

**BRYAN'S NOMINATION ASSURED.**

That Hon. W. J. Bryan will again be the standard bearer of democracy is now a foregone conclusion. His nomination at Denver next week will doubtless be by acclamation.

In the history of prominent men, few have stood so high in the estimation of their countrymen. Twice a candidate for the office of president of the United States, Mr. Bryan has sustained his popularity in the face of defeat, and there is no question that the enthusiasm at the national convention will be general and vociferous, leaving no doubt as to the people's choice.

And how is this popularity accounted for?

Simply this: Mr. Bryan is a commoner. He advocates their principles in governmental affairs. His very life is as democratic as the principles he advocates.

Therefore, being of the common people of America, he is naturally trusted by them. They esteem his manliness and have confidence in his honesty. This explains why Mr. Bryan is the popular candidate whom the money power nor those who would can bring in disfavor with his admirers.

Some of those presidential aspirants who have been sawing wood for a year or more may find consolation in the thought that the exercise was good for them.

When the republicans failed to pass the publicity bill it was virtual notice that they intended to continue the fat frying process that they have always found so easy.

As Mr. Harriman is a practical man he is no doubt prepared as an "undesirable citizen of great wealth" to again furnish his share of the campaign boodle for the republican national committee.

Under new indictments for rebating, the Standard Oil trust is liable to be fined \$68,000,000. This is the republican way of trying to make people believe it is trust busting, but it does not seem to worry Rockefeller.

"Senator Jeff Davis is no joke," says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. No, indeed; when one thinks of poor Arkansas and some of the great men who have represented her in the senate, he is anything but a joke—he's a problem and almost a tragedy.

Texas is the greatest honey producing state in America, the crop bringing in annually \$500,000, the price ranging from 8 to 10 cents a pound. Texas honey has a delicious flavor from the wealth of sweet wild flowers and the demand for the luxury is greater than the supply.

That eminent attorney of the "interests," Joseph H. Choate, has declared to the court that "syndicate always means sin in some sense," and he likens the transaction he was engaged in unravelling as similar to when that "practical man" Harriman broke into the treasury of the Chicago & Alton Ry.

A contemporary notes that "Admiral Evans retired to private life without carrying a quarrel with him." The president might cite the admiral as evidence of the correctness of the Roosevelt idea anent a big navy. "Fighting Bob" was always in trim for all hostile comers, hence there were no hostile comers.

An exchange states it well and wisely as the following is proof: "Holding office is a good thing, but holding the plow handles is better. The man that sticks to his plow is his own boss, can work when he pleases, and does not have to ask favors of anyone. Moreover, no one can take his job from him at the end of the second term. He has a lifetime hitch on a good thing."

Railroads and other corporations have found that it pays to take an interest in politics. If it is profitable to them, why would it not be profitable for the individual voters? They use their influence to secure the election of those who will serve their interests. How long will it take the masses to learn to do the same?



# How Centralization of Power Imperils the Republic.

By Governor JOSEPH W. FOLK of Missouri.

HERE are many men in America today who advocate centralizing all power at Washington in the hands of the president. I am EMPHATICALLY OPPOSED to this programme. Destroy the dignity of the states and place in the hands of a president control over all the corporations of the land, for instance, and there is given a power that sooner or later will endanger the republic.

There are two ships at sea. One has water tight compartments; the other is all in one. If an accident happens to the first, one compartment fills with water, while the remainder of the ship is safe. If an accident befalls the second, the ship sinks. THIS REPUBLIC OF STATES IS SECURE SO LONG AS THE STATES ARE INDEPENDENT. If something goes wrong with one, the others keep the ship of state afloat. Let the integrity of states be taken away, the government centralized at Washington, and the republic will be in constant danger.

IT IS BUT A LITTLE WAY FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE. EACH STEP MEANS BUT THE TAKING OF ANOTHER. WITH A CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO FORESEE THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT FIRST FOR A LONGER TERM OF YEARS, THEN FOR LIFE, THEN THE OFFICE MADE HEREDITARY. HISTORY TELLS US THAT MANY ANOTHER REPUBLIC HAS GONE THIS WAY.

