

A BLOW TO ICE TRUST.

JUSTICE CHESTER DECIDES AGAINST IT ON ALL POINTS.

Albany, June 27 (Special).—Richard Croker and his lieutenant, Mayor Van Wyck of New York, as well as all the Tammany Hall stockholders in the Ice Trust, may well read with consternation a decision rendered by Justice Alden Chester, of the Supreme Court, in the Ice Trust case to-day. Justice Chester dismisses the alternative writs issued by Justice Herlick recently, prohibiting the further examination of any of the officials of the American Ice Company as to its affairs; and, second, he dismisses a motion of the counsel of the American Ice Company that an order of Justice Chase, of the Supreme Court, be vacated, under which Myer Nusbaum was appointed a referee to take testimony regarding the operations of the American Ice Company.

Substantially, Justice Chester holds that the Anti-Trust law of 1890, passed by the Republican Legislature of that year and signed by Governor Roosevelt, is a much stronger law than the Anti-Trust law of 1897, which was also passed by a Republican Legislature and signed by a Republican Governor, Frank S. Black. The immediate effect of the decision in Attorney-General Davies's favor is to permit that official to proceed with the examination of Charles W. Morse, the president of the American Ice Company, and other of its officials before Mr. Nusbaum. The decision is a decided victory for Attorney-General Davies, who instituted the proceedings against the Ice Trust.

Justice Chester in his decision says: "My conclusion is that the Special Term had no power to grant the alternative writs, and that an absolute writ of prohibition in this case cannot be granted at Special Term renders it unnecessary to examine the constitutional questions urged in support of these writs." That was the contention of Attorney-General Davies.

NO LEGISLATIVE COERCION.

In that part of his decision regarding the motion made by David Wilcox, the counsel of Charles W. Morse, to vacate the order permitting his examination before Mr. Nusbaum, the referee, Justice Chester says in an opinion of much interest regarding the immunity of witnesses under the Anti-Trust law of 1890, and the right of Judge Chase to grant an order permitting the examination of witnesses acquainted with the operations of the Ice Trust. Justice Chester says:

The act, Chapter 640 of the Laws of 1890, under which the order was obtained, was enacted in place of Chapter 383 of the Laws of 1897, and, with respect to matters of procedure, contains important modifications. The evident purpose of these changes and modifications was to avoid some of the difficulties in the enforcement of the law made apparent in the case of the Coal Trust cases, where orders to examine witnesses under the law of 1897 were vacated. See matter of Attorney-General, 21 Misc. 101, aff'd, 102 N. Y. 28, appeal dismissed, 155 N. Y. 441.

As appears by the reported case when the matter was before me at Special Term, my decision vacating the orders was placed upon three grounds:

First—That the act under which the orders were granted, attempted to impose upon Justices of the Supreme Court non-judicial functions.

Second—That the procedure sought to be authorized was an infringement upon the constitutional rights and privileges of a witness charged with the crime because the act did not furnish absolute immunity to the witness from prosecution, and

Third—Because of the insufficiency of the petition under which the order was granted. (Id. 21 Misc. 101.)

All three of these grounds are urged again with great ability against the validity of the order made by me at the Special Term, and I conclude as to that ground, and held that the duties imposed upon the Justices by the act were judicial in their nature, and that the Justices had no right to impose upon them. (Id. 22 App. Div. 285.) The conclusion of the Appellate Division in this respect is an authority I am bound to follow. The changes made in the law of 1890 operate to remove this case from the binding authority of that decision. It is insisted that now there is no opportunity for the exercise of discretion by the Justices because the great act makes it the duty of the Justice to whom the application is made to grant the application, and provides in one place that such an order is necessary, then again in another place that the Justice provided that if it appeared to the satisfaction of the Justice to whom the application for the order is made that such an order is necessary, then again in another place that the Justice has no discretion in the matter, and thus again the great act because it is asked for by the Attorney-General.

INTERPRETATION OF THE ACT.

It is true that the language of the act looks very much as if the Legislature intended by it to provide for a sort of legislative mandamus against the Justice to whom the application for mandamus might be made. But notwithstanding the language of the act, I think he is still charged with the duty of exercising a judicial discretion in determining whether he shall grant or not in a specific case. The language means no more than if the act provided that the Justice "may" instead of "shall" grant the order.

The Legislature is as powerless to coerce judicial action as the courts are to issue a mandamus against the Governor or Legislature, each being independent of the other within their respective spheres of duty.

