

him of shirking trouble, whether it was the championship of an unpopular cause or the choking of a colleague who had ventured to give him the lie. He is the embodiment of freedom of debate. It can not be said that Mr. Tillman's judgment is very trustworthy, or that he is profoundly learned, or that he is a master of statecraft, but he does not pretend to be. He is satisfied to be 'a corn-field lawyer,' with the courage of his convictions and a readiness to champion them at any time. A senate composed entirely of Tillmans would never transact much business, although it would make plenty of work for the sergeant-at-arms, but one such man is a vital necessity to offset the Aldriches, the Platts, the Penroses and the Dicks."

MANY OF THE LIFE insurance companies have refused to pay their San Francisco losses. Some others are requiring a material discount. As a result, California people generally show a disposition to unite against these faithless insurance companies, while newspapers in other states are demanding that the names of the "welchers," by which term the delinquent companies are known, be published for the benefit of premium payers in other sections of the country. A Sacramento, Cal., dispatch says: "Six-bit' companies are to be allowed no more insurance business at the hands of the members of the board of education of this city. At the meeting last night action was taken to transfer all business now held by the 'welchers' to legitimate concerns. The matter was brought up as a result of several English companies informing the board that they were not among the 'six-bit' companies. A motion prevailed that the board should transfer all its business from the 'six-bit' companies as soon as their status could be established." Some of these companies contend that the losses being "due to a cause not covered by the policy of insurance" there is no liability.

SECRETARY OF WAR TAFT delivered a speech at Greensboro, N. C., and it is asserted and not denied that Mr. Taft submitted his speech prior to its delivery to Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Taft paid many high compliments to Mr. Roosevelt and his administration, and the newspapers appear to agree that Mr. Taft has been formally accepted as the administration's candidate for the republican nomination in 1908. The friends of Vice President Fairbanks and the friends of Speaker Cannon do not appear to be greatly disturbed by the fact that Mr. Taft is accepted as Mr. Roosevelt's favorite, while those who lean toward Secretary Root say that should "conditions" so operate as to force Mr. Root into the race, the administration would have more than one "favorite." In spite of the fact that Mr. Taft is now recognized as the administration's candidate, there are republican newspapers that have not gone to his support. Some of them are even a bit critical.

THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL, while paying Mr. Taft a compliment, says: "In one part of his speech Secretary Taft descends to what looks a little like cheap politics. It is hard to imagine the president himself saying such a thing, and the truth of the statement is at least questionable. This is the quotation: 'In view of this (repressive measures against certain corrupt corporations) it is not a matter for any surprise that the great combinations and organizations that have increased their profit and power by evil and oppressive methods should fear and dislike Mr. Roosevelt and his acts in the present much more than they do Mr. Bryan and the indefinite dangers with which he threatens them in the future.' However, the speech was a political one, made for partisan purposes, and it shouldn't be criticised too closely."

IN HIS GREENSBORO speech, Mr. Taft had considerable to say concerning the "Solid South" and he argued that it was the part of wisdom for the southern states to unite their fortunes with the republican party, saying that there was no longer any danger of negro domination and that, therefore, the south could well leave the democratic party. The Houston (Texas) Post takes Mr. Taft to task on this point. The Post says that Mr. Taft is "guilty of the false assumption that the south is democratic because of the negro, which is not half as true as that the north is republican because of the dollar." Mr. Taft had pointed out that West Virginia and other border states had gone republican and the Post says that West Virginia became republican by

the importation to the state of many thousands of negroes who work in the coal mines, but that there has been no "considerable change of the faith among the native population." As for Maryland and Kentucky, the Post points out that these states went republican on account of democratic factional troubles and the same is largely true of Missouri, adding: "No sane man believes that either Missouri, Kentucky or Maryland will again go republican soon."

THE SOUTHERN attachment for democracy is due, according to the Houston Post, to broad fundamental principles. The Post says: "The great majority of the people of the south do not believe in the economic policies of the republican party; they do not believe in republican extravagance, nor do they believe in the theory that it is either sound or right to tax the masses for the benefit of the privileged few. Naturally, there are some people in the south who profit through protection. These, like northern people similarly situated, like the material view and care nothing for the principles involved. But they do not constitute any potential element in the southern states, and this Secretary Taft out to be intelligent enough to know. In the meantime, if it be good policy for southern people to disregard their convictions and vote the republican ticket, why would it not be a good thing for some of the northern people to disregard the protection graft and vote their convictions? The north is just as solid as the south and it has not even so weighty an excuse as 'negro domination.' It sticks to the republican party because that party has been able to exchange legislative favors for vast campaign funds with which to tempt the cupidity of the poor and ignorant. The secretary would do well to preach the value of ideals and convictions among his own people—even in Ohio."

