

The Chicago Tribune says the election of Mr. Cannon as speaker is apparently assured. The Tribune need not have waited this long for its discovery. It might have known that when it was authoritatively announced that Mark Hanna was in favor of Cannon, that Cannon would be the man.

**Cannon Had "the Support."**

Washington dispatches have announced that "Cuba is drifting away from us and that foreign diplomacy is the cause of it." This prompts the Dallas (Tex.) News to say: "This may be true, but the people have heretofore believed that the reason the drifting is going on is simply that this country keeps up the bars against Cuban sugar and tobacco."

**Drifting From Us.**

A republican paper says: "The industry of President Roosevelt is remarkable. He has already done most of his work for 1904;" to which Henry Watter-son retorts, "He ought therefore to have considerable time now to devote to the work of his office." The work of fixing for a renomination too often interferes with the public duties devolving upon the official.

**Well Why Not?**

Senator Thomas C. Platt of New York was recently asked if he purposed to return himself to the United States senate. Mr. Platte replied: "Yes," and then he said with unmoved countenance, "If they want me." "If who wants you?" asked the reporter. "The people," replied Mr. Platt. And the reporter explains that when he said "the people," Mr. Platt "did not smile."

**Platt Did Not Smile.**

Gen. S. B. N. Young, who is to succeed General Miles as lieutenant general, delivered an address at a dinner given recently by the New York chamber of commerce. In that address General Young said: "To carry on war, disguise it as we may, is to be cruel—to kill and burn, burn and kill, and again kill and burn." And yet there have been many very successful generals who did not look at it exactly that way.

**Young's Idea of War.**

In an editorial extending a welcome to Admiral Schley, who visited Kansas City as a guest of the chamber of commerce, the Kansas City Journal says: "We don't know yet whether technically he was the hero of Santiago or not." The editor of the Journal might consult one of his office boys, all of whom doubtless read the newspaper accounts of that battle, and learn something even at this late day decidedly to the editor's advantage.

**He Don't Know "Yet."**

It is reported that Congressman Babcock of Wisconsin will be made chairman of the ways and means committee in the event of Mr. Cannon's election to the speakership. Some of the advocates of the "Iowa idea" are pointing to this as a concession to the champion of tariff revision; but it must be remembered that Mr. Babcock has repudiated the eloquent things he said a few years ago in favor of depriving the trusts of the shelter they find in the tariff.

**"Bab" to the Front.**

The Standard Oil trust has recently increased the price of refined oil by 1 cent per gallon. The New York World explains that this pious trust was "compelled" to make this increase. The total dividend declared by the trust last year amounted to \$48,000,000, or 48 per cent upon its nominal capital. The dividend made for the last quarter by this trust was decreased to \$10 which, according to the World, will make the total for the year only \$45,000,000, or 45 per cent.

**Poor and Pious.**

The Philadelphia Press, a republican paper, vigorously criticises Addicks of Delaware. In referring to the Addicks fight in the republican party, the Press says: "This contest is greater than Delaware. In a peculiar and pre-eminent degree it is a fight between public corruption and public honesty and the eyes of the country are on it." The Philadelphia Press should not overlook the fact that the

**Pot and Kettle.**

eyes of the country are also, on Philadelphia and the political situation in Pennsylvania generally. It requires considerable courage, to employ a charitable term, on the part of a Philadelphia paper to undertake to remove the mote from the Delaware eye while the beam in the optic of Pennsylvania is so conspicuous.

The New York Sun says: "Democrats in other parts of the country who used to be fooled by Mr. Hill's lip service to his party are beginning to see through him. In future that parrot cry of his will be interpreted by honest men to be synonymous with 'I am a socialist.'" It is sad that the editors of the Brooklyn Eagle, the Chicago Chronicle, the Albany Argus and the New York Sun have felt it necessary to desert the man they have so often held up as "the ideal democrat."

**The "Ideal Democrat."**

The Philadelphia Record, a republican paper, serves this interesting notice upon republican leaders: "The last speech of President McKinley was virtually an attack on the Dingley tariff in favor of reciprocity. That speech has become a text-book for millions of republicans who realize that every speech of Secretary Shaw is directly opposed to the McKinley policy. There may be good reasons why the republican leaders should favor a tariff commission, but it is absurd to hope that such a body could take the tariff out of politics."

**The Tariff and Politics.**

The Chicago News says that President Roosevelt could get more people to read his message if he would incorporate in it a column or so about his bear-hunt. Mr. Roosevelt need not go to that trouble to find readers for his message. If he will insert in his message some of the things he said in his address before the New York chamber of commerce he would find that at least some portions of the message were decidedly popular. Just as an experiment, Mr. Roosevelt might say something by way of compliment to men who scorn to ask favors of the government at the expense of the public.

**Put it in the Message.**

The Omaha Bee, a republican paper, says: "Wonder if Colonel Bryan will admit now that 16 to 1 silver coinage is a dead issue." In another column of the same issue the Bee says that "no issue has ever been settled unless it has been settled right."

