

I am not disposed to criticize the church and its workers except insofar as it remains silent when it should speak out. We are in need of an enlightened public opinion which the church could help to create if it tried." Rev. Mr. Stelzle took decided issue with Mr. Mitchell and declared that the best evidence that the church did oppose child labor, and was in hearty sympathy with the aims of organized labor, was the fact that his own branch of the great Christian church kept him in the field in order to assist in the work of furthering the great social reforms advocated by organized labor. He declared that if he thought for one minute that the church was not opposed to child labor and other forms of injustice, he would leave the church without hesitation or delay and associate himself with some other organization having for its purpose the abolition of these wrongs. "The Presbyterian church does not need to keep me in my present position one minute if it does not want to," declared Rev. Mr. Stelzle. "I have two pairs of union-made overalls, and I have a paid up card in the Machinists' Union in my pocket, and I can return to the machine shop if necessary."

SECRETARY OF THE Interior Hitchcock is soon to retire. A Washington dispatch to the Indianapolis News says: "The announcement that Ethan Allen Hitchcock is to retire as secretary of the interior the 4th of next March will be good news to a horde of land and timber thieves throughout the far west. It will also make glad the hearts of a few far western senators and a large number of western members of the house, who have it in for Mr. Hitchcock because he has made life unpleasant for some of their friends. Mr. Hitchcock has been one of the most useful men connected with this administration. He has done his work without any blast of trumpets, but he has got results. The penitentiaries of a dozen western states now hold men run to earth by his perseverance. James R. Garfield, who is to succeed him, is a hard-working young man of fair abilities. He evidently intends to do his best to carry forward the Hitchcock policy, but some of his best friends fear he will not be able to rise to the occasion."

IN THE COMMONER, November 16, in referring to the Wisconsin elections it was said: "Babcock was for LaFollette and was assisted to defeat because some republicans were opposed to his tariff revision views." Edwin J. Cross of Milwaukee calls attention to this plain error and asks to have it corrected. It was in fact a typographical error and should have read "Babcock was opposed by LaFollette," etc. In his letter to The Commoner, Mr. Cross says: "Congressman Babcock has always misrepresented his district to the advantage of the 'interests.' Senator LaFollette does not support men of that type. Neither does he receive their support. As a matter of fact, Senator LaFollette not only openly opposed Mr. Babcock for the nomination, but just as strongly at the election. Speaker Lenroot whom LaFollette supported for the republican nomination for governor, during the last primary election, went into Mr. Babcock's district and helped materially to bring about his defeat. Mr. Babcock was opposed by the better element of his party, because he placed the corporations' interests above that of the people, and his defeat should not only be a source of pride to the republicans of this state, but to those of the nation as well."

THE TERM OF thirty members of the United States senate will expire March 3, 1907. The New York World describes the situation in this way: "In only a few states, and those republican, does the re-election of sitting senators or the choice of their successors remain in doubt. Where democratic senators are to retire in the south their democratic successors have generally been designated, as in the case of Senator Berry, of Arkansas, and Senator Carmack of Tennessee, who will make room for Governor 'Jeff' Davis and 'Fiddling Bob' Taylor. Senator Patterson of Colorado, will yield probably to Simon Guggenheim, who is credited with having financed the republican state campaign, and the legislatures of Idaho and Montana will replace Senator Dubois and Senator Clark with republicans. The good old days seem to have passed in Montana when Clark with Midas-like touch could turn re-

publican votes into gold. In at least three states the republicans are sharply divided. In Rhode Island enough independent republicans have declared themselves against the corrupt Brayton-Aldrich machine to threaten the extinction of Senator Wetmore and to give hopes, through democratic co-operation, of the election of Colonel Goddard. Senator Dryden's chances of re-election in New Jersey grow slimmer as the time for assembling of the legislature draws nearer. But he is fighting desperately and has gone to Trenton to marshal his forces in person. Michigan has four leading candidates who aspire to Senator Alger's seat—Representative William Alden Smith, Representative Charles E. Townsend, Arthur Hill, a wealthy lumberman, who fought the old McMillan machine in days past, and William C. McMillan, the former senator's son. Norris Brown is slated to take the place of Senator Millard, of Nebraska, and Senator Benson, of Kansas, who by appointment is serving out the unexpired term of ex-Senator Burton—which Burton is serving in jail—expects to be elected. In New Hampshire Winston Churchill, leader of the Lincoln republicans, may reappear as a candidate for Senator Burnham's seat. In Delaware Senator Allee may be replaced by a DuPont man. Kentucky has already elected Judge Paynter to succeed Senator Blackburn next March, and the recent elections indicated Governor Beckham as Senator McCreary's successor after March 3, 1909."

WILLIAM H. MOODY of Massachusetts, is not the first attorney general of the United States to be appointed to the United States supreme court. Recalling this fact, a writer in the Baltimore Sun says that seven such appointments, including that of Mr. Moody, have already been made; only three of these were confirmed; two were rejected by the senate and one died four days after his nomination. The three who were confirmed were: Nathan Clifford of Maine, was appointed attorney general under Polk in 1846, and was appointed to the supreme court in 1858 by Buchanan, where he served twenty-three years. Roger B. Taney of Maryland, was appointed attorney general by Jackson in 1831, and to the supreme court by the same president in 1836, where he served twenty-eight years. Joseph McKenna of California, who was appointed attorney general by McKinley in 1897, and to the supreme court by the same president in 1898, where he has since served. The two attorney generals whose nominations to places on the supreme court failed of confirmation were: Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar of Massachusetts, who was appointed attorney general by Grant in 1869 and to the supreme court by the same president, but failed of ratification by the senate. George H. Williams of Oregon, the third of Grant's attorney generals, appointed to that office in 1871, and to the supreme court by Grant in 1873, when he failed of ratification by the senate.

