



The republican state convention for South Carolina adopted resolutions endorsing the Roosevelt administration.

New York dispatches say that former President Cleveland is seriously ill.

The Maine republicans declared for Taft for the republican nomination, but did not instruct the delegation.

The republican state committee from Maryland elected delegates to the national convention and instructed them for Taft.

A petition has been filed in Alabama asking that the name of Governor Johnson of Minnesota be placed on the democratic primary ticket. Mr. Bryan's name is also on the ticket.

A democratic club organized at Logansport, Ind., elected Dr. Hattery, president; Walter Fawcett, secretary; George Burkhart, vice president; Fred Boerger, treasurer.

The Alabama state convention of the anti-administration forces was held at Birmingham April 29. The Roosevelt and Taft men were surprised when they found that the national committeeman for Alabama, Charles H. Scott, affiliated with this

faction. Mr. Scott was elected permanent chairman of the convention and made a ringing speech calling for "an independent republican party in Alabama, untrammelled by the influences of federal office-holders." Candidates for all state offices to be filled at the November election were named.

The republican state convention for Colorado met at Pueblo and instructed for Secretary Taft.

The Pennsylvania republican state convention adopted resolutions favoring Senator Knox for the presidential nomination and favoring also a "review of the tariff" in such manner as to still maintain the policy of protection.

The republican state convention of Mississippi split in two, one section favoring the nomination for president of Senator Foraker and the other section favoring Roosevelt and Taft. Two sets of delegates to the national convention were chosen.

Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, rector of Trinity Episcopal church, New York since 1862, died of heart failure at the rectorage. He was 81 years of age.

The republican state convention for Arkansas has endorsed Secretary Taft.

have labor organizations completely exempted from any of the operations of this law, whether or not their acts are in restraint of trade. Such exception would in all probability make the bill unconstitutional and the legislature has no more right to pass a bill without regard to whether it is constitutional than the courts have lightly to declare unconstitutional a law which the legislature has solemnly enacted. The responsibility is as great on the one side as on the other, and an abuse of power by the legislature in one direction is equally to be condemned with an abuse of power by the courts in the other direction.

"It is not possible wholly to exempt labor organizations from the workings of this law, and they who insist upon totally excepting them are merely providing that their status shall be kept wholly unchanged, and that they shall continue to be exposed to the action which they now dread. Obviously, an organization not formed for profit should not be required to furnish statistics in any way as complete as those furnished by organizations for profit. Moreover, so far as labor is engaged in production only, its claims to be exempted from the anti-trust law are sound. This would substantially cover the right of laborers to combine, to strike peaceably, and to enter into trade agreements with the employers.

#### No Sanction of Boycott

"But when labor undertakes in a wrongful manner to prevent the distribution and sale of the products of labor, as by certain forms of the boycott, it has left the field of production, and its action may plainly be in restraint of interstate trade, and must necessarily be subject to inquiry, exactly as in the case of any other combination for the same purpose, so as to determine whether such action is contrary to sound public policy. The heartiest encouragement should be given to the wage-workers to form labor unions and to enter into agreements with their employers; and their right to strike, so long as they act peaceably, must be preserved. But we should sanction neither a boycott nor a blacklist, which would be illegal at common law.

"The measures I advocate are in the interest both of decent corporations and of law-abiding labor unions. They are, moreover, pre-eminently in the interest of the public for, in my judgment, the American people have definitely made up their minds that the days of the reign of the great law-defying and law-evading corporations are over, and that from this time on the mighty organizations of capital necessary for the transaction of business under modern conditions, while encouraged so long as they act honestly and in the interest of the general public, are to be subjected to careful supervision and regulation of a kind so effective as to insure their acting in the interest of the people as a whole.

#### In Grip of Combine

"Allegations are often made to the effect that there is no real need for these laws looking to the more effective control of the great corporations, upon the ground that they will do their work well without such control. I call your attention to the accompanying copy of a report just submitted by Nathan Matthews, chairman of the finance commission, to the mayor and city council of Boston, relating to certain evil practices of various corporations which have been bidders for furnishing to the city iron and steel.