As long as our republic is composed of independent states, with a central government which is MERELY THE AGENT OF THESE STATES, the rocks on which other republics have gone down will be avoided. Republics have not, as a rule, become empires suddenly. The development has been by degrees. THE FIRST STEP with us will be to take away the independence of the states. And anything which tends in that direction just to that extent is dangerous.

## Where a State Cannot Act Federal Government Should.

By President ROOSEVELT.

I WANT to say one word about the "twilight land," the power between the federal and state government. My aim in the legislation I have advocated for the regulation of the great corporations has been to provide SOUND, EFFECTIVE, POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY FOR EACH CORPORATION.

What I am trying to find out—not negatively, not by decisions that a state cannot act or federal decisions that the nation cannot act—is where one or the other can act, so that there shall always be SOME SOVEREIGN POWER ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE that they may hold over the big corporations, over the big individuals, too, that an accountability regarding their acts shall be had for the benefit of the people.

IN MATTERS THAT RELATE ONLY TO THE PEOPLE WITHIN THE STATE, OF COURSE, THE STATE IS TO BE SOVEREIGN, AND IT SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO ACT. IF THE MATTER IS SUCH THAT THE STATE ITSELF CANNOT ACT, THEN I WISH ON BEHALF OF THE STATE THAT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD ACT.

## The World Better Than Ever Before and Religion More a Part of Life.

By F. B. SMITH, Secretary for Religious Work of the Y. M. C. A. in the United States.

AN idea prevails that there is a religious decline in the world today. It is erroneous.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD IS BETTER THAN IT EVER WAS BEFORE. GOODNESS AND CHARITY DO NOT TAKE THE OUTWARD FORMS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT WERE FORMERLY EMPLOYED IN PURITAN DAYS. NEVERTHELESS WE ARE BETTER AND MORE GODLY. STATISTICS OF RESULTS SHOW THAT I AM RIGHT.

Men do not attend church as they used to. That possibly is to be regretted, but it DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN that they think less of religious things. You might call religion more practical in these days. It takes the form of benevolence and charity toward the weak and suffering.

This is said to be a money mad age. Possibly it is in some ways. There is a great deal of prosperity, but prosperity is not a hindrance to the promotion of religion. If being money mad means prosperity, why, let's be money mad—I mean mad in the sense that THE BETTER THINGS OF LIFE ARE NOT NEGLECTED, and I do not think they are. I am positive that religious things are not, at least.

Feeling of religion is expressed differently nowadays. The feeling is still there. It is expressed in different forms. There is not so much outward show. It is underneath the surface in many instances. The conviction is there and will remain.

THE FEELING THAT INDUCES MEN TO PROMOTE PUBLIC BATHS, PARKS AND LIBRARIES IS ONE OF BENEVOLENCE, AND BENEVOLENCE IS A FORM OF CHRISTIANITY. SOME MAY SAY IT IS ONLY DECENCY. WELL, WHAT OF IT? YOU CAN'T HAVE DECENCY WITHOUT A FORM OF RELIGION. IF ONLY SELF PRESERVATION, IT'S CHRISTIANITY.

There is no more marked feeling of Christianity in one form or another than the manner in which men pour out their riches for the benefit of mankind.

We are experiencing just at this present moment a clash between the virile Christianity and the ascetic type. The latter is obsolete. We have outgrown it. It meant sacrifice and suffering. We are getting religion in a new, up to date form. It is a co-ordination of the two forms. It is broader and in every way more successful. We are going after man in A PHYSICAL WAY—IN A BIG HUMAN WAY.

## AN UNPOPULAR TICKET

Republicans Don't Enthuse Over Taft and Sherman.

### MUCH DISCONTENT APPARENT

Crushing Methods Employed in the Convention Left Many Sore Spots. Old Line G. O. P. Leaders Enraged. The Outbreak For La Follette—Vital Issues Ignored—The Slap at Union Labor.

