

under which alone the country may be enabled to resume its mental composure and encouraged to redouble its fructiferous activity. So it happens that beneath the surface, with which they have no concern at present, the men who understand the south's needs and are capable of achieving them by wise counsel and effective leadership assemble their solitudes and ponder the problem with grave minds. Much may come of it, little or nothing may come of it. But the big men of the south, should they get together and agree to concentrate the responsibility for socialism—not to say anarchy—on the north, will be able to cancel Mr. Bryan as effectually as though he had never been a factor in the equation. Almost any southern favorite, clean, strong, widely known and properly exploited, would put him out of the running. And thus, the south could send uninstructed delegations to the democratic national convention, leaving the party free to choose between wisdom and folly, between enlightened patriotism and fatuous hysteria. Perhaps we find little in the history of past politics to encourage us. But the fact remains that the dominating elements at the south see little if any difference when it comes to Roosevelt vs. Bryan, or Gompers vs. Mitchell. Let no one doubt the reality of the situation we have here outlined. Without ascending to prophecy we content ourselves with a statement of the facts."

A WASHINGTON dispatch, carried by the Associated Press follows: "Some interesting information on the operations of the Texas stock and bond law of 1893, under which a valuation of the railroad properties of the state was made in 1895, was given to the president by Judge S. H. Cowan of Texas, a special employe of the interstate commerce commission and attorney for the southwestern cattle growers' association. Mr. Cowan told the president that the Texas law had proved a success. It had not been put on the statute books for the purpose of becoming the basis for rate-making, he said, but to fix a line beyond which the roads could not go in issuing stocks and bonds. He added that the valuation put on the railroads by the Texas commission having charge of the matter exceeded the cost of construction by 15 to 20 per cent and the cost of the ascertainment of the facts had been comparatively small. So far as he was aware, Judge Cowan said none of the railroads had contested a valuation made under the law."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT covered a wide range in his letter to the "peace congress" recently in session in New York. The most interesting reference is the one concerning disarmament, in which the president said: "Our representatives will go to the second peace conference at The Hague instructed to help in every practicable way to bring some steps nearer completion of the great work which the first conference began. It is idle to expect that a task so tremendous can be settled by one or two conferences, and those who demand the impossible from such a conference not only prepare acute disappointment for themselves, but by arousing exaggerated and baseless hopes, which are certain to be disappointed, play the game of the very men who wish the conference to accomplish nothing. One of the questions, although not to my mind one of the most important, which will be brought before the conference, will be that of the limitation of armaments. The United States, owing to its peculiar position, has a regular army so small as to be infinitesimal when compared to that of any other first-class power. Harm and not good would result if the most advanced nations, those in which most freedom for the individual is combined with most efficiency in securing orderly justice as between individuals, should, by agreement, disarm and place themselves at the mercy of other peoples less advanced, of other peoples still in the stage of military barbarism or military despotism. Anything in the nature of general disarmament would do harm and not good if it left the civilized and peace-loving peoples, those with the highest standards of municipal and international obligation and duty, unable to check the other peoples who have no such standards, who acknowledge no such obligations."

ON the question of arbitration President Roosevelt said: "More important than reducing the expense of the implements of war is the question of reducing the possible causes of war, which can most effectually be done by substituting other methods than war for the settlement of disputes. Of those other methods, the most important which is now attainable is arbitration. I do not believe that in the world as it actually is it is possible for any nation to agree to arbitrate all difficulties which may arise between itself and other nations; but I do believe that there can be, at this time, a very large increase in the classes of cases

which it is agreed shall be arbitrated, and that provisions can be made for greater facility and certainty of arbitration. I hope to see adopted a general arbitration treaty among the nations; and I hope to see The Hague court greatly increased in power and permanency, and the judges in particular made permanent and given adequate salaries, so as to make it increasingly probable that in each case that may come before them they will decide between the nations, great or small, exactly as a judge within our own limits decides between the individuals, great or small, who come before him. Doubtless many other matters will be taken up at The Hague; but it seems to me that this of a general arbitration treaty is perhaps the most important."

THE United States supreme court has held that the Isle of Pines is not American territory. An Associated Press dispatch says: "The decision was rendered in the famous case of Edward J. Pearcy vs. Nevada N. Stranahan, collector of the port of New York, and the opinion was announced by Chief Justice Fuller, who said that upon the Paris treaty the Isle of Pines had been considered as an integral part of Cuba and that it would not be held to be covered by article 2 of that treaty, which included islands in the vicinity of Porto Rico only. The case originated in connection with the importation of a few boxes of cigars by Pearcy in September, 1903, but its hearing by the court was from time to time postponed in the hope that the status of the island might be definitely fixed by legislation or diplomacy. The cigars were made in the Isle of Pines of tobacco grown there and when they arrived Pearcy refused to pay duty on the ground that they were of domestic origin. The collector thereupon seized them and Pearcy appealed to the United States circuit court, where he secured no relief, as that court sustained a demurrer filed by the government and dismissed the case. He promptly brought the case to the supreme court, by whom the decree of the lower court was affirmed today."