I think, therefore, that the mandatory character of the language employed in the law as to the duty of the Justice to grant the order in question does not prevent him from exercising his judicial discretion to grant or refuse it, and the case is, therefore, notwithstanding the changes in the law, a case in which the authority of the decision of the Appellate Division in the case referred to (id. 22 App. Div. 285).

THE RIGHT OF WITNESSES.

It is urged in the second place that the act in question is unconstitutional, because under it witnesses may be compelled to give evidence which can be used against him in a criminal case. It seems to me that under the present law, which in this respect is essentially different from the law of 1897, there is no force in this claim.

The law now provides in Section 6 that "no person shall be excused from answering any questions that may be put to him or from producing any books, papers or documents, on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of him, may tend to incriminate him, but no person shall be prosecuted in any criminal action or proceedings, or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture, for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which he may testify, or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, before said Justice or referee appointed in the order for his examination, or in obedience to the subpoena in order, or either of them, or in any such case or proceeding."

The protection afforded by this section to the witness against the consequences of his testimony is ample. Its terms are broad and comprehensive. Full and complete immunity is given to protect him against being prosecuted in any criminal action or proceedings, and against being subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any evidence he may give.

The Legislature had the right to give this immunity as a condition of exacting testimony that otherwise might tend to convict the witness of a crime. When testimony is given under such circumstances the courts will give full protection to the witness against its use in violation of the constitutional inhibition that no person shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself. (People v. Simpson, 107 N. Y. 427.) (People v. Kelly, 24 N. Y. 74.)

Because of the decision of the Court of Appeals that a matter of this kind is not a special proceeding and that any order made cannot affect a substantial right of the witness (id. 155 N. Y. 441), and for the further reason that full immunity is now given to the witness, I do not deem it essential or proper for me to consider the other constitutional questions urged on this branch of the case.

The substantive provisions of the act are contained in the first two sections, which are as follows:

any article or commodity of common use is or may be created, established or maintained, or where the supply of such article or commodity is or may be restrained or prevented, or where the purpose of creating, establishing or maintaining a monopoly within this State of the manufacture, production or sale of any article or commodity, the free pursuit in this State of any lawful business, trade or occupation is or may be restricted or prevented, is hereby declared to be against the public interest.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The third section authorizes the Attorney-General to bring an action in the name of the People against any person or corporation, for or on account of any act or thing done in this State of any act herein declared to be illegal, or any act toward or for the making or consummation of any contract, agreement, arrangement or combination herein prohibited, whenever the same may have been made.

Section 4 provides that whenever the Attorney-General has determined to commence an action under this chapter he may appoint a Justice of the Supreme Court, before beginning such action, an application in writing for an order directing the persons mentioned in the application to appear before the Justice or referee named therein for the purpose of examining the information and belief of the Attorney-General that the testimony of such persons is or may be necessary. This section also provides that the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure relating to the application for an order for the examination of witnesses before a Justice of the Supreme Court do not apply.

In this respect the law is different from that of 1897, under which these provisions of the Code were made applicable so far as practicable. Under the statute as it now stands the only things the Attorney-General is expressly required to state in his application are that the person or corporation named therein is or may be in violation of the provisions of the law, and that he is informed and believes that the testimony of the persons mentioned in the application is material and necessary. The Attorney-General is also specifically alleged, so that in both of these respects the law has been complied with.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST TRUST.

It is stated by the Attorney-General in his application, in addition to the allegations above mentioned, that he has investigated the available sources for the supply of ice to the inhabitants of the city of New-York are the Hudson River, the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers, in Maine, and the St. Lawrence, in Canada, more than 80 per cent of the available ice and of the ice plants along the Hudson River and in the State of Maine were owned or controlled by two corporations, the American Ice Company and the Consolidated Ice Company, and that the Consolidated Ice Company, prior to the formation of the American Ice Company, the wholesale and retail ice business in the city of New-York, and the Knickerbocker Ice Company about 70 per cent of the wholesale and retail ice business in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington; that these two corporations acting together, had a virtual monopoly of the ice supply available to the inhabitants of the city of New-York, and that they had it in their power to fix the price of ice arbitrarily; that prior to March 11, 1899, the said Knickerbocker Ice Company and Consolidated Ice Company, by their respective charters, and thereby control by one company and one management the entire ice producing territory for the purpose of creating a monopoly in the ice business of the city of New-York, and of the city of New-York; and pursuant to such understanding and agreement the said American Ice Company was organized under the laws of the State of New-York, with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, divided equally into common and preferred shares; that pursuant to such understanding and agreement in and in communication therewith the said Knickerbocker Ice Company and the Consolidated Ice Company, by their respective charters, and thereby, shares of the American Ice Company, although without any value and representing no share in the American Ice Company, were exchanged for shares of stock of said two corporations, in arrangement or agreement thus vesting in one body, to wit, the Board of Directors of the American Ice Company, the control of the said two constituent corporations, and of the production and sale of ice in the city of New-York, and that as a direct result of such combination the American Ice Company raised the price of ice in the city of New-York 100 per cent over the prices prevailing during the year 1898, and for the sole reason of providing means for paying dividends upon the enormous capital stock of the American Ice Company, issued without value as aforesaid.