By WILLIS J. ABBOT.  
The Republican convention ended amid bitter feelings, disappointed ambitions and a sense of outrage on the part of the minority leaders. It would be difficult to exaggerate the amount of discontent which the Republican convention has left among Republican politicians. It is of course impossible to mention names, but every Washington correspondent who has been here in Chicago and who knows the Washington leaders has stored away in his mind the acrimonious utterings of more than one of the great figures at the capital concerning the methods of the convention and the character of the ticket. Where President Roosevelt could have obtained the opinion that Taft would be a popular candidate is difficult to imagine. He could not have got it from the leaders in the house or in the senate or the old time leaders in Republican or doubtful states. He could not have got it through the time honored method of feeling the pulse of the people, for such popular enthusiasm as there was and is for Taft has been manufactured at heavy financial expense and by the use of the power of the federal government through its officeholders.

In separating to go their various ways the Republican leaders, with the exception of the little ring who handled the steam roller that crushed old time Republicanism out of recognition, complained bitterly of these wrongs: The flagrant and open intervention of the administration to force the nomination of a member of the president's official family and thereby perpetuate in fact if not in name the Roosevelt dynasty; the methods by which the majority in the national committee and the majority on the floor of the convention ignored the rights of the minority and carried through a cut and dried programme with a heavy hand; the platform, which was written at Washington and concerning which the old time leaders of the party had no more to say than the pages who carried messages about the aisles of the convention hall, and the summary side-tracking of the tried and true war-horses of the party in order to make place for new blood, new men and new ideas.

Nobody can overestimate the extent to which today these things are resented. But it is not for Democrats to rely too much upon the present unrest in the Republican party, for disension in that organization is apt to die out before election day. It is for us rather to close our own ranks and to proceed as though we were to meet an enemy united, strong and confident of victory.

The Convention's Best Moment.  
The one real burst of unmanufactured enthusiasm came when a man almost unknown to national politics rose at the end of the roll call of states to nominate hopelessly La Follette of Wisconsin. There was no chance for the nomination of his chief. He confronted a body of delegates pledged to Taft and who represented an investment in preliminary campaigning of more than three-quarters of a million dollars. He spoke without effort or oratorical effect, but he set forward clearly and calmly the three planks in the La Follette programme which the Republican party in convention assembled had refused to adopt. Even among the delegates who were tied hand and foot by instructions his earnestness and the way in which he expounded the nature and purposes of these planks aroused enthusiasm. The galleries blazed with joy, and save that the officers of the convention and the Taft leaders on the floor put out their utmost endeavors to check the outbreak the demonstration for La Follette would have equaled that for either Taft or Roosevelt. There is significance in this—double significance. Do not forget that Senator La Follette is yet a young man as politics goes, having reached his fifty-third birthday the day before this convention assembled. He still holds his state organization and the devoted support of a vast majority of the voters of Wisconsin. Very wisely—and I say this as a lifelong Democrat—he telegraphed to the nominee of his party his assurance of his support of the ticket, but explicitly reserved his right to criticize the platform. How useful Senator La Follette's aid under these circumstances may be to Mr. Taft is yet to be determined, but the support thus extended keeps La Follette "regular," and when about four years from now we observers of politics gather at another Republican convention the "little giant" of Wisconsin will be a factor to be reckoned with.

The Famous Three Planks.  
Before this campaign is over there is going to be much said in debate on the stump and in the newspapers concerning the three planks of the La Follette platform which were offered for a special vote on the floor of the convention and each one of which was voted down by the well disciplined forces of Taft. Reduced to essentials, these were the planks:  
First.—Compulsory publication of all campaign contributions, with the names of the contributors.  
Second.—The official valuation of the

physical properties of Interstate railroads.

Third.—The election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.  
The Republican party has gone on record as opposing all three of these propositions. A convention which proudly boasted that it was dominated by President Roosevelt voted down these planks, although some months ago Mr. Roosevelt urged in a message to congress the publicity of all campaign contributions and the valuation of railroad property. It is true that as the time for election drew near neither of these issues was mentioned in the volley of presidential messages to congress, and the influence of the president was not exerted in the slightest degree to save either measure, which he had earlier recommended, from the hostility of his friends at Chicago.

