the case of Governor Johnson, however, it is believed that this fire would not be drawn, for while he is more or less a conservative, in the sense that he has never been a worshipper of Bryan, he belongs to a younger generation and is without any handicapped record.

"For these reasons the anti-Bryan men here believe that should their movement make headway Johnson will be the man on whom they can all unite. But as to whether it will make headway they are equally as ignorant as the democrats in Minnesota.

"The prevailing opinion here is that the governor can do nothing to push his boom along, and that if he were to try he might do the cause more harm than good. At the same time, it is expected that he will keep his own house in order and, should the opening come, be prepared to deliver for himself the votes of Minnesota, the Dakotas and of such other northwest territory as he can control.

"During January and February the forces will be at work within the party that will decide who will get the Denver nomination, and Governor Johnson will be powerless in their hands. Should the nomination go to him, it will be without reference to anything he himself might be able to do. He can neither help nor hinder the movement that is now on foot, and it is understood here that he purposes keeping his hands off—until the right moment rolls around, should such a moment ever come."

ANOTHER REPORT

The Washington correspondent for the Buffalo (N. Y.) Evening News, under date of Washington, December 20, printed the following:

The greatest political campaign conducted in forty years in the democratic party, and at any rate since the late William C. Whitney managed to nominate Cleveland in 1892, was begun at the meeting of the democratic national committee in this city this week.

President James J. Hill, the famous "Jim Hill" of St. Paul went down to New York some time ago, and told the "System" that he had the man for president, and that it must furnish the money. It is anything to beat Roosevelt, first, second, to beat any man who represents Roosevelt policies; and third, how to turn the trick.

At present writing it is regarded as impossible for the "System" to capture the republican national convention and nominate its man. The alternative is to capture the democratic national convention and make the nominee its own creature. The hatred of the "System" for the policies of the president is the basis of this combination. This plan of the "System" started by Hill to capture control of the presidency is the true "conspiracy," that has been mysteriously whispered about the White House and in Washington for several months. The News is able for the first time to state in print just what there is of the story.

The first place at which those who are engineering this scheme showed their hand was at the national committee meeting a few days ago in Washington. * * *

The south will send solid delegations instructed for Bryan. So will many states from other sections. New York will not do it. New York is playing the game of the "System" as far as the present organization of the party is concerned. Boss Murphy is not for Bryan. Neither is Chairman Conners. Bryan has no show whatever for the vote of the New York delegation. The talk of Chanler for president is a joke. Johnson is the man for the "System" and every other name but Bryan is a mask for Johnson. Wherever you find a democratic newspaper assailing Bryan there is seen the outcropping of the "System" even when the newspaper itself doesn't know it.

Another thing is to be noticed. The "System" is going to do its best to create and prolong panic conditions. It is doing it now. It controls vast enterprises of its own and thousands of smaller ones are dependent in one way or another on the activities of plants owned by the "System." The entire outfit is used to frighten the country into the belief that it is Roosevelt that is to blame for current conditions of business. Other monetary crises have been followed by defeat of the party in power when they came. It is hoped to win the great prize of the presidency for the "System" by defeating Bryan first for the nomination and then by defeating the republican candidate at the polls unless the "System" can be certain of controlling him when elected.

The main point is to defeat any man representing even remotely the Rooseveltian policy toward corporations and Bryan is as much hated as Roosevelt on that score. It is not surprising that as the people begin slowly to sense the immense and complicated game of the "System" they continue to insist on Roosevelt's staying in the White House until he has utterly routed and crushed the "System." It is conceded even by the inside men of the "System" that Roosevelt can do it. He has the incomparable backing of the nation that no other man has ever been able to muster. There is no chance against him whatever. It is about equally hopeless to look for refuge if Bryan is elected. No such man as either of them, or any one resembling either of them in character and moral principles is to be endured if the brains and resources of the "System" can prevent so dreadful a result of the campaign of 1908 in the mind of the "System."

IN MINNESOTA

The following dispatch was carried by the Associated Press: "Duluth, Minn., Jan. 4.—Democrats of Minnesota who favor the nomination of W. J. Bryan for president, tonight gave out an address to the democrats in Minnesota, setting forth their reasons for supporting Mr. Bryan. The address is signed by T. T. Hudson, democratic national committeeman for Minnesota, and more than one hundred other prominent democrats of the state. The address in part says: 'Believing that it is essential in the contest of 1908, that the democracy of the nation shall continue on advanced ground; that there shall be no retreat; that what has been already so dearly won shall not be lost, it is our firm conviction that the best interests of the American people are in the nomination and election of W. J. Bryan to the presidency as chief exponent of the reforms needed in our nation, and to that end we ask the co-operation of democrats in Minnesota. The conflict is between reaction and progress. The interests with selfish influences behind them, which have always been inimical to pure democracy, are still at work. Let no true democrat be deceived. In the present situation no man can be seriously considered in place of Mr. Bryan, if these influences are behind him. We know what Bryan stands for; he is no experiment. If we win with him it will be a victory worth the winning, a triumph of the principles we hold dear.'"