THERE HAS BEEN considerable criticism because in the trial before Judge McPherson of the rebate cases at Kansas City, the railroad company and the packers were fined, while Thomas and Taggart, the broker and his clerk, who were the go-betweens, were not only fined but sentenced to several months in prison. The Philadelphia Public Ledger correctly states the facts in this way: "It should be pointed out that the railroads and the packers were proceeded against under the Elkins law of 1903 prohibiting rebating. In that federal act there was no provision made for a prison sentence. The fact that the brokers made a regular business of securing rebates and constituted themselves the agents for the distribution of the illegal moneys and were performing constantly the part of conspirators, led the government to institute a test case under the federal statute on conspiracy. Under the law an act in itself may be only a misdemeanor punishable by a fine, but if two or more persons concert or conspire to perform that act or a series of such acts, so that it appears that they are doing a grave injustice to the public, they may be indicted for conspiracy to commit fraud against the United States. Thomas and Taggart were found to be brokers in crime, and were indicted, convicted and sentenced to jail."

IT HAS NOT, HOWEVER, been explained why the railroad company and the packers were not also proceeded against under the conspiracy law. In the case under discussion, Judge McPherson declared that in the violation of the anti-rebate law there were at least two guilty parties: the party who caused the rebate to be given and the party accepting it. But it will be observed that the "go-betweens," the broker and his clerk, were the only ones to receive punishment at all adequate with the offense. The explanation of the Kansas City affair does not alter the fact that in this instance, as in general, comparatively inconsequential persons are the ones that bear the burden. In the beef case, Judge Humphrey held the soulless corporation and released the flesh and blood packers who were responsible for the corporation's crime. In Kansas City the government proceeded against the railroad which gave rebates and the packers who accept them and the broker and his clerk who acted as messengers between the conspirators, under the Elkins law. Under that law, all of the parties were fined. At the same time the government proceeded against the broker and his clerk under the conspiracy law, which law provides for imprisonment, and the broker and his clerk were sentenced to prison. If a test case was desired, such case might well have been

tried upon the powerful railroad officials and the influential packers. No one appears to be able to give a reasonable explanation as to why such proceedings were not taken. The Philadelphia Public Ledger's explanation is: "The government did not care to risk all the actions on a test case." There is, however, no longer any risk to be taken and now that the conspiracy law operated successfully on the broker and his clerk, why not bring new indictments under that law against the railroad officials and the packers. It is no wonder that a great many people regard it as significant that whenever any one must go to jail for the violation of law, it must be some comparatively unimportant person, while the powerful and real conspirators escape with mere fines which, as they often boast, come out of the pockets of the people.

THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS, generally, have printed the fact that Lyman J. Gage, formerly secretary of the treasury, had become a theosophist and had taken up his abode with the theosophists at Point Loma, Cal. The Chicago Tribune prints a letter from Mr. Gage and says that in this letter, Mr. Gage defines his relations with the theosophists. In his letter to the Tribune Mr. Gage says that many inaccurate stories concerning his "alleged relation to theosophy" have been printed. He says that he is "trying this life at Point Loma" because he has friends there and because the climate is agreeable and because one can there live the simple life; and he adds: "Beyond these reasons there are two institutions established which to me lend much interest to the place. The first is the United States military reservation, with its fine system of harbor defenses, its companies of artillerymen, etc. The second is the Raja Yoga school for children and youths of all ages. This school was established and is being carried on by Katherine Tingley, as leader and official head of the Universal Brotherhood and Theosophical society throughout the world. The school excites my interest, and the magnificent work it is doing in the development of clean, healthy, well-educated and self-controlled young lives stimulates my hope for the future of society. I am not affiliated except in this friendly way either with the military station or the theosophical society. I am too old to enlist in the army, and I have not yet been invited to join the theosophists. I would consider it honorable to be related to either of them. No, I am just living my own life according to my best conception of it, and would much enjoy it if I could be left to mind my own business." Mr. Gage's letter does not seem to be so "definite" as to put a stop to the story that he is really on the point of embracing theosophy.

AN INTERESTING story comes from Houston, Texas, and is vouched for by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The Globe-Democrat's Houston correspondent says: "One of the remarkable incidents of the present campaign is the withdrawal of J. W. Campbell, who was a candidate for the legislature from Cooke county. Mr. Campbell and his opponent, Mr. Blanton, were to make a talk at Burns, a little town in Mr. Campbell's end of the county. Mr. Blanton led off with his talk, in which he was highly complimentary to his opponent and in which he confined himself to a discussion of the issues without indulging in any sort of personality save in compliment. At the conclusion of Blanton's talk Mr. Campbell arose and, instead of answering, he said: 'Gentlemen, I have listened attentively to what Mr. Blanton has had to say. I approve of what he stands for. He has had experience, and I will ask you to return him to the legislature. I'm a pretty good farmer and will go back to the farm. What I'm interested in is having a good man in the legislature.'"

THOMAS W. LAWSON has issued a tractlet in which he relates the story of a one dollar bill, which he says "has become a sign of the unpardonable sin, the unspeakable trade, one's manhood for another's soul, the bribe." Mr. Lawson dedicates the circular in this way: "To the Massachusetts Legislature: To you and your dupes, the constituents of whose welfare you have been the insolent betrayers; to you and your victims, the bucket-shop slaves of whose hope of salvation you have been the ruthless destroyers; to you and your masters, the corporations of whose dictates you have been the good and faithful servants; to you and your works and your shame, as a valedictory to your present session and a salutation to your next one—I dedicate this homely story of the dirty bit of paper.—Thomas W. Lawson."