

riving at one of the causes of the present disorganization of the fire department. At last Monday's session Mr. Woodward did not offer any larger number of resolutions than he usually does. They were of the same character, and were as usual voted down. But Monday evening does not last forever. The whole session cannot be devoted to the needs of the fire department, and since the time given to it is consumed by Mr. Woodward in presenting futile resolutions and in arguing their expediency it is quite obvious why the real condition of the fire department problem remain undiscussed from one council meeting to another. Although a councilman does not draw a large salary the four monthly meetings of the council cost the city in salaries and lights about \$355.00 a month or \$88 75 a session. If Councilman Woodward consumes an hour at each meeting his speeches and advice cost the city \$27 25 per session of three hours' duration (which is longer than the average seditious) or \$99 00 a month or \$1,188 a year. And these calculations do not take into account the loss the city suffers by reason of the business which is not considered while Mr. Woodward is speaking. Eleven hundred and eighty-eight dollars added to the fire chief's salary would hire a big chief of the fire department.

Mr. Woodward is a councilman and it is of course impossible to prevent him from exercising the privileges of the floor (technically so called) to which, as a councilman he is entitled, but it is hoped that this short review and critique of his conduct of the fire department may induce him to give the processes of reflection and reason a more conspicuous portion of his time. It is not how much we speak but how well that induces the respect of our fellow men. And if Mr. Woodward would but consider the value of Kipling's Skipper's advice "to keep things separate," it might have an unexpected influence upon his political fortunes. Finally if these few words of well meant advice turn the councilman's thoughts upon the impoverished city and of how it can not afford to lose \$27.25 every Monday evening while he is speaking there are grounds for hoping that his thrifty habits may aid in his reform. His entire reformation, which means unbroken silence is too much to ask but flashes of taciturnity from Mr. Woodward would do much to facilitate business.

#### Mr. Bryan and Mr. Cockran.

"We have been suffering from that dangerous intoxication of phrases which seem to be sufficient to sustain magnificent periods and when all is over none of us quite know what we have been talking about" said Mr. Bourke Cockran to the members of the Trust Conference.

In reply Mr. Bryan said: "The American people are entitled to the best system on every subject. I do not believe it necessary for us to sit down quietly and permit a great aggregation of wealth to strangle every competitor."

It is the easiest trick in the world to make a child believe that he is persecuted. It is but a trifle more difficult to make a man believe himself a martyr, and to convince a mob that it is persecuted or "throttled," "strangled" or "crushed" and "robbed," as Mr. Bryan calls the assault of capital upon the liberties of the people, is the easiest of all. The child and the man sulk when an Iago has convinced them that they are betrayed or are victims of inhuman selfishness, but a mob howls, vows vengeance

and determines to vote for Iago if he can be induced to be magnanimous enough to afford it the chance. Mr. Bourke Cockran asked the people not to frighten at nothing and to remember the principles of a free government, when Mr. Bryan was endeavoring to excite their fears and resentment against an imperfectly visualized trust. The difference between Mr. Bryan's attack on trusts and Mr. Cockran's reply was that the former cajoled his audience according to his habit, first by catch phrases about what the American people are entitled to and then attempted to frighten and anger them by calling trusts, monopolies, and their operations "strangling." Mr. Cockran defined a trust and his terms to the acceptance of his audience in the first place. He discarded generalities and apparently despised the tricks of the orator, so far as they involved arousing the prejudices of his audience. And he was overwhelmingly successful in his appeal to reason and the constitution, if vociferous and redoubled applause is a sign of success, and Mr. Bryan counts it so.

Mr. Cockran said to begin with that "If there is a monopoly that oppresses I believe that there is no constitutional limitation, there is no provision of government, there is no power on earth against these people redressing a wrong when it becomes a wrong. The question to which I think the attention of these conferences should be directed is whether this one exists, and where it is.

The difficulty of preventing free and independent citizens from forming partnerships among themselves is the obstacle to a control of the trusts. In treating it Mr. Cockran had the advantage of an unassailable premise.

The debate, which became a debate in spite of Mr. Bryan's aversion to advertising the wide gulf which separates some democrats from other democrats is the first skirmish of the democratic convention of 1900.

#### Rural Free Delivery.

All publishers should urge the extension of the rural free delivery system. Its adoption means an immediate addition to the number of people who take newspapers and magazines. Farmers are no fonder than other people of stale newspapers. Being accustomed to fresh air, fresh eggs, cream, butter and other fresh things, the category of which does not exclude human beings, the farmer more than the city man, who is obliged to take his milk, butter and eggs after they are faded and staled by a railroad journey, objects to jejune and wilted news. According to The Chicago Record, a number of thirty-mile mail routes, running twelve miles out of Crawfordsville, have had a daily mail service for a year. During the first month of the service each carrier delivered about 1,000 pieces and collected about 300 letters. In the course of the year the number of pieces delivered increased to 5,000 a month and the letters collected to 1,800, besides papers and other parcels. It is also stated that the service increases the value of land along the routes and tends, as the figures demonstrated, to enormously increase the number of papers and periodicals taken.

The carriers have been allowed to perform messenger and express service for the households on their routes, thus making the service profitable to the government and the messengers too. A daily trip to town is impossible to thrifty farmers or farmer's wives, but in families where there are little children, the unforseen need of medicines, schoolbooks

and school supplies make it necessary that the tired farmer and his tired horses should go to town on many a night when body and temper rebel. In the region about Crawfordsville, Indiana, the farmers' wives confide their errands to the postman whose fee is so small that the farmer is glad to pay it and save a trip to town.

