

people. Closely following the action of the Philadelphia coal exchange, which, on July 23, recommended that the retail prices of all kinds of coal be raised on September 1 by twenty-five cents per ton, the managers of the railroad coal companies began figuring on lifting their prices on steam sizes of anthracite. This fact the North American on July 26 announced exclusively. E. B. Thomas, president of the Lehigh Valley railroad, issued a statement, in which he denied that any price change was in contemplation. From what appears, George F. Baer, president of the Reading-Jersey Central, and recognized head of the anthracite combination, is the one who takes the lead in the proposed lift in prices. This will raise the mine price of pea coal from \$1.75 to \$2 per ton, of buckwheat from \$1.25 to \$1.50 and of rice from sixty to eighty-five cents per ton. Freight rates to Philadelphia are \$1.40 per ton on pea and \$1.20 on buckwheat and rice coal. With the advance these sizes of coal will be put back to the basis which ruled in 1904. The year before that the prices were still another twenty-five cents per ton higher. Competition with bituminous coal forced the reductions in prices for steam sizes of anthracite. It is now felt that the advance in freight rates on bituminous coal put into effect early this summer, and the starved condition of the New England market, where there is virtually no coal in stock, will create such a pressing demand for steam coal next winter as to make it easy to get the higher prices proposed. About thirty-five per cent of the anthracite coal, as it comes from the breakers, is of the steam sizes. As the present output is about 70,000,000 tons per annum, there is produced by all the companies about 25,000,000 tons of pea, buckwheat and rice. Therefore an advance of twenty-five cents per ton comes to \$6,125,000 on the basis of present production."

WRITING IN THE Reader for August, Herbert Quick contributes this word picture of Governor Smith of Georgia: "The people of the United States think they know Hoke Smith, of Georgia. This is a popular error. It grows out of his having been in Cleveland's cabinet. The writer sat across the table from him in his well-thumbed and use-polished office in Atlanta. He was governor-elect then, and had just finished his wonderful fifteen months' crusade for the wresting of Georgia from that corporate grip which had lasted until its fingermarks had sunk into the state's fiber like an iron band about a growing tree. He had made three hundred speeches, and had traveled perhaps seventy-five thousand miles. But, tired? He seemed as fresh as if just from a seashore vacation. 'What do you propose to do?' said I, full of the issues of elections in Iowa and Wisconsin, 'about railway passes?' 'We shall make it a crime,' came the answer, like a bullet from a gun, 'for any pass or frank to be given to any one but employes of the corporation giving them!' 'How about the lobby?' I asked. 'We shall drive it from Georgia,' answered the governor, with ungovernor-like directness. 'A lobbyist will not be allowed to speak to members of the legislature about legislation, except in public, before the proper committees, and after he has registered, giving the name of his employer, what he expects to get for his work, and what legislation he is looking after.' 'And if he does speak to a member?' 'We shall put him in the penitentiary as a criminal where he belongs.' Governor Smith's hand came down upon his desk with a concussion that set the office a-quiver, and his gray eyes looked his questioner in the face unwaveringly. I do not care to be a lobbyist in Georgia, I think—not after Hoke Smith gets that reform mill of his grinding. The hand that smote the desk is a big hand, hung on a long arm. Governor Smith is a giant of some seventy-five inches in height and weighs eighteen stone. He is fifty-one years old, and good for more years and more work than the average man of forty. He is a human power-plant, a battery of boilers driving whole systems of dynamos. The people of Georgia have wondered at his iron endurance as they admired his iron determination. After the campaign he made, the duties of the office of governor must seem like silken leisure."

IT IS NOT all smooth sailing among the republican leaders of New York. Senator Page, an ardent Hughes man, said: "The people want Hughes for president. The sentiment for him in the state is overwhelming, and I be-

lieve is irresistible. The politicians will have to follow the wishes of the people. There is no Taft sentiment in the state that I have been able to discover. The people are not disposed to tolerate federal interferences in the selection of delegates from this state. They will resent such performances in an unmistakable way." United States Marshal William Henkel, when Page's statement was repeated to him, exclaimed: "Huh! They will have to show me how Hughes can get the New York delegation. New York is for Roosevelt with far more unanimity than when he was nominated by acclamation in 1904. Nine hundred and ninety out of every thousand republicans are for him." "Can Roosevelt hold the New York delegation?" "It's a cinch he can and will," answered Henkel, "for himself, Taft or almost anybody he desires nominated. It is my judgment that Roosevelt will be named for a third term, and he will carry the nation by a larger electoral vote than that by which he defeated Parker three years ago."

COMMENTING upon this situation the New York Evening Post says: "Senator Page's declaration for Hughes as the republican presidential candidate is accompanied by some uncommonly sound views regarding the state situation. 'If the people of this state want Governor Hughes for their next president,' he said in the interview he gave to the Tribune, the delegation to the national convention will be for him, and no amount of federal patronage can prevent it. \* \* \* I speak of the president, because, except as a reflection of his supposed wishes, there is no sentiment at present for Taft in this state.' If the president should carry out his reported intention of using his influence and patronage against the Hughes movement in this state, the immediate consequence will be to compel the large number of republicans who admire both Roosevelt and Hughes to choose between two men who have been regarded as exemplars of the same high political ideals. Mr. Roosevelt has characterized himself as a 'practical man.' He has upheld no impossible standards of party warfare. He has sometimes considered it necessary to fight fire with fire, craft with craft, bosses with their own weapons. What would his friends think, however, if he declared war in the interests of a personal favorite upon an executive who stands for the very sort of courage and independence for which he himself has so often thundered? What would they think if he employed the boss's weapons against a man who does not use them in return?"

