

THE WEEKLY PRESS FORUM.

Scott City (Kas.) Chronicle: The president's attitude toward the trust question is growing milder and milder as time goes on. He already thinks if he had the power he would be very, very cautious about shackling cunning lest he cripple its power to do good. Just notice the soothing effect Teddy's demeanor is having on the trust magnates.

Fairbury (Neb.) Journal: President Roosevelt is quite positive that the trust evil cannot be dealt with without a constitutional amendment, but he believes the powers of congress are unlimited when it comes to dealing with the Philippines. The president's constitution interpreter is on backwards.

Algona (Ia.) Courier: There is no doubt that the withdrawal of Speaker Henderson is primarily due to Governor Cummins and his insurgent faction. They put the "shelter" plank into their platform last year and again this year, thus developing the anti-trust sentiment and making it unpleasant and unsafe for Henderson.

Lamar (Mo.) Dispatch: The president says that publicity might prove quite an effective remedy against the trusts, yet, on reflection, he doesn't know that it would do any good. Then again he thinks there are many good trusts that ought not be disturbed. No wonder the trust magnates are scared to death.

White County (Ill.) Chronicle: In stentorian tones every republican orator of 1900 shouted that "the republican party could be depended on to deal with the trusts." In the light of more recent events we are inclined to think they were confused in their phraseology. They should have said, "Deal to the trusts."

Tiffin (O.) Advertiser: If the Hanna organs think they can answer Tom Johnson's arguments by abusing him they will discover that they are greatly mistaken. They may call him hard names and laugh at his "circus," but they will never attempt to answer his cogent and truthful statements. Equal taxation is what the people demand, and by their votes they can have it.

Vincennes (Ind.) Sun: Republican prosperity has become so rank that the secretary of the treasury is losing sleep and makes trips over to Wall street, New York, and having advised with the Gotham bankers and trust magnates released about thirty million dollars from the United States treasury to prevent a money panic. There is a sort of prosperity that withers like a frost, all that it touches.

Mayfield (Ky.) Mirror: What have the republicans done to curb the trusts? Simply nothing. True, the president made a junket over the country and dished out a joblot of buncombe intended to fool the people, but the people know that with a clear majority in both houses of congress and the presidency would have been a very propitious time to have choked off this offspring of republicanism.

Paris (Ky.) Democrat: The warfare of the democracy is a warfare of the many against the few, and all who oppose the policy of greed and oppression and are willing to stand by the people in the unequal struggle with the trusts and consolidated wealth, will find the democratic party the only party which can save the country from the threatened rule and evils of plutocracy.

Greenville (Ill.) Item: The republican party is panic-stricken at the action of Speaker Henderson in withdrawing from the race for re-election to congress and frankly admitting that

the republicans of his district are opposed to a further continuation of a trust-breeding and trust-protecting tariff. This is a rift in the clouds, and is evidence that at last the light is breaking.

Hastings (Neb.) Republican: Trust monopoly would not be possible if it was not for the fostering policy of the Dingley law. This fact is now becoming generally understood—that the Dingley law is destructive of healthful business, of individual enterprise, and of progressive and enduring conditions in our economic and industrial life. The Dingley law takes prosperity from the many for the enrichment of the few. The great slogan from this on should be—"Equal rights to all, special privileges to none." Not for years has the democratic party been in so strong an argumentative and aggressive a position to battle for the people's industrial and commercial rights.

In the Field of Politics.

Congressman Cornelius A. Pugsley was renominated for congress by the democratic convention of the new Nineteenth district of New York.

It is reported that the democratic congressional convention of the Eighteenth district of Ohio selected Mayor Foley of East Palestine as candidate for congress. Thomas Duffy of East Liverpool, who was nominated at the recent convention, declined the nomination.

J. C. Provost of Teller county has been selected as the socialist candidate for governor of Colorado in place of Edward Boyce, former president of the western federation of miners, who refused the nomination.

Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, of literary fame, has filed with the secretary of state of Kansas a formal declination of the nomination for congressman-at-large on the allied populist ticket. Mr. Sheldon had previously refused the nomination.

Winston Churchill, the novelist, is going into politics, making his entrance at Cornish, N. H., through the medium of the republican representative caucus, which gave him a nomination. This is considered equivalent to an election.

Mayor D. L. Grantner of Providence, R. I., has declined the nomination for congress received at the First district democratic convention.

The republican convention of the Ninth district of New York nominated Charles S. Adler on October 7. Dr. A. J. Anderson of Long Island City was nominated by the republicans of the Fourteenth congressional district in the same day.