"This report shows that there have been extensive combinations formed among the various corporations which have business with the city of Boston, including, for instance, a carefully planned combina-

tion embracing practically all the firms and corporations engaged in structural steel work in New England. This combination included substantially all the local concerns and many of the largest corporations in the United States engaged in manufacturing or furnishing structural steel for use in any part of New England; it affected the states, the cities and towns, the railroads and street railways, and generally all persons having occasion to use iron or steel for any purpose in that section of the country. As regards the city of Boston, the combination resulted in parceling out the work by collusive bids, plainly dishonest, and supported by false affirmations.

#### Says Bids are Dishonest

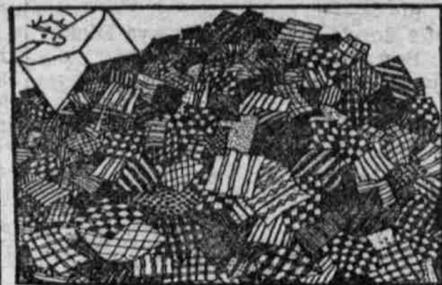
"In its conclusion the commission recommend as follows:

"Comment on the moral meaning of these methods and transactions would seem superfluous, but as they were defended at the public hearings of the commission and asserted to be common and entirely proper incidents of business life, and as these practices have been freely resorted to by some of the largest industrial corporations that the world has ever known, the commission deems it proper to record its own opinion.

"The commission dislikes to believe that these practices are, as alleged, established by the general custom of the business community, and this defense itself, if unchallenged, amounts to a grave accusation against the honesty of present business methods.

"To answer an invitation for publication (Continued on Page 14)

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## PRESIDENT'S LATEST MESSAGE

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which existed in the business world twenty years ago—while the many abuses that still remain emphasize the need of further and more thoroughgoing legislation.

"Similarly the bureau of corporations has amply justified its creation. In other words, it is clear that the principles employed to remedy the great evils in the business world have worked well, and they can now be employed to correct the evils that further commercial growth has brought more prominently to the surface. The powers and scope of the interstate commerce commission, and of any similar body, such as the bureau of corporations, which has to deal with the matter in hand, should be greatly enlarged so as to meet the requirements of the present day.

#### States Can Not Control

"The decisions of the supreme court in the Minnesota and North Carolina cases illustrate how impossible is a dual control of national commerce. The state can not control it. All they can do is to control state commerce, and this now forms but a small fraction of the commerce carried by the railroads through each state. Actual experience has shown that the effort at state control is sure to be nullified in one way or another sooner or later. The nation alone can act with effectiveness and wisdom; it should have the control of both of the business and of the agent by which the business is done, for any attempt to separate this control must result in grotesque absurdity.

"This means that we must rely upon national legislation to prevent the commercial abuses that now exist and the others that are sure to arise unless some efficient government body has adequate power of control over them.

"At present the failure of con-

gress to utilize and exercise the great powers conferred upon it as regards interstate commerce leaves this commerce to be regulated, not by the state nor yet by congress, but by the occasional and necessarily inadequate and one-sided action of the federal judiciary. However upright and able a court is, it can not act constructively; it can only act negatively or destructively, as an agency of government, and this means that the courts are and must always be unable to deal effectively with a problem like the present, which requires constructive action. A court can decide what is faulty but it has no power to make better what it thus finds to be faulty.

#### Must Give Power

"There should be an efficient executive body created with power enough to correct abuses and scope enough to work out the complex problems that this great country has developed. It is not sufficient objection to say that such a body may be guilty of unwisdom or of abuses. Any governmental body, whether a court or a commission, whether executive, legislative or judicial, if given power enough to enable it to do effective work for good, must also inevitably receive enough power to make it possibly effective for evil.

"Therefore, it is clear that (unless a national incorporation law can be forthwith enacted) some body or bodies in the executive service should be given power to pass upon any combination or agreement in relation to interstate commerce, and every such combination or agreement not thus approved should be treated as in violation of law and prosecuted accordingly. The issuance of the securities of any combination doing interstate business should be under the supervision of the national government.

"A strong effort has been made to