What it all means is so clear that a mere statement of conditions leads to the inevitable inference. The Republican party faces in this campaign a crisis in its existence. It is at odds with the people. It goes to the country with a record of extravagant incompetence and impotence in two successive congresses absolutely controlled by its leader. It is torn with internal strife and its leaders greet each other with smiles on their lips and hate in their hearts. But it looks back to the days of 1890 and remembers that it has been schooled in the art of winning elections by the brute force of money. So it nominates a ticket intended to produce money. It puts at the head Taft, one of whose brothers controls all the public utilities of Cincinnati and who is in touch with all the financiers of the Ohio valley. Another brother is the attorney for the Guggenheim brothers, who created and now possess the smelter trust and who next to the Standard Oil company are the strongest plutocratic force in the United States. Having enthroned Taft, the convention proceeded to nominate for vice president James S. Sherman of New York, himself a rich man, the associate of Wall street magnates and a man generally credited with having raised that \$246,000 from insurance companies and speculative bankers which Roosevelt asked his "practical" friend, Mr. Harriman, to get for use in the last two days of the 1904 campaign.

Does any one think that a party so openly bidding for contributions from high financiers would declare for publicity in its financial methods?

The men from whom the Republican party will seek to get its funds are the men who either own railroads or gamble in their stocks. If the party asks for an official valuation of the physical properties on which these stocks and bonds are based, what chance would it have of getting contributions from this class of financiers? The whole strategy is as clear to the intelligent mind as a polished piece of rock crystal.

Future of the La Follette Planks.  
I am not a member of the Denver convention nor of the national committee, but I think that the three planks thus coldly set aside here at Chicago will find a place in the Denver platform, doubtless with the verbiage changed, but with the sense still retained. They represent really Democratic doctrine. Mr. Bryan has long preached the doctrine of the direct election of senators by the people and alone among the presidential possibilities of this country on either party side appeared before the house committee on the election of president and vice president and made a stirring appeal for the campaign publicity bill, which was killed by Cannon in congress and here again. I have no personal knowledge of Mr. Bryan's position on the third plank, save that his paper, the Commoner, commended heartily the proposition made in congress for the physical valuation of telegraph lines, and writing from memory only without the documents before me. I think it also approved the valuation of the railroads.

The Anti-injunction Plank.  
After nominating Taft, one of the first exponents of government by injunction, nominating him the morning after thousands of organized laborers paraded the streets of Chicago and held a meeting of protest against such action, the Republican convention adopted, after a bitter fight in the committee on resolutions, what they called an anti-injunction plank. It has been repudiated by every prominent labor leader gathered in the convention city. It means the revolt of union labor against this ticket, for the nomination of Taft and the cavalier rejection of the planks offered by Samuel Gompers and by officials of the railroad brotherhood were neatly rounded out by the nomination for vice president of Sherman, who led the fight against any anti-injunction plank whatsoever. Here again is opportunity for the Democratic national convention to profit by the folly, or worse, of its rival.

Concerning That Platform.  
There has been an ambition on the part of many men in the Democratic councils to make the Denver platform brief, succinct and limited to the declaration of mere fundamental principles, leaving it to the speakers in the campaign to elaborate and expound. This is not an easy end to accomplish. Everybody wants something in the platform, and everybody wants his own particular something set forth in his own oratorical and finely rounded periods. Mr. Bryan used to say that the ideal platform would be one that could be printed on a postal card, but that is an ideal practically impossible of fulfillment. When the Republican platform was printed, scores of men in politics and in journalism whose business it was to read the platform scoffed at its length and said that they had not had time to read it. Better a short platform that can be memorized than a long one which only the proofreader will ever read through.

Chicago.

## RANDOM NOTES

BY UNCLE GEORGE

† A sign is posted at the general delivery window of the Alliance postoffice which reads, "No visiting with the lady employees allowed during office hours." Thus does a tyrannical republican administration abolish one of the dearest prerogatives—flirting—of the sweet girl clerk. Vote for Bryan!