William Randolph Hearst, who was recently nominated by the democrats of the Eleventh New York district for congress, on October 6 in his speech accepting the nomination announced himself as in favor of public ownership of certain public utilities, specifying as a natural beginning railroads and telegraphs. "Existing conditions," he declared, "make it advisable for the government to take possession of and manage the anthracite coal mines for the people's benefit." He favored the election of United States senators by popular vote as a means to the end of

MR. MITCHELL IS OBDURATE

John Mitchell, president of the coal workers, has refused to comply with the appeal of President Roosevelt to call the strike off. His letter to the president, which was made public at the White house on October 4, says the responsibility for the continuation of the strike should be placed upon those who have refused arbitration. The text of the communication follows:

"Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 8, 1902.—To Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington.—Dear Sir: Carroll D. Wright has, no doubt, reported to you the delivery of your message to me last Monday and my statement to him that I should take your suggestion under advisement, although I did not look upon it with favor. Since that time I have consulted with our district presidents, who concur fully in my views. We desire to assure you again that we feel keenly the responsibility of our position and the gravity of the situation, and it

would give us great pleasure to take any action which would bring this coal strike to an end in a manner that would safeguard the interests of our constituents.

"In proposing that there be an immediate resumption of coal mining upon the conditions we suggested in the conference at the White house we believed that we had gone more than half way and had met your wishes. It is unnecessary in this letter to refer to the malicious assault made upon us in the response of the coal operators. We feel confident that you must have been impressed with the fairness of our proposition and the insincerity of those who maligned us.

"Having in mind our experience with the coal operators in the past we have no reason to feel any degree of confidence in their willingness to do us justice in the future, and inasmuch as they have refused to accept the decision of a tribunal selected by you, and inasmuch as there is no law through which you could enforce the findings of the commission you suggest, we respectfully decline to advise our people to return to work simply upon the hope that the coal operators might be induced or forced to comply with the recommendations of your commission.

"As stated above, we believe that we went more than half way in our proposal at Washington, and we do not feel that we should be asked to make further sacrifice. We appreciate your solicitude for the people of our country who are now and will be subjected to great suffering and inconvenience by a prolongation of the coal strike, and we feel that the onus of this terrible state of affairs should be placed upon the side which has refused to refer to fair and impartial investigation. I am, respectfully,

"JOHN MITCHELL,
"President U. M. W. of A.

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 6.—To district secretaries and all mine workers in the anthracite field:

You have, no doubt, read in the daily papers the proceedings of the conference at the White house last Friday in which your officers proposed an immediate resumption of work if the operators would agree with us to refer the questions at issue in the strike to the decision of the president of the United States and a tribunal named by him. You have noted the reply of the presidents of the coal-carrying roads, in which they responded to our overtures by denouncing your union, its members and officers in the most vehement and malicious manner possible. They also declared that a large majority of the strikers would return to work if given military protection and they demanded that the president send United States troops to the coal fields.

In order to demonstrate to the people of our country that the statements of the operators are unfounded, and that the mine workers are law-abiding citizens, the officers of all local unions should call mass meetings of all men on strike, union and non-union, such meetings to be held in each mining town at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, October 8. We know that the mine workers are not restrained from going to work by fear of bodily harm; and if this is the sentiment prevailing at the meetings, resolutions should be adopted emphatically declaring the statements of the operators to be untrue.

We also advise that acts of lawlessness by the coal and iron police and by strikers be denounced and the services of members of the union tend-

dealing with monopolists "who compel the payment of extortionate prices by the helpless public."

On October 8 the democrats of the Fifteenth New York district nominated Henry P. Martin for congress. In the Thirteenth district, Francis P. Burton Harrison, democrat, was nominated, while the republicans of the Sixteenth district nominated William R. Spooner.

The formal opening of the political campaign in Nebraska took place at Falls City, Neb., on October 8, when W. J. Bryan and Hon. H. H. Hanks, candidate for congress from the First district, conducted a meeting. Mr. Bryan discussed the political issues of the day before a large audience. This marked the opening of an active campaign which will continue until November, and the prospects for a fusion victory are very bright.

On October 9 W. M. Carpenter of Stuttgart, Ark., was nominated for congress by the Sixth district republican convention of Arkansas.

The republicans of the Third Texas district have nominated J. W. Yates of Gregg county for congress.

A Providence, R. I., dispatch of October 9 says: In a short session today the republican state convention nominated the following ticket: Governor, Charles Dean Kimball, Providence; lieutenant governor, George L. Shepley; secretary of state, Charles P. Bennett; attorney general, Charles F. Stearns, Providence; general treasurer, Walter A. Read, Gloucester. The nominations for congress were: First district, Melville Bull, Newport; Second district, Adam P. Capron, Smithfield.

A dispatch from Madison, Wis., on October 10, reports that Secretary of the Navy Moody, addressing the republicans at Madison, Wis., declared that the duty of 67 cents a ton on anthracite coal "was smuggled into the tariff act in a sneaking and cowardly manner," and ought to be repealed at the short session of congress. He declared that the president could not constitutionally send troops into the coal regions without a call from the Pennsylvania authorities, nor could he seize the anthracite lands by the exercise of eminent domain.