested to me that I should refuse to speak on any platform or at a place because the money had not been raised. It often happened that because of the shortness of the time, the lateness of the train, or the density of the crowd I spoke from the rear of the train rather than from the platform erected, but the change in the program was never due, at the town mentioned or anywhere else, to the failure of a local committee to pay money to the committee in charge of the train or to me.

Republicans who are both able and willing to accept transportation from the railroads, have frequently criticised the democratic committees for raising money by subscription to pay for the hiring of trains, but I believe it much better for our committees to raise the money necessary for excursion trains, and thus be free from obligation to the railroad companies. I may add that when I travelled alone I paid my own travelling expenses.

The same correspondent is responsible for another criticism, which reads as follows:

"We are treated to another sample of Bryan commercialism just at this moment, in which Mr. Bryan refuses to give utterance to his opinions on the Ohio democratic convention platform except through *The Commoner*; hence 'buy a *Commoner* if you want to know what I think of McLean and his crowd of Ohio democrats.' It is only 5 cents, but it counts in the annual income of the redoubtable commercialist."

THE COMMONER is not copyrighted. Any newspaper is at liberty to reproduce anything which appears in THE COMMONER. The paper is sent out so as to reach subscribers on Friday, but on Thursday afternoon advance copies of the paper are furnished to the Associated Press and to all newspaper men desiring copies. In this way any paper in the United States can give to its readers anything published in THE COMMONER, and can do so on the same day that THE COMMONER reaches its subscribers. When I comment upon some event of special importance the proof is given to the newspapers at an earlier date. For instance, the comments on the Supreme Court decision were given out on Monday afternoon, four days before the paper reached its subscribers. The editorial on the Ohio platform was given to the newspapers on Monday afternoon and published all over the country Tuesday morning, three days before THE COMMONER reached its subscribers. Newspaper men have criticised me for giving other papers a "scoop," as they call it, on my own paper, but I have no objection to doing this when the matter discussed is of importance. It is only mentioned here in answer to the criticism that the readers of the Post and THE COMMONER may know how partisan and malicious some republican politicians are.

## President Kruger's Troubles.

The troubles of President Kruger have been increased by the death of his faithful wife. The sympathy of the world will go out to the president of the stricken republic of South Africa in this moment of his terrible affliction. In political affairs the world does not give great consideration to women, and yet it is a fact that in all the history of the world women have taken a large if not a conspicuous part in the affairs of nations. Women have carried a very large share of the burdens in all the wars of the world. This has been specially true wherever a people were engaged in repelling a war of invasion or where they were struggling for freedom from a despot. It has been particularly true in the South African war where many women have even, at times, taken up arms in defense of their homes.

Mrs. Kruger was a thoroughly domestic woman, although by reason of being the wife of the president she was brought into close touch with all the problems of state. She was the mother of 16 children, and after 50 years of married life with the president of the South African republic this good woman died as a prisoner of war while her husband was many miles away.

Mrs. Kruger had four sons, six sons-in-law and forty-three grandsons who were soldiers in the Transvaal army. Some of these have already met death on the battle field, and it may be expected that others will yet yield up their lives in defense of the holy cause in whose behalf their services were enlisted. Abraham Lincoln, writing to a woman who had lost five sons on the field of battle in our civil war, said:

"I have been shown in the files of the war department a statement of the adjutant general of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the treasured memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

The surrender of her children was not the only sacrifice made by this good woman of the Transvaal. Her entire life has been spent among the troubled scenes attendant upon the effort of the people of the Transvaal to maintain their independence and to protect their homes against encroachments of the British politicians. It is said that the death of Mrs. Kruger is the first act in the Transvaal tragedy that has had a tendency to break the strong spirit of the aged president of the stricken republic. The sympathy of every good man and woman throughout the world will go out to Mr. Kruger in this hour of his bereavement. He has many grievous burdens to carry, but all the troubles of state, all the agonies of war and all the reverses he has met with in his po-

litical career cannot have pressed upon him quite so heavily as this last and greatest burden of them all.

## After the Tax Dodgers.

The Chicago American is doing excellent work in hunting up the tax dodgers and in calling attention to the fact that some of the rich citizens and corporations of Chicago are withholding their property from assessment and throwing the burden of taxation upon those less able to pay. Ex-President Harrison made a speech a few years ago before one of the leading clubs of Chicago and scored the tax dodgers in very severe language. He intimated that rich people ought to pay taxes on their property if they expect poor people to make sacrifices to protect property. The corporations occupy a large portion of the time of the courts, and they are very solicitous about adequate fire and police protection, and yet many, if not most of them, avoid their fair share of the taxes. It is only a short time ago that Judge Thompson ordered the Illinois Board of equalization to place upon the assessor's books two hundred and thirty-five million dollars worth of property—property owned by twenty-three corporations—which had been escaping taxation.

Mayor Harrison is reported as saying:

"I am going to distribute the burdens of the decrease in tax revenues the city will receive pro rata among the various departments.

"The fire department will not be spared, as I consider protection to the health of our city just as important as protection to the property of these rich tax dodgers. Hitherto these men have considered it safe to cheat the city of its just taxes because the efficiency of the fire department has never been allowed to suffer no matter what the shortage in funds, and they believed fire protection to their property assured. But now we will let them suffer a little from our financial condition as well as the poorer people who are compelled to live on dirty streets and filthy alleys.

"When this is done just listen to the howl these same tax dodgers will set up about 'property interests not being safeguarded.'"

The Mayor is right. There is no reason why public health should be sacrificed in order to give fire protection to those who refuse to pay their taxes.

No one is anxious to pay taxes, and yet tax paying would be less burdensome to all if all property was given in for assessment, and each person paid his proportionate share.

## Stone on Reorganization.

Ex-Governor Stone of Missouri in a recent address took occasion to discuss the subject of reorganization. His advice is so sound and his argument so conclusive that it is given in full. It is commended to those who, carried away by the anything-to-win argument, are willing to give the organization over to the control of those who have betrayed or deserted the party—in its great struggle with plutocracy. Mr. Stone says:

"We hear much now-a-days about reorganizing the party. I want to talk about that. And at the outset let me say, that, in what I hope is the better sense of the term, I am a partisan, by which I mean I believe in parties and am a party man. I believe in parties as a necessary means to the accomplishing of ends. Now, a political party is an organization formed for co-operation in the attainment of certain ends in government, and its purposes are ordinarily expressed in its convention platforms. To be effectively maintained a party must have some laws or rules, established by custom or expressed in writing, for its govern-