I am of the opinion that these allegations are sufficient to bring the case within the provisions of the act, and are adequate to justify the order for the examination of the witnesses, and it is not necessary to assert that the alleged unlawful combination or arrangement took place within the State, because the statute prohibits any such combination or arrangement wherever it is made. Nor is it important that the facts alleged as constituting such arrangement or combination are alleged to have taken place on March 11, 1899, or prior thereto, while the act of 1890, which provided for a re-enactment of the act of 1897. There can arise, therefore, no question concerning the law being retroactive or ex post facto character, for it has not been changed at all in this respect. The retroactive character of the law is covered by the provisions of the act. I am of the opinion that under the laws of this State, as well as those of the State of New-York, it was lawful for the American Ice Company to exchange its capital stock for the capital stock of the Consolidated and Knickerbocker Ice companies. It is true that under Section 5 of the Stock Corporation law this is so, and it has been held that that section authorizes, and it is lawful to purchase stock in another, although the result might be to destroy competition. (Gafferty agt. Buffalo Gas Co., 57 App. Div. 618.)

DAVIES'S CONTENTION UPHOLD.

While the law permits one corporation to buy the stock of another corporation, the Attorney-General sufficiently alleges that this was done in this case for an unlawful purpose. He alleges that the purpose of the purchase of the stock of the Knickerbocker Ice Company was to combine their interests to create a monopoly in the ice business of the city of New-York, and in violation of the law, and that, in pursuance of such agreement and arrangement, the American Ice Company acquired the stock of the other two companies.

I think, therefore, that he brings the case within the provisions of the law which condemns every contract, agreement, arrangement or combination having for its object the creation or maintenance within this State of a monopoly of the production or sale of any article or commodity of common use, or of the supply of such article, and that his written application is sufficient to justify the order for examination which has been granted.

It is also urged that the provisions of the statute conferring upon the referee power to punish witnesses for contempt is unconstitutional. I think that question is not here for determination. It will be time enough to consider that when a case arises making it necessary.

The motion to vacate the order is denied, with costs. Orders may be prepared in conformity herewith, and if not agreed to by counsel may be settled before me on two days' notice.

HEARINGS TO BE RESUMED.

The hearings before Myer Nusbaum, referee, which were stayed by the application to Justice Chester, will be at once resumed. Mr. Nusbaum will hold a preliminary hearing at 11 o'clock this morning, and unless the Ice Trust can bring forward further by a pleading from Justice Chester's judgment he will continue to hold it indefinitely from now on.

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In order to get a full record of the facts upon

which Attorney-General Davies may base his legal proceedings for the annulment of the ice company's certificate in this State as quickly as possible, the referee has ordered that the hearing be held for three or four times a week. The attorneys engaged in the prosecution of the case were busily occupied yesterday in preparing for to-day's hearing. Subpoenas were issued for several witnesses, the names of whom the lawyers refused to make known.

Clarence J. Shearn, a member of the firm of Einstein & Townsend, said yesterday:

We are going right ahead in the effort to disclose all the details of which we are sure to prove the alleged conspiracy. Every point in Justice Chester's decision was in our favor, and he has given to the referees judicial powers which will permit him to make a searching investigation into the affairs of the Ice Trust. We expect to bring out the exact methods by which the trust was organized, and that \$5,000,000 worth of stock was issued to take over the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers, and that the transaction was carried out under the name of the American Ice Company was formed was by means of a purchase of the companies, but an agreement was made vesting of the control of these two companies in one Board of Directors by means of this exchange of stock. The examination will show there was no justification for the rise in the price of ice in regard to the supply in and about this city and elsewhere.

