

# POLITICS NOW IN BROWN & CO. FAILURE

**Democrats Said to Have Ap-  
proached Firm's Manager with  
a View to Revelations.**

## MORE BROKERS EXAMINED

**Receiver Littlefield Takes Charge—  
Bankruptcy Petition Makes Liabilities  
\$3,000,000 and the Assets \$750,000.**

Democratic politicians who are studying up on Stock Exchange methods with a view to framing anti-stock gambling laws this Winter and to bring about, if possible, an investigation of the Exchange, are said to have approached E. F. Buchanan of A. O. Brown & Co. in an effort to get his co-operation. Mr. Buchanan, while he did not deny yesterday that he had been approached in the matter, would not say whether he would help the politicians or not.

The special Investigating Committee of Five of the Stock Exchange continued its sessions after the close of the market yesterday, and a number of brokers were examined. The officials of the Exchange deny that Thomas W. Lawson has been invited to testify.

Former Congressman Charles E. Littlefield was formally made temporary receiver yesterday of A. O. Brown & Co. Judge Holt's order appointing him was filed in the morning in the clerk's office of the United States Circuit Court, and the receiver was required to furnish a bond of \$250,000. Mr. Littlefield visited the offices of the brokerage house at 11 o'clock and held a conference with the assignee and members of the firm. It will be several days, he said, before he can make anything like a detailed statement of the firm's condition. The clerks have not yet had time to draw up schedules.

In the bankruptcy petition filed with the court order yesterday the liabilities are estimated at \$3,000,000 and the assets at \$750,000. As was stated in THE TIMES on Sunday, the assignee's preliminary report made to the firm placed the assets at \$4,520,802 and the liabilities at \$3,978,895. These figures, it was explained, do not take into account the firm's capital.

### Mr. Littlefield's Statement.

Whether Receiver Littlefield will have the members of the firm examined before a United States Commissioner, as was done in the cases of the failures of T. A. McIntyre & Co. and of Coster, Knapp & Co., is still an open question. On this point Mr. Littlefield made the following statement yesterday:

"As I understand it, so far as it comes within the scope of a receivership, it is my duty to realize as economically and speedily as possible upon the assets of the bankrupts for the benefit of their creditors. Every feature of their business that has any legitimate connection with or relation to that object is, I suppose, a proper subject of investigation. Just what features that will include or what special lines of investigation it will involve in absence of adequate knowledge of their affairs, it is obviously impossible for me to state."

Unless the members are subjected to cross-examination in the United States

Court Wall Street is not clear how the mystery of the wild market of Aug. 22, which was the direct cause of the firm's difficulties, will be cleared up, nor how the receiver will learn who was behind the mysterious unnamed account for which it is said 90 per cent. of the firm's business on that famous Saturday was done.

The bankruptcy petition against the firm says that an examination of the partners is absolutely necessary for the purpose of locating the whereabouts of large amounts of stocks and bonds. W. C. Rosenberg, attorney, backed up the application with a statement that a Mrs. O'Brien had threatened to issue a writ of replevin in this city to obtain \$94,000 stocks of the American Tobacco Company in possession of the firm, and that an attachment has been issued against the firm in Chicago. The firm has large blocks of stock pledged with various banks as collateral security for loans, was heavily indebted, and involved in numerous complicated financial transactions with other concerns and firms to which it is indebted in large amounts.

Augustus O. Bourn, Jr., a lawyer, of 15 William Street, by advertisement asked yesterday that creditors of A. O. Brown & Co. desirous of obtaining prompt settlement of their claims address him as counsel to a committee of creditors. The similarity of names interested those who heard yesterday of this appeal to the creditors of the failed firm. The head of the firm of A. O. Brown & Co. is Albert O. Brown.

## SUES LAWSON FOR \$5,000.

**Broker Wants Sum for Proving Specu-  
lator's Fiction Theory Wrong.**

Thomas W. Lawson's frenzied finance literary effort, "Friday, the Thirteenth," figured in proceedings before Justice Blackmar, in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, yesterday, when counsel for the Bostonian asked for a bill of particulars in the suit brought against Lawson by Van Cleave Holmes, a broker, living in Brooklyn.

Holmes alleges that he has been trying to collect from Lawson the sum of \$5,000 which, he asserts, was offered by the financier to anybody who would prove to him that the stock market manipulations by the hero of "Friday the Thirteenth" were not possible. Holmes says that he submitted proof that such stock jugglery was impossible to the publishers of Lawson's story, but that the reward was not paid to him.

Counsel for Lawson told Justice Blackmar that his client had never received any communication from Holmes offering the proof in question and claiming the reward. He therefore asked for a bill of particulars. Justice Blackmar directed the lawyers to submit their papers and reserved his decision.