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Washington Letter

Washington, D. C., January 6.

Now come some republican politicians in Wisconsin who announce their devotion to Taft and their purpose to make what they call "a bitter fight" for Taft delegates against LaFollette. In other words they hope to round up for Taft that old crowd of corporation-serving, machine reactionary politicians who have fought Senator LaFollette since his entry upon public life and who have been properly whipped into obscurity. The brainiest of the lot, former Senator Spooner, has moved out of the state and become a corporation lawyer in New York. The men who are left are machine politicians of the old stripe. They would be glad to get back into even a semblance of power, if by pretending to be for Taft they could beat LaFollette. But it would be all pretense and the pretense will be more hurtful to Taft than helpful to them.

President Roosevelt has talked much against the reactionaries in his own party. He has put forward Secretary Taft as his choice of a man to carry out his policies. Some of us do not believe that either the Roosevelt or the Taft policies are so progressive as they are advertised, but if the president and the secretary of war allow a fight to be made in Wisconsin to eliminate LaFollette, the most progressive of all republicans, it will not be for us any longer a question of thinking, we will know.

Florida sends to Washington a new senator in place of Stephen R. Mallory, who died a few days ago. He comes by appointment of the governor, of course, and at the next session of the Florida legislature will have to fight for his continuance in the senate. William James Bryan, who is said to be no relation of the other W. J. Bryan, is but thirty-two years old. He comes from a state which is rapidly passing into the control of two great railroad corporations—the Flagler system on the east coast, and the Plant system on the west. But his appointment comes from a governor who has not been charged as being in the slightest degree subservient to these great corporation interests. He himself has made what reputation he possesses by a prosecution of the beef trust and of the ice trust in his own state, and by his insistence, when solicitor of Duval county upon the strict enforcement of the excise laws. After all the new man in the senate shows wisdom when he declines to tell too much of what he expects or hopes to do. In response to questions, Mr. Bryan said: "I believe congress should devise some means of preventing financial panic at times when the country is prosperous. I think the tariff should be so revised as to meet new conditions and not foster predatory trusts and combinations. I believe in preserving the sovereignty of the several states, and I shall oppose any measure which tends to weaken that sovereignty." Senator Bryan's youth and the circumstances under which he comes to the senate make him one of a group of interesting new democratic senators. Among them are Owen, the Indian, and Gore the blind man from Oklahoma; Robert Taylor, better known as Fiddling Bob of Tennessee; and Jeff Davis of Arkansas.

All new men, each with a distinct personality of his own, each one so far as may be judged, with a determination to impress his own conviction upon the action of congress and to advance the cause of progressive democracy, what these five men may do during the long session about to come will be of national interest.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.

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HER PRAYER

"Does 'ay me
Down un s'eep,
Does p'ay 'Ord
Soul un teep;
'Fore me die,
'Fore me 'ake,
Does p'ay 'Ord
Soul un take."

That's the way she says her prayer,
Eyes-o'-blue and golden hair,
Kneeling by her little bed
Where the softest glow is shed
From the light out in the hall,
Like God's mercy over all;
Dimpled hands 'neath dimpled chin
Sends she her petition in
Carefully and slowly, then
Suddenly snaps out, "Amen!"

"Does 'ay me
Down un s'eep,
Does p'ay 'Ord
Soul un teep;
'Fore me die,
'Fore me 'ake,
Does p'ay 'Ord
Soul un take."

So she kneels and, sweet and low,
Halting, stumbling, going slow,
Plodding through it carefully,
Conscientious as can be,
While her mother up above
Prompts her in a voice of love,
And her father, standing by
With the love-light in his eye,
Waits to clasp her tight again
When she's snapped her glad "Amen!"

"Does 'ay me
Down un s'eep,
Does p'ay 'Ord
Soul un teep;
'Fore me die,
'Fore me 'ake,
Does p'ay 'Ord
Soul un take."

So our little baby prays
Nights that follow happy days,
Kneeling by her little bed
With her golden curls outspread
Over her wee shoulders wide;
Weary limbed and sleepy-eyed,
Halting, ploddingly and slow,
In the hall light's softened glow,
Lord, our little babies keep
When they lay them "down un s'eep."
"Amen!"

—J. M. Lewis in Houston (Tex.) Post.

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SUNSHINE BOOMERANG

When a bit of sunshine hits ye,
After passing of a cloud;
When a fit of laughter gits ye,
An' ye'r spine is feelin' proud;
Don't fergit to up and fling it
At a soul that's feelin' blue;
For the minit that ye sling it
It's a boomerang to you.

—Captain Jack Crawford.