Mr. Shearn said that he believed the Ice Trust would appeal from Justice Chester's decision, but he thought there was little likelihood of such an appeal succeeding, especially in view of the circumstance that with one exception every judge to whom the company applied before refused to grant a stay.

Charles W. Morse, president of the American Ice Company, denied yesterday that the company had raised the price of ice in the city of New-York, and said that no ice was being sold for more than the last named price.

Despite Mr. Morse's denials, however, it was reported yesterday that an advance of \$1 a ton had been made to some wholesale dealers. It is said that notices were posted in some of the branches of the company announcing that the price to wholesalers would be increased from \$3 to \$4 a ton. If this notice were true, the examination would show of course that the small consumer will also have to pay more for ice. The reason for the increase, it is said, was that the directors of the company believed that the Ice Trust will be wary of making any systematic advance in its prices.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL SMITH IN TOWN.

COMMISSION TO SELECT BUILDING FOR BRANCH TO HANDLE FOREIGN MAIL ALSO ARRIVES.

Postmaster-General Charles Emory Smith called on Postmaster Van Cott at the latter's office yesterday afternoon. The Postmaster-General came to the city to see Mrs. Smith off for Europe. She sailed yesterday morning on the St. Paul. After leaving the steamship pier the Postmaster-General went to the Postoffice. He said his visit was to see the Postmaster-General in connection with the selection of a building for a branch office in Washington on an early evening train. While in Postmaster Van Cott's office Mr. Smith called up General J. L. Bristow, Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General, who is detained at Quarantine with ninety-nine other passengers of the Ward Line steamer Mexico, which left Havana about five days ago.

General Bristow has been in Havana for the last month investigating the frauds in the Postal Department there. The Postmaster-General telegraphed to Quarantine to ask if anything could be done to secure the safe return of the steamer.

The Commission appointed to examine and report on available buildings near West and Christian streets, in New-York, for a foreign mail matter exclusively, as proposed by the Postmaster-General, arrived yesterday. The Commission is composed of Messrs. John P. St. John, of Michigan; Norman E. Mack, of Buffalo; Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; J. J. Connelley, of Minnesota, and Congressman William Sulzer, of New-York.

HOT WEATHER AT THE CAMP.

REGIMENTS AT PEAKSKILL SUFFER—THE FOURTEENTH'S MARCH.

Peekskill State Camp, June 27 (Special).—Heat and humidity have again vied with each other to make the life of the soldiers at the State camp a most uncomfortable one. A thunderstorm that swung around to the north gave some promise of relief in the middle of the afternoon, but the only benefit the camp got from it was a strong breeze that followed. The nights between these hot days, however, are not so refreshing, and the heat is quickly restored with the setting of the sun.

The 4th escaped the worst heat of the day on its march in by starting early this morning. Soon after 6 o'clock the regiment was on the road and pushed right along for the camp. The heat was so bad on the way, and the men did not want to alight to make the march. They had visions of shower baths and colds. They had visions of shower baths and colds. They had visions of shower baths and colds.

The 14th started for Camp Roe at 1:30 o'clock, the usual time, with a baggage wagon well loaded from a military point of view. All personal baggage was left in the baggage wagon, and the men just as well without were left in tents on the hillside. The 14th started for Camp Roe at 1:30 o'clock, the usual time, with a baggage wagon well loaded from a military point of view.

While at Camp Roe the 4th had a number of soldiers who were taken to the Peekskill camp and recovered by afternoon to-day. Most of the 4th were sent to Bellevue Hospital on the night of the 24th. The 4th were taken to the hospital tent, where he was confined, and this morning he broke away and ran out on the parade ground. After consultation with the Surgeon-General it was decided that he would receive better treatment at the hospital.

MARRIED ON A STEAMSHIP'S PIER.

Henry Manden, a rich Montana miner, returned on Tuesday on the North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse from a trip to Germany, and married Miss Helen Lucke on the vessel's pier in Hoboken in the presence of a crowd of admirers. He had intended to be married in Germany, but as Manden was anxious to return on the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse and the time was short it was decided to have the ceremony performed on this side of the ocean. When the steamer was about to start for New-York, Justice Seymour, who responded and performed the marriage ceremony.

MR. BRISTOW STILL DETAINED.

J. L. Bristow, Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General, who has been investigating the Cuban postal scandals, is still detained at Hoffman Island. He is expected to land in this city this morning.