† The Baptist Sunday-school of Clear Lake, Iowa, is preparing for a unique celebration of the Fourth on the shore of the lake. One of the amusements on the program is a wading contest between young ladies. A silk parasol is offered as a prize to the girl who wades furthest from shore without getting her skirts wet.

We would like to be there to see When the dry goods begin to rise. For we believe the display of lingerie Would be good for our sore eyes.

† Women are queer things. Call a young one a kitten, and she smiles on you; but call an old one a cat, and she wants to scratch your face.

† Carrie Nation is advertised as one of the attractions of the Scottsbluff chautauqua. She doubtless comes under the head of amusements.

† A lady friend of ours says the directorate gown is immodest. We are from Missouri.

† Nelson Church, of South Omaha, has applied for a divorce from his wife Nellie because she refuses to make her home in Omaha. We don't blame Mrs. Church. South Omaha isn't a fit place for a woman with her good name.

† An Alliance merchant advertises for eggs and says he wants them bad.

† The natives of the island of Hayti have an ingenious way of avoiding payment of their debts. When their credit becomes exhausted, they change their names, and as "all coons look alike" to the bill collector, the scheme works beautifully. In this country the delinquents do their creditors differently: they change their residences instead of their names.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

† The poet has said that "there are sermons in stones and books in running brooks." In the economy of nature everything has its uses, and something interesting, instructing or amusing can be found in anything. At first glance a city directory would seem to furnish little food for intellectual consumption, but diligent digging through its pages will bring to light some interesting things. For instance, we learn from the Alliance directory that the popular Smith family is not so populous here as the "Micks" (Mc's), there being 43 of the latter and only 19 Smiths. The Johnsons (including 7 Johnstons) follow the Mc's with 25, and the Browns and Andersons fall in behind the Smiths with a baker's dozen each.

The most popular front name in Alliance is John, 103 having been so christened; 87 have William prefixed, 75 George, 58 Charles, 33 James and 37 Josephs. There are innumerable tabby cats in the city, but only 25 Toms.

Among the females the good old-fashioned name of Mary is in the lead, there being 55, besides a considerable number of Mays, Maries and Maymes. Anna is second with 46 to her credit. Of Mauds there are 17, not including Old Si's famous pet, now in foreign parts—and also in trouble—with Happy Hooligan.

The trades are represented in the directory by 19 Smiths, 7 Bakers, 6 Cooks, 18 Millers, 6 Carters, 3 Taylors, 1 Barber, (P. H., who lives up to his name), and 1 Weaver.

We have good nuclei for a menagerie in 4 Bullocks, 3 Campbells, 1 Wolf, 1 Kerr, 2 Koons and 4 Foxes.

Only 4 of the residents of Alliance are Whites; 2 are Blacks, 3 Greens, 3 Grays, and 13 Browns.

We have 1 Cain, (J. F., a butcher); but no Abel. Cain butchered Abel before the directory appeared. There are four Adams "in our midst," but Alliance is an Eveless Eden.

There are two Pools in the city, but the aquatic inhabitants are limited to 1 Herfing (Birch, a clerk) with only 1 Finn (W. J., a car inspector). There are numerous suckers and some lobsters, but they are not worth mentioning.

Although this region is noted for its excellent Irish potatoes, only 6 Murphys are found in the directory.

† George Darling is advertising jugs. Getting ready for the Fourth, we suppose.

† An eminent French priest says if you want to be happy you should let the women do the talking. We prefer to listen to a phonograph—we can stop that.

† The health officer appeared to vaccinate an old colored woman. She could not spare one of her arms, because her pickaninnies would starve or freeze if she could not do her laundry work. The doctor said, "Well, auntie, I will vaccinate you on one of your lower limbs." "No, sires," said auntie, "I kaint spare one of my laigs, neither." The doctor told her she must be vaccinated, the law being compulsory, and asked her what spot would give her least inconvenience. Auntie thought a moment and replied, "Well, de Lord knows I don't never git no chance to set down."—Western Publisher.