EDWIN M. STANTON was nominated for the supreme court in 1869 by President Grant, but according to the Sun writer he died immediately after his nomination had been sent in. The Sun writer adds. "Nathan Clifford, one of the first attorney generals confirmed as a member of the court, was a native of New Hampshire, who settled in Maine and became a member of congress in 1839, serving until 1843. Three years later he became Polk's attorney general, and in 1848 he was sent to Mexico as a United States commissioner to arrange terms for the cession of California to the United States. On his return in 1849 he resumed the practice of law in Maine, and in 1858 Buchanan appointed him as associate justice of the supreme court, where he served twenty-three successive years, or until his death, in 1881. Justice Clifford was one of the four members of the supreme court who were members of the electoral commission in 1877. Justice Clifford presided, and in all test votes the decision was so close that Justice Bradley's vote was decisive."

THE FIRST ATTORNEY general elevated to a place on the supreme bench was Roger B. Taney of Maryland. Referring to Taney the Sun writer says: "He had been attorney general under General Jackson from 1831 until 1833, and had been out of the cabinet several years when Jackson named him for the supreme court. Two years after Taney entered Jackson's cabinet 'Old Hickory,' to whom Mr. Taney had rendered important political services, wanted to give him the

treasury portfolio, but the senate refused to confirm him. In January, 1835, Jackson nominated him as an associate justice of the supreme court, but the senate, still adverse, indefinitely postponed the nomination. Better fortune attended his appointment to the chief justiceship, on the death of Marshall, in the same year, and though Taney was strongly opposed by Clay and Webster, he was confirmed by a majority of fourteen votes. He sat for twenty-eight years in the chief justice's chair and was a jurist of remarkable ability although one of his opinions—the Dred Scott decision—aroused great indignation in northern states when rendered in 1857. In this opinion Chief Justice Taney declared that any person 'whose ancestors were imported into this country and held as slaves' had no rights to sue in a court in the United States. In other words, he denied citizenship to any person who had been a slave or a descendant of a slave. Taney, with the sanction of the court, further declared that the framers and supporters of the Declaration of Independence did not include the negro race in the proclamation that 'all men are created equal,' and that the patriots of the revolution and their progenitors 'for more than a century before' regarded the negro race as so far inferior that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect, and that they were never spoken of except as property. He also declared that the framers of the constitution held the same views, and said the Missouri compromise and all other acts restricting slavery were unconstitutional. For several years after his death Taney's bust was excluded from its place among the chief justices on the wall of the court room. It stood in a sort of limbo in a niche in one of the passages near the senate chamber, and Charles Sumner watched every appropriation bill to prevent an item being included to authorize its purchase. When Sumner died there was no further opposition to paying for it and giving it its proper place. Both of the attorney generals whose nominations were flatly rejected by the senate were appointees of General Grant, who had more individual cabinet officers than any other president and whose cabinet changes have been exceeded in number only by those of President Roosevelt. Grant did not believe in transferring cabinet officers from one portfolio to another. When he made a cabinet change he nearly always put a new man in the cabinet. Grant's nominees who failed of rejection—Williams of Oregon, and Hoar of Massachusetts—were appointed at a time when the supreme court had been the subject of much controversy in the senate."

THE TWENTY-FIFTH anniversary of Bismarck's announcement in the reichstag that the emperor desired that the state should systematically assist the working people by accident, sick and old-age insurance, was celebrated in Berlin November 17. A Berlin cablegram to the New York Press says: "The socialists, following the policy which they adopted when the laws were passed, found fault with the insurance as being inadequate and not radical enough to really provide for the 'casualties in the industrial warfare and the disabilities of those worn out in the service of capital.' But the whole body of liberal and conservative opinion appeared convinced that the laws are beneficial. During the last twenty years \$555,750,000 has been paid out for illness, \$233,750,000 for accidents and \$13,500,000 for old age. The law also provides for compulsory contributions by employers and employees. In cases of illness two-thirds of the expenses are paid by the employer, and in cases of old age pensions half the amount is paid by the employer and half by the employe, the government supplementing each pension with \$12.50 yearly. The sum of \$312,500 was expended daily on the combined objects, the total of the various funds is \$375,000,000, the total amount paid in since the law was passed is \$1,656,750,000, and 60,000,000 persons have profited by this legislation. The official Imperial Gazette this afternoon published a decree on the anniversary of the message of Emperor William I. on state insurance, pointing out the great ideas contained in the message, which not only had unrivalled success in his own country but was spreading beyond the frontiers of Germany and adding: 'Unfortunately the accomplishment of its highest aim has been retarded by the continuous opposition of those thinking themselves entitled to represent the interests of the working classes.' The message closes with expressing the hope that the insurance bills may guarantee the inner peace of Germany, and announcing that it is the emperor's will that the legislation shall continue until the task of protecting the poor and weak is accomplished."