PLAQUE ON A P. AND O. STEAMER.

Yokohama, June 15, via Victoria, B. C., June 27.—A case of plague has been discovered on a Peninsular and Oriental steamer, the first case to make its appearance here.

TO CONFER AT LINCOLN.

CROKER, MURPHY AND SULZER WILL STOP OFF TO SEE BRYAN.

KANSAS CITY DRESSING UP FOR THE CONVENTION—INFLEX OF DELEGATES.

Kansas City, Mo., June 27.—Congressman William Sulzer, who is being boomed for Vice-President; Richard Croker and ex-Senator Edward Murphy, Jr., of New-York, will have a conference at Lincoln, Neb., with William J. Bryan before they come to Kansas City to attend the Convention. Sterling Price, of Texas, who has opened headquarters here for Mr. Sulzer, to-day received a telegram from the latter saying he had left New-York for Lincoln at noon to-day. Another telegram says Messrs. Croker and Murphy will be in the Nebraska capital in a few days. Mr. Sulzer hopes to be on the ticket with Mr. Bryan, and it is said the latter expressed a desire to confer with him. Further than this Mr. Price would vouchsafe nothing. Fred Feigl, Editor of "The Tammany Times," another Sulzer boomer, will arrive on Friday.

The city is beginning to take on a gala appearance in anticipation of an early arrival of delegates. Business houses are being decorated, and incandescent lights are being strung in profusion on the downtown streets, and a general cleanup is in progress. A good sized contingent of Eastern newspaper correspondents has already arrived, but a general inflow of people is not expected till Friday.

Ex-Governor William J. Stone, National Committeeman from Missouri and vice-chairman of the National Committee, is expected Friday night, as are other members of the sub-committee, which will hold a meeting on Saturday. James Boyd, of Kansas City, a private car will arrive on Saturday with about a dozen of his colleagues. They come to prepare the way for the Tammany delegation, which will reach Kansas City on Sunday morning on two special trains. On Sunday the State delegations will begin to arrive.

The Pennsylvania delegation, made up of one hundred people, and the Montana delegation, headed by Mr. Clark, of that State, will arrive and the Kansas delegation in the evening. On Monday, the New-England delegates, from New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, will arrive. George Fred Williams, of Massachusetts, their vice-presidential candidate, will reach the city, and on the same day the California and Missouri delegations will arrive.

RUSH OF DELEGATES.

The greatest rush of delegations will be on Tuesday. Nearly all of the States not mentioned are booked to arrive on that day.

A convention innovation, the reading of the Declaration of Independence from the platform, will be introduced at the first session, July 4, and according to the press programme the music and decorations of that day will be selected with a particular idea of commemorating the National holiday.

The badges for the delegates have been received. They are quite elaborate, with an oxidized silver finish. Each badge is about the size of a silk flag about four inches long. To the flag is attached a medallion of gold or oxidized silver.

The United States Monetary League, which will meet here at the Auditorium on July 2 and 3, will be addressed by a dozen speakers of National prominence. There will be three sessions, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, each day, and two speeches at each session. Acceptances of invitations to speak have been received from Senator William V. Allen, of Nebraska; Dr. J. R. Keeler, of Kansas; J. S. Wood, of Iowa; General J. B. Weaver, of Iowa; John P. Altgeld, of Illinois; George Fred Williams, of Massachusetts; J. J. Connelley, of Minnesota; John P. St. John, of Kansas; Thomas E. Beckwith, of Michigan; Norman E. Mack, of Buffalo; Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; J. J. Connelley, of Minnesota, and Congressman William Sulzer, of New-York.

The meeting is not a convention. It will adopt resolutions on the platform on each day, but it will not attempt to help make the ticket. Judge Charles E. Thompson, of Denver, president of the National organization, and J. C. Merrill, of Kansas City, are preparing the programme.

OH, LISTEN TO THE ICEMAN.

AUGUSTUS VAN WYCK TO TALK AGAINST TRUSTS, IT IS SAID.

Augustus Van Wyck, one of the four delegates-at-large to the Kansas City Convention, accompanied by Harry W. Walker, secretary of the Aqueduct Commission, started by the Pennsylvania Railroad yesterday for Kansas City. Judge Van Wyck will stop at a day or two in St. Louis, and then go to Springfield, Mo., where a reception has been arranged in his honor. He will reach Kansas City on Sunday morning, and will speak at the meeting of Judge Van Wyck would make an anti-trust speech in St. Louis. This was hardly credited, owing to the fact that Van Wyck has been known to hold a large holding of stock in the Ice Trust.

