

William Shepard Bryan of Baltimore City. The platform related principally to local issues, the plank on the race question being interesting. That plank is as follows: "We believe that the political destinies of Maryland should be shaped and controlled by the white people of the state, and while we disclaim any purpose to do any injustice whatever to our colored population, we declare without reserve our resolute purpose to preserve in every conservative and constitutional way the ascendancy of our race."

It was announced from Minneapolis, Minn., on September 16 that the Minneapolis Women's Christian Temperance union will co-operate with the national Women's Christian Temperance union in its effort to have Senator Reed Smoot expelled from the United States senate if, on investigation, he shall be found to be a polygamist. Blank forms of petitions are being circulated throughout the country and have been received by the local secretary and distributed throughout the city.

A cablegram from Manila under date of September 16 says that one hundred cases of bubonic plague are reported in Tondo, the most northern and populous suburban district of the city. Of these cases, eighty have proved fatal. The disease is also reported from other sections of the islands and cholera is also prevalent.

The international electrical workers in session at Salt Lake passed a resolution endorsing the presidential candidacy of W. R. Hearst of New York.

In the district adjacent to La Crosse, Wis., hundreds of families have been driven from their homes by the encroachments of the Mississippi river which is flooded and out of its banks. The damage loss will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The republican state convention of Maryland met at Baltimore and nominated for governor Stevenson A. Williams; attorney general, George White-lock, and state comptroller, L. E. P. Dennis.

An Associated press dispatch from Norfolk, Va., under date of September 17, says: The British steamship Roxby, Captain Shields, which arrived here today from Port English, has on board Domingo Ballo Reyarbaray, the only survivor of the crew of twenty-two men on the British steamship Mexican, which foundered with all on board off the Florida coast Tuesday night. Reyarbaray caught a piece of wreckage and managed to keep up until he was seen yesterday by the Roxby and rescued.

The storm that raged in and about Manhattan island recently occasioned a property loss of about \$2,000,000 in that neighborhood and it is feared that thirty-six lives are lost. Most of the damage was done to sailing craft, many of which were completely wrecked.

The republicans of the five counties comprising the commonwealth of Hawaii met in convention recently and nominated candidates for the various county offices which are to be filled by ballot on November 3, the election being the first to be held under the

new county government act. The various platforms express approval of the administration of Governor Dole and recommendations are made that a strong fight be made on the floor of the national congress for the admission of the Hawaiian islands to statehood. Several of the platforms urge that a determined effort be made to secure more liberal federal appropriations for the Hawaiian islands, much work of a necessary character being neglected in the islands for lack of means to properly carry it on.

The monument erected on the battlefield of Antietam by the state New Jersey was dedicated on September 17. President Roosevelt attended the dedication exercises and made an address. Nearly 1,000 New Jersey survivors of the civil war were present.

Fierce riots between the Jews and Christians in which four Christians and two Jews were killed and many people seriously injured, are reported from Gomeal, in the government of Moghileff, Russia. The trouble seems to have begun with a quarrel between a peasant and dealer and it required the presence of troops to restore order.

Plate Breaking.

A Pole on the east side makes his living by breaking plates. He breaks a considerable number each week for applicants and receives a fee for so doing. The plate to be broken is usually furnished by himself, but occasionally the customer provides it.

Almost anybody might be expected to be able to smash a plate with an iron hammer, which is the tool the old man uses, but the curious thing about his method is that the blow falls so as to break the plate into three pieces, two of a certain size and one larger and differently shaped from the others. There are few chips and splinterings from his plate-smashing, and never more nor less than the three pieces.

The plates are mortuary plates and are an important part of the burial ceremony among certain orthodox Jews. The two smaller pieces of the potter's ware are applied to cover the dead person's eyes, and the larger and longer piece is meant to extend from eyebrow to mouth. The believers hold that such pieces of pottery were placed within the coffin assure protection to the soul when it makes its exit from the body a stipulated time after burial.

"Thy pillow shall be the earth," is construed as partial warrant for the custom.

The secret of this particular method of plate-breaking has come down from rabbi to rabbi through many generations. Originally the plate was split with a sword. Later the breakage was effected with a trowel. Now a hammer answers. Formerly the plates for mortuary use were supposed to issue one and all from a certain potter's kiln near Jerusalem, and some of the plates were believed to be heirlooms since King Solomon's day. But with the removal of the tribes from place to place and the stress of poverty and strange conditions it has come to be that almost any plate will do if it be potter's ware and not tin or metal and if it is broken by a person authorized to bless the ceremony.

So this weakened old rabbi of a peculiar fast-disappearing sect among the other orthodox Jews is called upon by many to perform the ceremony. And he has steady employment, even though his constituents be among the poorest of the ghetto's people and able to give only a tithe of the fee which used to be considered proper for such service.—New York Sun.

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