

Today

Now We Know.
Everybody Happy, Almost.
What Is Government?
No Labor Party, Yet.
By ARTHUR BRISBANE.

The country knows all about it now, or enough to settle the most important questions. The price of wheat, uncertainty of the labor vote, and other things considered, La Follette polled a big vote. And final figures may make it bigger. A third party depends largely on dissatisfaction with the old parties. On this occasion there was only one party really running against La Follette. The democratic party, nationally, didn't count.

With conditions in America as they are, the number of the dissatisfied is not gigantic. And at the last minute the dissatisfied farmers on whom La Follette counted, were soothed by wheat selling around \$1.50 a bushel.

The day devoted to national government being over, not to come again for four years, it might be worth while to establish a definition of government.

According to Aristotle, it is "first to see that men shall live; second, to see that they shall live well." That abbreviation of Aristotle's theory in A. E. Zimmern's admirable essay on Greek politics, is as good a definition as any.

To see first that men live, they are supplied with what they need, and are not killed by their enemies, and second, to see that they live well, in comfort, free from worry. That's government.

Thus far governments have been fairly successful in enabling a certain small minority to live well. The efforts of new parties and radical parties to extend the well being to a greater number or to all, succeed slowly.

The main problem of government at this time, with nations instead of individuals competing, is to keep things moving.

This country needs to go on doing business more than it needs to discover some better way of doing business. It needs to keep factories and farms going, and it's quite certain that the task, for the moment, is helped by leaving things as they are.

Nineteen hundred and twenty-eight is a long way off. But already friends of Governor Smith in New York are saying, "next time the democrats will be asking Al Smith to help them," instead of kicking him out of the convention.

They point to his vote in New York, more than wiping out Coolidge's sweep, and snowing under the son of Theodore Roosevelt, and say that Al Smith, if nominated, could do what no other democrat could do.

Time will tell about that. Perhaps the next national campaign will be fought out on lines hitherto unknown in United States politics. You realize that even the power of party habit can be broken when you see white democrats in the south voting for a republican governor, and colored men and women voting for a democratic candidate.

For the present, however, the old republican party is boss, with Coolidge at the head of it. Barring unforeseen calamity, he ought to be about as strong four years from now as Theodore Roosevelt was at the end of his first term.

Roosevelt could gnash his teeth hard and bite off striking phrases. But Coolidge's quiet silence seems also to contain the essence of success.

The biggest popular vote that any man ever got in American history is the Coolidge vote, by the way, estimated at more than 18,000,000. It is clear that for the present there isn't going to be any "gigantic political labor party" in the United States.

Mr. Gompers, head of the American Federation of Labor, urged his followers to vote for La Follette. The labor unions with few exceptions indorsed La Follette and pledged themselves to vote for him. But something happened, and the men voted with the old parties as usual.

Merely talking about "class consciousness" doesn't create "class consciousness." The mechanic of today is the contractor of tomorrow.

row. It is hard to have genuine "class consciousness" when men slip out of their "class" as easily as they do in the United States.

Opportunity for advancement and enrichment discourages even mild radicalism. One of the ablest socialist leaders in this country asked "how many of the 50,000 socialists in your state would remain socialists if each inherited \$50,000?" replied, "perhaps four or five hundred."

This doesn't mean that radicalism is all wrong. It means that men listen to the money in their pockets more carefully than they listen to anything else, as a rule.

William Jennings Bryan knows that he was absolutely right when he said the one man that couldn't be elected was John W. Davis. This country is conservative, to put it mildly. Everybody knows that the two old parties represent conservatism and high finance. But moving a candidate direct from the law office of J. Pierpont Morgan and Co., Standard Oil and the Telephone monopoly on to the presidential ballot was a little too much.

Perhaps the plan of the super-bosses was really to make sure of electing Coolidge. If so, the plan worked.

(Copyright, 1924.)
A combination walking stick and umbrella is a novelty idea carried out in the popular bakelite.

\$50 Reward Offered for Return of Stolen Pup

Columbus, Nov. 6.—Tek, a brown water spaniel, has been stolen from his owner at Wahoo. Sheriff Jerry Dailey of Saunders county informed police headquarters there will be paid a reward of \$50 for the return of the dog, and an additional \$50 for the conviction of the thief.

Tek's an educated pup, and therein lies the hope of his being identified.



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If you see a brown water spaniel that answers to the name of Tek and you put a tobacco can or a stick on the end of his nose and he tosses it up and catches it in his mouth, the chances are that's Tek.

"Do plants suffer?" asks The Literary Digest. This will be a good question for them to put on their next straw ballot.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

TWO MEN HELD FOR STATION ROBBERY

Nebraska City, Nov. 6.—James King and Art Boyd, charged with the robbery of the Talmage Missouri Pacific station of a small amount of money and a mackinaw, and waived preliminary hearing in county court

and were bound over to the district court in the sum of \$12,000, being remanded to the custody of the sheriff when unable to provide the necessary bail. The men are believed to have robbed other stations on the Crete branch of the Missouri Pacific last Thursday night, using a stolen motor car to make the trip from Panama to Auburn where the car was abandoned. The two men were arrested at Plattsmouth.

Garage and Car Burned.

Fairmont, Nov. 6.—John McCabe's garage, owned by Mrs. Willard Goodrich. It is thought that the fire was caused by a bonfire left burning near the garage.

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