ILLINOIS DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

MAYOR HARRISON READ THE PLATFORM WHICH INDORSES BRYAN.

Springfield, Ill., June 27.—The Democratic State Convention reconvened to-day to complete the ticket and adopt a platform. The list of delegates and alternates to the National Convention was read and approved.

Mayor Carter H. Harrison of Chicago, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, read the platform of the document indorses the National platform of 1896 "in whole and in all its parts." It denounces the National Administration as "the weakest in the history of the Nation," and especially condemns the "cowardly attitude of the President and his advisers in refusing recognition and sympathy to the heroic Boers in their struggle for independence;" invokes public condemnation of "an administrative policy which denies to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands the principle of home rule and self-government and seeks the substitution of an imperial policy, revolting to our traditions and a defiance to the principles of our Federal Constitution."

The new currency law is declared to be the foundation for a "money trust which will have power to control all property and to stimulate or strangle business."

Sympathy is expressed for the Boers, while imperialism is denounced as "a policy of aggression, militarism and as wholly foreign to our system of government."

Alliances with European nations are "regarded with apprehension."

WHY CROKER FACED ABOUT

HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT EXPANSION AND SILVER NOW THAN EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, HE SAYS.

After several days of consultation with his friends and Democratic leaders generally, Richard Croker has at last decided upon the policy he will follow at Kansas City. He was busy all day yesterday, but he did not go to Tammany Hall. John P. Carroll was there looking after things. Mr. Croker was downtown at his office a part of the day, and later went to the Democratic Club. Early yesterday morning he consulted with James W. Boyle and Patrick Keenan about the contest for leadership in Mr. Boyle's district. When asked about it Mr. Croker said that he was following his well known rule of never interfering in a district. The district was left to choose its own leader, and whoever won was recognized by the Tammany organization as the leader. It is believed that Boyle will have little trouble in retaining the leadership.

Mr. Croker said yesterday that when he got to Kansas City and talked with other Democrats he would be in a position to know just what the country wanted. "As it stands," said Mr. Croker, "the Tammany organization is ready to support that platform to be adopted at Kansas City, whatever it may be."

"Do you think that the plank calling for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 should be reaffirmed?" was asked.

"Yes," said Mr. Croker, "I do. The people are just beginning to understand the silver question."

"You have also changed your mind about imperialism?" was suggested. This question was put to Mr. Croker in the light of the fact that he had in January of last year declared for expansion.

"Yes," said Mr. Croker, "I have come to realize what expansion means. Every man has a right to change his opinion as he becomes better acquainted with facts. I didn't understand these questions so well a year ago as I do now. I have had time to study and ponder over them, and that has led me to change my mind."

Mr. Croker will probably go down to Long Branch to-day to visit ex-Senator Murphy. He will remain there over night, and to-morrow will set to work on the platform. He will be accompanied by Mr. Boyle and Mr. Belmont, who were born for the Vice-Presidency is attaining interesting proportions, will also journey to Kansas City on Sunday morning. Belmont has chartered the Mikado, one of the New-York Central's private cars, and it will be hitched to the regular Tammany special which goes out Sunday. He will take with him a party of personal friends.

While there is a great deal of gossip about Vice-Presidential candidates, and the list of possibilities daily grows longer, Mr. Croker has not yet set to work on the platform. He has not yet set to work on the platform. He has not yet set to work on the platform.

THIRTEEN AT A CLAMBAKE.

Long Branch, N. J., June 27 (Special).—A few Democrats had a clam bake amid the roar of thunder and flash of lightning at Wardell's Port-au-Peak Hotel to-night. Those present said it was a purely social party. Covers were laid for fifteen, but owing to the absence of Richard Croker and Mayor Van Wyck the party consisted of only thirteen. They were Judge Charles E. Thompson, of Denver, ex-Judge Fitzgerald, ex-Senator Fox, Edward Freeman, Anthony N. Brady, ex-Chief of Police Byrnes, Dr. J. R. Keeler, John Keegan, Fred Hoffman, Burns, E. H. Cunningham and Henry J. Braker. Mr. Braker was the host. The bake was of the genuine Rhode Island type.

EXTRA SESSION TALK IN KENTUCKY.

