

county, Alabama. Between 11 and 16 per cent have or are believed to have some degree of white blood. The rate of negro illiteracy is given at 44.5 per cent, or seven times as common as among the whites. The death rate of negroes in the registration area in 1900 was 30.2; that of the whites, 17.3. The medium age of negroes is 19.4 years; that of the whites, 23.4 years. The negro population of the United States, including our insular possessions, is given as 9,204,531, nine-tenths of them being residents of the southern states."

FEARS are expressed in some quarters that unless the packing house strikes are speedily checked a meat famine will soon follow. The Chicago correspondent for the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune, under date of July 25, says: "Startling facts relating to the meat famine are revealed by the comparison of figures showing receipts of cattle at the Chicago yards. The receipts last week were 14,284; the average weekly receipts of cattle in 1903 were 66,000—the falling off of the week was 51,725. The figures show the fearful cost of the strike to western cattle raisers, now forced to hold cattle because there is no market. With 51,725 fewer carcasses in storage than there should have been at the end of the week, the famine existing is revealed plainly. Here are the figures: Monday, July 18, 3,978; Tuesday, July 19, 973; Wednesday, July 20, 2,069; Thursday, July 21, 985; Friday, July 22, 3,638; Saturday, July 23, 2,641; total, 14,284. Record receipts for stockyards, week ending September 19, 1891, 95,925. Average receipts for week during 1903, 66,009. Last week, below average, 51,725. Last week, below record, 81,641."

AN "ALL too sudden" proposal of marriage to a Hoboken, N. J., girl provided the newspapers with an interesting story. The Hoboken correspondent for the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune, under date of July 25, says: "When William S. Kerrigan proposed to Miss Elizabeth Muir she was so astonished that she fainted on the street and had to be taken to a drug store to be resuscitated. Kerrigan made the suggestion of matrimony in front of the office of a justice of the peace. As soon as the girl revived he repeated the proposal and Kerrigan was equally astonished by her promise of acceptance, in view of her prostration at his suggesting marriage. They went to the office of the justice and Elizabeth is now a happy bride."

NEWSPAPER dispatches under date of Washington, July 25, stated that Henry G. Davis, the democratic nominee for the vice-presidency, would in October marry Mrs. Catherine Reynolds, widow of Dr. John Reynolds of Shepherds-town, W. Va. Mr. Davis is 80 years old, while Mrs. Reynolds is 70. The dispatches stated that Mr. Davis and Mrs. Reynolds were sweethearts in their youth. The story has received wide publicity, but the statement was subsequently denied by Mrs. Reynolds and also by Mr. Davis.

THAT sudden cabinet changes are apt to be confusing to the officials of the United States in other parts of the world is evident from a message received at the navy department from Rear Admiral Yates Stirling of the Asiatic squadron. The story is told by the Washington correspondent for the New York Herald in this way: "Since Paul Morton, the new secretary of the navy, was sworn into office some instructions were sent to Rear Admiral Stirling, and, with the usual brevity of the cable, were simply signed 'Morton,' the last name of the secretary. Rear Admiral Stirling answered promptly as follows: 'Instructions received; will be carried out. Who is Morton?—Stirling.' Navy department officials were astonished for a moment, until they realized that even in this day of wonderful rapidity of news dissemination it might be possible that recent sudden cabinet changes had not become fully known and digested by our naval officers in Asia. Rear Admiral Stirling's curiosity, however, caused considerable amusement at the department. The rear admiral himself must have been much puzzled, as the only other Morton in the naval register besides the new secretary is a young lieutenant on the Wyoming, who is hardly likely to be sending instructions to the senior rear admiral of the Asiatic squadron."

THE democratic national committee met at Chicago July 26 and elected Mr. Thomas Taggart of Indiana as chairman. Emer Woodson of Kentucky was elected secretary. Edwin Sefton

of Washington City was elected assistant secretary. John I. Martin of Missouri was re-elected sergeant-at-arms, and Samuel Donelson of Tennessee was elected assistant sergeant-at-arms. The question of selecting two vice-chairmen, one to have charge of the eastern headquarters and one to have charge of the western headquarters, as also selection of a treasurer, was, on the suggestion of William H. Sheehan, left to be determined by the executive committee. The committee visited Judge Parker at Esopus.

