

users evidently had this policy deeply at heart and were 'evidently disposed to take a most unfavorable view of the character and motives of any one whom they supposed to be opposed to their views. They thus came to regard Mr. Ballinger with suspicion and to regard the most natural and innocent acts occurring in the ordinary course of department administration as furnishing evidence of some sinister purpose.' The report was presented to both houses at the opening at noon. At the same time the reports of the democratic members of the committee and of Representative Madison of Kansas, also were submitted."

THE NEXT British parliament will show little change as a result of the recent election. At the close of the polling on the fifth day the results stood: Government coalition—Liberals, 147; laborites, 28; nationalists, 45; independent nationalists, 6. Total 226. Opposition—Unionists, 193. An Associated Press cablegram from London says: "The fifth day of the elections ended with the parties still running neck and neck and with the prospect that they will come under the wire in almost precisely the same relative position they held at the start. Returns had been received up to midnight from the voting for 419 members, and the result is a unionist gain of two seats in that number over those held by that party in the last parliament. This amazing result is unprecedented in English history, and it is embarrassing to politicians of all factions. Both parties went into the election predicting great gains. Both are now convinced that the new house of commons will be practically identical with the old. Discussion is now concentrated upon the question of what the people's verdict means, what course shall be followed under such unexpected circumstances. The conservatives argue that Premier Asquith's bid for sweeping endorsement from the country has not been obtained; therefore he cannot be justified in fastening upon the nation such radical changes as home rule and the disarming of the house of lords. The coalitionists insist that the voters, by returning them to power, endorse their policies, and they expect to carry out their program in its entirety. Forty-four seats were balloted for today. Returns were received from twenty-one of these and from forty-four which were balloted for yesterday. In these sixty-five the liberals gained Radshire and Bedford, while the unionists gained Eskdale. The contests were close, nearly everywhere. The unionists continue to cut down the liberal majority and they made numerical gains all along the line, but insufficient to turn out the liberal members. Glasgow, which the liberals counted upon for an increased vote, went off some 2,000. Winston Spencer Churchill, home secretary, was returned by Dundee, but 1,500 votes shifted to the unionist column, largely as the result of attacks upon his personality."

THERE ARE some interesting personalities among some of the elect. These are Moreton Frewen, who comes to the home of commons from Cork county to support William O'Brien, the independent-nationalist leader, H. Spencer Clay for the Tonbridge division, Kent, and Lord Willoughby de Fresby for the Horncastle division of Lincolnshire. All three married American women. A Dublin cablegram says: "Addressing an overflow meeting tonight, John Redmond explained that it might take two and a half years to pass home rule into law after the veto bill was adopted. He predicted, however, that the provisions of the veto bill would never have to be enforced against the house of lords on the home rule question, because the moment their veto power was abolished the lords would begin to negotiate in an endeavor to come to terms on home rule."

ONE HEARS much of Champ Clark these days for it seems to be generally admitted that unless the special interests could have their way Mr. Clark will be the next speaker of the house. Now let us hear something about Champ Clark's secretary. A writer in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch says: "The right-hand man and confidential secretary of Representative Champ Clark, when the latter becomes speaker of the house of representatives in the next congress, will be Wallace Bassford, a Mexico, Mo., boy. Mr. Bassford has been connected with the Missouri statesman as secretary in half a dozen congresses and through a thousand political battles on and off the floor of the house. During the time Mr. Clark has been leader of the minority Bassford has been the minority clerk, in addi-

tion to his other duties, and he has made himself as popular around the capitol as he has made himself indispensable to his employer. The new position to which he will advance will bring him compensation to the extent of \$4,000 a year. He will take the desk which is now occupied by L. White Busbey, who is 'Uncle Joe' Cannon's secretary. Mr. Bassford is a son of J. C. Bassford, a former game warden of Missouri, and a brother of Homer Bassford of the St. Louis Times. He did not go to Washington with Mr. Clark following the recent election. His exertions during the campaign left him not in the best of health, and Mr. Clark requested him to remain at home for several weeks to recuperate. Mr. Bassford's work during the recent campaign brought forth much fruit in his district, and to him is due a great deal of credit for the largely increased majority which was given to Mr. Clark. Mr. Clark is particular as to how he is quoted by newspapers. He takes no chances, and if the newspaper interviewers in Washington will treat Mr. Clark fairly they will get a good many stories, not only through Mr. Clark, but through his efficient secretary. To show an incident of the appreciation of the situation by Mr. Bassford, who was once a newspaper man, it is only necessary to relate this little story: When it was printed a few months ago that if Mr. Clark was elected speaker he proposed to drive a team of Missouri mules down Pennsylvania avenue in Washington, Mr. Bassford appreciated, as well as Mr. Clark, that this did not fairly represent Mr. Clark's serious appreciation of his position and the weight of national questions which were upon him. So Mr. Bassford at once gave out a very interesting and pleasing story of how this 'joke' got started. Clark and Luke Emerson, the famous Missouri mule dealer, were in a hotel at Bowling Green, Mo., enjoying the peace and fellowship of neighbors and friends. In a magnanimous moment Luke Emerson said that if Mr. Clark was elected speaker of the house of representatives he proposed to give him a team of the finest mules in Missouri, and it was suggested that he drive them down Pennsylvania avenue in Washington to show their superiority over automobiles, aeroplanes, and such other comparatively infinitesimal things. The story went like wild fire, and has been editorially criticized in the metropolitan newspapers from Maine to California and back again, and is even now the subject of many humorous and editorial writers. It is all right when explained, but it appears a little bit too much like the wild west spirit at first consideration. So Mr. Bassford and Mr. Clark are desirous that this impression be corrected."