## The Oklahoma Constitution

Oklahoma City, Okla., September 2.—Never in the history of this republic has the splendid principles of true democracy been so well exemplified and put in practice as they were in the framing of the Oklahoma constitution.

From the very beginning there has been something unique and marvelous about Oklahoma and her sister territory. Together they comprise the last political division of the famous "Louisiana purchase" which the illustrious Jefferson guaranteed in the treaty of acquisition made with the great Napoleon should be erected into American states with all the rights and privileges of any other state whenever the people of its various political divisions should signify their willingness and show their readiness to be admitted. For sixteen years these devoted sisters have urged their willingness and proven their fitness for the duties and responsibilities of self government, but the hour of their emancipation from the thralldom of carpet bag rule and the restraint of petty bureau domination has been continually deferred by one partisan excuse or another until now, when the one and a half million of intelligent, enterprising Americans who constitute the splendid citizenship of the proposed new state are knocking impatiently at the door of the future which must speedily open to them and disclose their political fate.

After years of strenuous endeavor and an almost unanimous demand from the people of the territories, congress, something more than a year ago, passed an enabling act, and under its provisions an election was held for delegates to a constitutional convention.

So bitter was the resentment against the domineering misrule that had distinguished the carpet bag representatives of the federal power; and so sharp the contrast between the democratic demand for a constitution that should

guarantee and declare in plain language the right of the people to rule, and the republican effort to maintain control for the corporations and the federal official clique that the result of the election was an almost unaccountable and overwhelming victory for the democrats who had gained the support of the people of all classes by their positive and patriotic platforms pledging the voters the reforms they demanded.

The convention met and attracted national attention, not only because of the feeble showing of strength made by the republicans who had stood as the spokesmen for predatory wealth and the special interests; but because the democratic majority of ninety-nine out of one hundred and twelve members was composed very largely of intelligent farmers and laboring men, who with their democratic colleagues and a part of the dozen republican members, took their commission from the people to write a charter of liberties and a modern constitution seriously; and with sturdy patriotism, rare intelligence, and sincerity of purpose they set about their task.

Recognizing fully the sinister and cunning devices by which the special interests have been enabled to influence legislatures and defeat the will of the people, the members of this remarkable convention braved the ridicule of the corporation newspapers and won the applause of their constituents by scourging from the hallways and committee rooms of the temporary capitol at Guthrie the lobbyists and paid representatives of every trust and monopoly, and the attorneys and special pleaders of every form of predatory wealth.

For days and nights together these honest representatives of a determined people wrought to form the present constitution of Oklahoma, a document that contains within its sixty-three pages more provisions that respond to the throbbing, pulsating demands of an intelligent and fully aroused public opinion than any like charter of liberties ever written in any clime or any age.

The principle propositions of this constitution are based on the studied demands of the wage earners of Oklahoma. The instrument was born of the people. It is the voice of the enlightened twentieth century answering the appeal of the thinkers and the toilers of all the ages with the joyful tidings of pledges fulfilled and the rights of the God-made man placed on an equality at least with the man-made corporation.

The people of Oklahoma have not attempted any governmental experiments or political speculation in their constitution. It has been drawn with fine intelligence and unselfish patriotism to meet conditions which the rapid development of the new state have made entirely different from those that prevailed in other states at the time of their admission. It represents the highest accomplishment in the principle and science of self-government, and its strongest commendation is found in the class of people and the special interests that are opposing its adoption by the people on September 17.

The admission of Oklahoma under this constitution is of national importance. The republican party both locally and through the president's cabinet officials are seeking to accomplish its defeat. All the democrats and thousands of honest republicans, or men who have hitherto been republicans, are for the constitution, but the machinery of that party will be worked overtime to bring about its downfall, and rescue from the vengeance of an outraged people the system of carpet bag government and red tape department methods that for profligacy and graft would put to shame the rule of an oriental potentate.

If the constitution of Oklahoma is adopted—as it will be by a three-fourths vote of all the people—it means a victory for the people that President Roosevelt himself will not dare, in the face of an aroused public sentiment, to nullify by withholding his proclamation. The campaign for the ratification of the constitution and the election of the democratic ticket, whose candidates are its most stalwart champions, is the most strenuous ever held in any state west of the Mississippi river, and it promises to attract an increasing interest in the minds of every class of thinking men everywhere, until the votes are counted.

I. A. T.

The Grand Rapids News suggests to Walter Wellman that if he don't fly for the north pole pretty soon the snow will be so deep up there he can not find a place to alight. Tut, tut! That's what Walter is waiting for—a nice, soft place to drop.