GOVERNOR PEABODY of Colorado, on July 26, issued a proclamation abandoning military rule in Teller county, and placing the Cripple Creek district in charge of the authorities. Referring to this order, the Associated Press says: "This action was taken by the governor in face of opposition from many influential citizens of Cripple Creek, who desire to prevent deported men of the union miners from returning to the district. Before issuing his order, however, the governor received assurances from Sheriff Edward Bell that his forces were able to control the situation. Military rule was proclaimed in Teller county on June 8, in consequence of disorderly acts, following the explosion at Independence of June 8, by which many non-union miners were killed and injured. Previous to that there had been a large force of soldiers on duty for many months in the Cripple Creek district, but before the explosion occurred these had all been withdrawn. No troops are now under arms anywhere in Colorado and good order prevails in all the mining camps. The military expenses of the state during the past eighteen months, due to strikes, are said to aggregate about \$1,000,000."

ASPECIAL dispatch to the Detroit Free Press, under date of Jackson, Mich., July 16, says: "Thomas E. Barkworth, chairman of the democratic state central committee, tonight announced that he had decided to take no further action as state chairman and would not attend the committee meetings preliminary to the state convention. Mr. Barkworth characterizes Judge Parker's telegram to the St. Louis convention as an affront to the Bryan democracy. He expressed the belief that he would stultify himself by acting as state chairman when he is not in accord with the predominating influence in the party in both state and nation. Mr. Barkworth states that if National Committeeman Campau prefers a formal resignation he will make it, though he considers it unnecessary."

THE death knell of "the soldiers' friend"—the old army mule—has been sounded, according to the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, by the recent appearance of the "zebrula," a cross between a horse and the zebra. The "zebrula" has superior intelligence and enduring qualities and the Tribune correspondent says: "This new horse, the 'zebrula,' on account of its form and its general physical condition, especially the hardness of the hoofs, is especially adapted for all transport work which is now performed by mules. Moreover, the 'zebrula' is much livelier than the mule, and is certainly as intelligent. In Germany, according to Richard Guenther, United States consul general at Frankfurt, it is confidently predicted that ere long the mule will be replaced by the 'zebrula.' Efforts to produce crosses between horses and zebras, which have been in progress for nearly eight years, have finally become successful, and assurances are given that the 'zebrula' will be the coming animal for transportation."

IF IS announced by this same authority that "a prominent animal dealer of Hamburg, Germany, who raises all kinds of animals, has just arrived at the world's exposition in St. Louis with a fine collection of the 'zebrulas,' and various varieties of the zebra. The opportunity is presented to enterprising men of this country to open up a new industry of breeding 'zebrulas,' to replace the mule, as the former are claimed to be more useful, quicker, and beautiful than any mule. Though zebras have doubtless existed for ages in the vicinity of the Blue Nile, the monuments have heretofore afforded no evidence that they were known to the ancient Egyptians. To the zebra the Romans gave the name hippotigris, which accounts for the belief once common that it was a hybrid between a horse and a tiger. In 1882 a beautiful specimen reached France—a gift from Menelik, then king of Shoa—which, after

being for a time confounded with the mountain zebra of South Africa, was raised to specified rank and named E. Grevyi, after the president of the French republic."

Moving Forward.

The American people are now entering upon a great educational campaign. This campaign is by no means circumscribed by the affairs of the present-day presidential contest. Its metes and bounds are decidedly more extensive. While in detail, many points are involved, the issue can not be better described than by saying that it is a contest between democracy and plutocracy.

The Commoner believes that the time has arrived when men must take a position either for railroad ownership of the public or for public ownership of the railroads. The Commoner prefers the latter and will fight along that line.

In keeping with the plan to bring about public ownership of the railroads, it is important that a determined effort be made by the various cities to establish municipal ownership of municipal franchises. Men of the future will wonder why men of the present were so patient in the presence of the system whereby public utilities are permitted to be used for private gain.

In various cities throughout the country, men, regardless of political prejudice, have taken their stand in favor of municipal ownership of municipal franchises and it may be depended upon that this sentiment will continue to grow until Americans generally are prepared to take their stand in favor of public ownership of railroads.

The Commoner believes in an income tax.

The Commoner believes that men should seriously consider whether federal judges should not be elected by the people to serve for a limited period.

The Commoner believes that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable.

The Commoner believes in that popular government whereby the people shall be permitted to play an effective part in government, and as a result of which, public affairs in state and in nation shall be administered with an eye single to the establishment of the greatest good to the greatest number.

Everyone must realize that in order to impress the people with the importance of these reforms, a great educational campaign must be carried on. The Commoner hopes to play an important part in the campaign.

In order to increase the Commoner's sphere of influence its circulation must be increased. Those who desire to assist in this educational campaign can do so by taking advantage of The Commoner's special subscription offer.

According to the terms of this offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering the cards may sell them for \$1.00 each, thus earning a commission of \$2.00 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

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