Since rural free delivery pays in Indiana, which as a state, is literary only in the spots occupied by Mr. James Whitcomb Riley and General Lew Wallace, it is certain that it would pay in Nebraska, where illiterate people are so scarce that the collector of funny stories based on ignorance and mis conception skips the state on his way to the real west. This trial in Indiana should convince the postmaster general that rural free delivery is not premature. It will increase the revenues of the postal department by increasing the amount of mail matter sent and besides it will establish quick communication with the farmers and lessen their isolation. To everybody but the farmer the news is conveyed by telegraph and rural free delivery will make him a customer of the associated press. Should the Postmaster General accomplish this reform his administration will become epochal and mark the last year of the century by a memorable and beneficent innovation.

#### The Peace Commissioners Return.

They are coming back to America, but no one knows or cares what ship they have sailed on. Everybody knows that Dewey is coming back on the Olympia. For the peace commissioners no tall shafts line an avenue of fame, no victory's wide wings are stretched in triumphant acclaim. Their triumphs have not inspired the sculptors to erect an arch emblazoned with the heraldry of war and set about with sculptured sailors and soldiers. It is fortunate that a diplomatist is generally so well satisfied with himself that he does not notice the absence of popular recognition of his victories against other smug emissaries in broadcloth, around a mahogany table, and it is also fortunate that the man of peace with manifold theories for hastening the millennium is so engaged in propagating and explaining them that he does not notice that the man of action still wears the bays and still receives the plaudits of a people as martial as those of Rome who welcomed Caesar back from the wars.

#### Address to School-Children.

Mr. Alfred Austin who is below the standard even of poets laureate has some very excellent ideas of life and its conduct. To the boys of St. Edmund's school, Canterbury on Prize day Mr. Austin insisted that we were not living in a changed world of morals, of principles or of manners. "Nothing, surely that was fundamentally important in the two most important of all things—life and conduct—has changed. Telegraphs and telephones had almost annihilated time and space, but they had neither moved nor shaken the foundations of morality. Railways had added to the speed of locomotion, but they had left philosophy that was sound before their invention as sound and stationary as ever. Parliaments, books, newspapers, conferences, public meetings had increased in number, but the duties of the statesman, the resources of the orator, and the canons of pure literature remained unaffected by their multiplication."

Then he adjured them, moreover, "to revere honest, useful work in all men. It was often said that life was short. But there were two things for which it was much too long. It was too long for idleness, too long for mere pleasure-seeking, both of which ended in unutterable weariness. Refresh body and mind, as far as possi-

ble, with variety of exercise, while devoting your main energies to some one worthy purpose. If you aspire to achieve distinction, be careful not to confound distinction with notoriety, that most vapid and ephemeral of all things. Distinction was valuable only when it was conferred by those who were themselves distinguished."

It is plainly to be seen here that Mr. Austin does not confuse the trifling with the essential, and the everlasting, notwithstanding his poetry. His remarks strengthen convictions concerning the modernity of all ethical precepts and deductions and relieve the timid who fear that future discoveries will create a new heaven and a new earth. Whereas time, space and matter which are conquered by new inventions have to do only with the physical world, while the sermons Plato, Marcus Aurelius, and the Christ are as modern as though they had of just delivered them.

#### The Omaha Show.

In the beginning of the season the managers of the Omaha show announced that a certain number of thousand dollars had been set aside for advertising in various large papers. But nevertheless Mr. Cutright the tactless advertising agent of the show requested the country and weekly papers of Nebraska to advertise the show for a few passes. All of the self-respecting papers sent Mr. Cutright their advertising rates. He replied by informing them that the show was quite able to get along without the Nebraska press and he continued to send press notices to the despised country papers. Just as soon as they arrived they were thrown unopened into the editor's waste basket. Last year the patronage of the country people in Nebraska made the Exposition successful. Their trade trebled the business of the retail stores and their traffic put the Omaha street railway stock at a premium. Country people take country papers and when those papers report a disgusting and demoralizing show or print nothing whatever of a show, country people who are simple minded enough to have confidence in the country editor, are not apt to patronize it. Reliable reports indicate that the grounds of the exposition are very beautiful, the lighting superb and worth traveling fifty miles to see, but families will not travel hundreds of miles to see landscape gardening and an electrical display. Neither are conscientious but snubbed editors going to advise their readers to spend their money so foolishly. Mr. Cutright's snarl that the exposition could get along without this or that paper is true enough. Events have proven that no show can be a success in Nebraska unless the despised country people patronize it and the Omaha show has "gotten along" without the country people, but shabbily.

#### The Street Fair.

Today is the last of the street festival which has filled the streets with happy looking people for a week. The many beautiful and picturesque booths which the merchants have erected have transformed the streets of the city into something new and strange. Those merchants who erected elegant booths and ornamented them with some regard to the laws of color have been widely complemented and will be quoted for months to come. There are other merchants, with good intentions, but uneducated in the effect of one color upon another who erected booths and ornamented them with most of the blue and green and red cheese cloth in stock. The effect, far from being pleasing, gave an incorrect impression in many cases of the quality