**A Case of Wonder.**

The Bee refers to the defeat in Omaha of the legislative candidate who were pledged to the home rule proposition and also to the defeat of the candidates for state officers who were pledged to tax reform. The Bee insists that it will continue to battle for these reforms because it believes them to be important to public interests. Wonder if the Omaha Bee will admit now that home rule and tax reform are dead issues.

**The Ship Subsidy Bill.**

It is reported by the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Chronicle that Congressman Grosvenor has returned to Washington for the purpose of pushing the ship subsidy bill. It is said that Mr. Grosvenor has received assurances from Speaker Henderson that the latter will not seek to prevent consideration of the bill as he did last session. Some of the champions of this measure insist that the result of the congressional elections is a practical indorsement of the bill inasmuch as democratic speakers and newspapers criticised the republicans for passing the bill through the senate. The expected has happened. Republican victory is interpreted to mean an indorsement by the people of any vicious proposition which republican leaders may seek to impose upon the people.

**No Platform in Ten Years.**

Referring to the election of a democratic congressman in the Omaha congressional district, the Des Moines Capital, a republican paper, says: "If the time ever comes when Omaha can rise above the petty strifes of its political warriors, and campaigns are fought upon the merits of the various party platforms, there is little question but that the district will be represented in congress by a republican, and Bryanism and Hitchcockism will be conspicuous by its absence." The Capital may not know it, but it is nevertheless a fact that in the Second congressional district of Nebraska, the republican candidate for congress has not had a

platform for ten years. The several conventions that nominated and renominated Mr. Mercer did not think it wise to adopt a platform. The republicans in that district have preferred to make their fight on the personal popularity of their candidate.

In his speech before the New York chamber of commerce, Mr. Roosevelt said: "The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight—that he shall not be a mere passenger, but shall do his share in the work that each generation of us finds ready to hand; and, furthermore, that in doing his work he shall show not only the capacity for sturdy self-help, but also self-respecting regard for the rights of others." What does Mr. Roosevelt think about those generous contributors to the republican campaign fund who are not willing to pull their weight? Will he include in his message to congress something about "the first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours?" Will he ask that those who have insisted upon being mere passengers shall do their share in the work and pull their own weight?

**Make Them Pull Their Weight.**

Congressman Grosvenor of Ohio recently said: "I can see no prospect for tariff revision. In the first place it is a debatable question as to the demand for it. The defeat of Foss of Massachusetts might be taken as a pointer that there is not." But the Des Moines Register and Leader, a republican paper that was committed in the campaign to the "Iowa idea," says: "Inasmuch as Mr. Foss was defeated by a democrat pledged to free trade, it is not clear how his defeat can be taken as evidence that there is no demand for tariff reform." Now it would be interesting for the Register and Leader to interpret the election of the republican candidates for congress in Iowa who had openly repudiated the Iowa idea. Did the election of these gentlemen provide evidence that there is a demand in Iowa for tariff reform, or does it show that some republicans will vote the party ticket no matter what the party does or fails to do?

**Interpreting the Result.**

The acknowledged republican leader in the senate is Aldrich of Rhode Island, and some republican editors are disturbed because of the probable effect which the recent democratic victory in Rhode Island may have upon Senator Aldrich's chances. The democratic candidate for governor was elected by about 7,000 plurality and the Chicago Record-Herald points out that as Rhode Island has less than one-tenth the population of Illinois, this may be considered equal in a sense to the republican plurality in that state. After observing the Rhode Island returns, the Record-Herald says: "Confidence will never be fully restored until the fatal year of 1905 is of the past and Aldrich is re-elected." There are, however, some people who believe that the government will continue to exist even though Aldrich were defeated. To be sure, in Mr. Aldrich's defeat the tariff barons would be deprived of the services of a very skillful champion and yet there are many people who will think that even that result would not be disadvantageous to public interests.

**May Survive the Shock.**

The Chicago Inter-Ocean, a republican paper, says that the election of Mr. Cannon to the speakership will be a pledge that the tariff will be let alone. The Chicago Record-Herald, another republican paper, says that if this is true a sharp issue will be presented to western congressmen of the republican persuasion. The Record-Herald adds: "Almost without exception these men were elected on their statement to their constituents that they would favor changes in the tariff where there was excessive protection under the present rates. If, as alleged by the Inter-Ocean, Mr. Cannon is in declared opposition to this view and is still made speaker by the votes of the representatives of the middle west, there will be a heavy score to be settled later." But what do republican leaders care about "heavy scores?" They have been warned on many occasions that if they carried out certain policies they would have a heavy score to settle with the people. In spite of protests they carried out those policies and were re-elected. Is it at all strange that the republican leaders display utter indifference to the vicious character of any policies which they are asked to carry out for the advantage of special interests?

**Not Afraid of "Heavy Scores."**

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