Lexington, Ky., June 27.—As a result of a conference of political leaders here, it is authoritatively stated that Governor Beckham will call an extra session of the Legislature to repeal the Goebel law. Those present said it was a purely social party. Covers were laid for fifteen, but owing to the absence of Richard Croker and Mayor Van Wyck the party consisted of only thirteen.

ALABAMA FOR HILL.

Birmingham, Ala., June 27.—The Alabama delegation starts for the Kansas City Convention on Monday. The majority of the delegates are apparently strongly for David B. Hill for Vice-President.

DEMOCRATS TO ORGANIZE IN THE VTH.

There will be a meeting of Democrats of the Vth Assembly District next members of Tammany Hall.

Little Rock, Ark., June 27.—When the Democratic State Convention reconvened to-day the report of the Committee on Platform and Resolutions was submitted by Congressman T. C. McLean and adopted. The platform reaffirms the Chicago Declaration of 1896, favors strict observance of the Monroe Doctrine, declares for Government construction and ownership of the Nicaragua Canal, denounces trusts, condemns the "death dealing policy of the Republican Administration in the Philippines," insists upon giving freedom to Cuba and demands the same rights for the Philippines and National legislation against trusts.

MADE BISHOP BLENK ANGRY.

San Juan, Porto Rico, June 27.—At a teachers' conference held here yesterday evening Dr. Saldana, a member of the Insular Board of Education, in the course of an address remarked that the Catholic religion should again be introduced into the public schools of Porto Rico. Dr. Canpos Valdes, a Portuguese Presbyterian, Superintendent of Public Instruction in Brazil, took up Dr. Saldana's remark. In closing his address he turned to Bishop Blenk (the Bishop of Porto Rico) and said that, with all due respect to Catholicism, he would ask permission to take exception to Dr. Saldana's statement. He then said, in substance, that the Roman Catholic Church had been negligent in results in all the South American countries, asserting that the literature prevailing there was due entirely to the Church's influence. The remark caused great excitement. No sooner were the words uttered than Bishop Blenk jumped to his feet, and striking the table with his closed fist, shouted in ringing tones:

"I will not sit quietly and hear the Church of which I am the representative in Porto Rico traduced in such a manner!"

ARKANSAS PLATFORM ADOPTED.

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Senator James K. Jones and James H. Berry, former Governor of the State, were elected delegates-at-large to the Kansas City Convention. Resolutions instructing the delegation to vote for David B. Hill for Vice-President were withdrawn.

SCENE AT A TEACHERS' CONFERENCE IN PORTO RICO.

San Juan, Porto Rico, June 27.—At a teachers' conference held here yesterday evening Dr. Saldana, a member of the Insular Board of Education, in the course of an address remarked that the Catholic religion should again be introduced into the public schools of Porto Rico. Dr. Canpos Valdes, a Portuguese Presbyterian, Superintendent of Public Instruction in Brazil, took up Dr. Saldana's remark. In closing his address he turned to Bishop Blenk (the Bishop of Porto Rico) and said that, with all due respect to Catholicism, he would ask permission to take exception to Dr. Saldana's statement. He then said, in substance, that the Roman Catholic Church had been negligent in results in all the South American countries, asserting that the literature prevailing there was due entirely to the Church's influence. The remark caused great excitement. No sooner were the words uttered than Bishop Blenk jumped to his feet, and striking the table with his closed fist, shouted in ringing tones:

"I will not sit quietly and hear the Church of which I am the representative in Porto Rico traduced in such a manner!"

Again there was a painful silence, and then, by a common impulse, the adherents of the Bishop shouted with one voice:

NO CRIME TO KILL AMERICANS.

Havana, June 27.—A Cuban policeman who recently killed an American named Welsh, and against whom the evidence was apparently complete in the opinion of Army officers and others who saw the whole affair, has just been acquitted by the judges in circumstances so extraordinary that Governor-General Wood will order an investigation. The Fiscal said the case had been completely proved, and he demanded a sentence of fourteen years.

Americans in Havana are indignant over what they say is a studied attempt to show the Cubans that it is no crime to kill an American. They refer to a case occurring some months ago, when a Cuban editor killed Mr. Smith, the American Collector of Customs at Gibara. On the trial the Fiscal said he rose with regret to request the punishment of a Cuban for killing one of the "interventors," an act which, in his opinion, was scarcely a crime.

General Lacret has established a new paper, called "La Marina Cubana," which will be devoted to the establishment of a Cuban navy