IF NOT WHOLLY lost, the art of oratory is rapidly falling into disuse, particularly in congress. That is the opinion expressed by Champ Clark in an article printed in the Century. Mr. Clark says: "William Bourke Cochran, of New York, was the last great orator to grace the house of representatives. Cochran is the highest type of Irishmen, and was educated thoroughly in France. He is a profound student, a man of large erudition, with an emotional temperament and a thorough mastery not only of English, but of French, Latin and Greek. He has a superb voice, a vivid imagination and a commanding presence. His sentences are polished as thoroughly as those of Edward Everett or John James Ingalls. The greatest achievement of an orator is to force applause from a hostile audience. Time and time again I have seen men who dissented toto caelo from what he was saying applaud Cochran until their hands were blistered. He won them, temporarily at least, by his magnificent oratory, his wonderful sentences and his personal magnetism. Men listened to him with delirious delight. The day he left the house he was more popular there than he had ever been, and men of all shades of political opinion sincerely regretted his departure. I do not mean that there are not still great speakers and great debaters in both houses of congress, for there are plenty of them. But there is a vast difference between an orator and a debater. A man may be both, but he is lucky if he is either. There are a few orators left in the country outside of congress. Undoubtedly the greatest of these—one of the greatest that ever lived—is William Jennings Bryan. Other men have made speeches as great as his, but the oratorical power of no other has been put to so severe a test. Since the 4th of March, 1895, when he left congress, excepting his six months of army service, he has spoken constantly and in every quarter of the globe. Every important speech has been sent broadcast by the news associations, and one might naturally

conclude that he would have worn out his welcome as a public speaker long ago. Not so, however, for today he can draw a bigger audience than any other man in America except President Taft, who draws by reason of his position, and Colonel Roosevelt, who draws by his wonderful and unique personality. There are plenty of men in the United States who could deliver old-time orations, but they have concluded that in this age of highest intelligence that the plainer style of speaking is the better. The principal causes of the decadence of oratory are the telegraph, the printing press, the telephone, the steam engine and the electric car."

ON DECEMBER 12 President Taft sent to the senate the following appointments: Chief justice, Edward D. White of Louisiana; associate justices, Willis Vandevanter of Wyoming, and Joseph Lamar of Georgia; court of commerce, Martin A. Knapp, Robert W. Archbold, William Hunt, John E. Garland, Julian W. Mack; members of interstate commerce commission, B. P. Meyer and C. C. McChord. Senator Eugene Hale of Maine, insisted upon an executive session immediately for the confirmation of Justice White. Justice White was at one time a member of the senate. Judge Vandevanter is at present circuit judge and lives in Wyoming. New York dispatches say that Wall Street is pleased with all appointments.

AT THE MOHONK conference, recently held, Rev. Arthur J. Brown read a letter written by a Chinese nobleman to the "old folks at home." The nobleman had made a tour of America and this is the result of his observations: "You cannot civilize these Americans. They are beyond redemption. They will go weeks and months without touching a mouthful of rice, but they eat flesh of bullocks and sheep in enormous quantities. That is why they smell so badly; they smell like sheep themselves. Every day they take a bath to rid themselves of their disagreeable odors, but they do not succeed. Nor do they eat their meat cooked in small pieces. It is carried into the room in large chunks, often half raw, and then they cut and slash and tear it apart. They eat with knives and prongs; it makes a civilized being perfectly nervous. One fancies himself in the presence of sword-swallowers. They have no sense of dignity, for they may be found walking with women. They even sit down at the same table with women, and the latter are served first. Yet the women are to be pitied, too. On festive occasions, which the Americans call balls, they are dragged around the room to the accompaniment of the most hellish movement."

#### GOOD FOR KENTUCKY

The first delegation boom for Champ Clark for speaker was started when the Kentucky democratic members formally endorsed the Missourian. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says:

"Friends of Mr. Clark say his election is now assured, and that there is no other candidate in the field and no real opposition. They say Mr. Clark already has received positive pledges, more or less equivocal, from twenty-five others and that of the remaining democrats in the total of 227 in the next democratic congress, virtually all of them are expected to rally to Clark. The Kentucky delegation, in endorsing Clark for speaker and Former Congressman South Trimble for clerk of the house, adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, The Hon. Champ Clark, by virtue of his long experience as a representative in congress, by his distinguished service as leader of the minority, by his able and attractive defense of the principles of his party, by his tact, his patience, his consummate knowledge of human nature, rare courage and conservatism has done much to bring about perfect union in his party, which is in such striking contrast at the present time with the confusion and disorganization of our political opponents, we are firmly convinced that he is in every way eminently suited for the high and responsible position devolving upon the speaker of the house of representatives in the Sixty-second congress.

"Resolved, That we endorse the Hon. Champ Clark for the position of speaker in the Sixty-second congress, and agree to use every honorable means to secure his election."

The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of December when this notice is mentioned.