THE constitutionality of the Louisiana law of 1898, making taxable in that state notes taken by nonresidents on account of business transacted there, was brought into question in the case of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company of New York vs. the City of New Orleans, which was decided by the supreme court of the United States recently, in favor of the city, the opinion being by Justice Moody. An Associated Press dispatch says: "The suit grew out of an effort by the city to tax the company for \$10,000 worth of credits on business transacted in the state which was resisted by the company on the ground that the notes were taxable only in New York, where they were held. The attempt of the authorities was characterized as an effort to extend the taxing power of the Louisiana authorities beyond the state and to take property without due process of law. Justice Moody said that the mere absence of the notes from the place of their origin did not deprive them of a taxable status in Louisiana."

THE Washington correspondent of the New York World makes this contribution to the Roosevelt-Foraker controversy: "President Roosevelt sent for four newspaper men today to come to the White House that he might tell them what he thought of the speech of Senator Foraker and also that one of the men in the \$5,000,000 'conspiracy' had revealed himself. The president said that Senator Foraker's speech at Canton on Wednesday night last was a good one and that it was calculated to win for Senator Foraker many friends. He said he had not believed that Senator Foraker would handle the matter as temperately as he had and that he had hoped that he would use violent language, all of which he believed would have helped Secretary Taft, who is now the president's avowed candidate for the presidency. The president confided to the newspaper men that he was going to send Secretary Taft to Ohio to take the stump and tell the people about his candidacy. He said he was not in favor of the Secretary going to Alaska or the Philippines this year; that the Ohio situation was far more important and that from now on Secretary Taft would have to devote himself to gaining the presidential nomination. This declaration on the part of the president was received with surprise by his friends. They thought it was rather an unusual thing for even Secretary Taft to go on the stump to get the nomination. Having disposed of the secretary of war for the summer months the president next told his publicists of the '\$5,000,000 conspiracy' and how H. H. Rogers of the Standard Oil company, had revealed himself as one of the chief conspirators. The president pointed to the newspaper reports of Mr. Rogers' statement published this morning as ample corroboration of the conspiracy, which Senator Pen-

rose is charged with having revealed at a dinner at the Shoreham hotel while William Loeb, jr., secretary to the president, was present. The peculiar paragraph of H. H. Rogers' statement which the president alluded to read: 'The people must see that settled conditions are necessary for progress and development, and I believe that the sentiment of the country will have so crystallized within a few months that there will be a practically united demand for the strongest conservatism in the conduct of the government. We must have settled conditions, and I believe that we will have them.' This paragraph of Mr. Rogers' statement the president says is a verification of the 'conspiracy.'"

WRITING of the so-called administration war on trusts and railroad pools the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune says: "The attitude of Attorney General Bonaparte in regard to all such investigations has been a distinct disappointment to every well wisher of the administration. The attorney general has been painfully slow in all of his movements and his conduct of the office has been in marked contrast with the vigor and promptness with which the work was administered under Attorney General Moody. Before he came into the cabinet Mr. Bonaparte gave expression to certain unusually conservative views on the trust question which were entirely out of harmony with the policy of the administration of which he has now become a part. It was thought, however, that he would subordinate his personal prejudices, but this desirable condition of affairs does not seem to exist and the department of justice in the last two months or so has been involved in a condition of lethargy which has led many people to believe there has been a complete cessation of trust prosecution. Even the victory of the government in the Standard Oil cases in Chicago seems to have aroused no responsive chord at the department."

REFERRING to this Tribune dispatch, the Omaha World-Herald says: "What would you have? What did President Roosevelt expect when he appointed, to enforce the laws against the trusts, a man 'entirely out of harmony' with those laws? What would a reasonable man expect? What trusts have been busted, anyway? What railroad rates reduced? What combinations dissolved? Again, what would a reasonable man expect with such cabinet members as Ellhu Root, Paul Morton, Philander Knox, Shaw, Cortelyou, Bonaparte and others who have lent distinction to the radical president's extremely conservative cabinet? It's a reform administration; we know it is because it says so itself. But the big trusts and the allied railroads keep right on doing business at the old stand—and at the old rates or some a little stiffer."

MR. STEAD, the attorney general for Illinois, who seems unable to find any ground for serious action against Magnate Harriman, is coming in for some very bitter criticism. The New York Press, a republican paper, says: "The attorney general of Illinois seems to be a sample of what public prosecutors should not be in these days. Mr. Stead has handed to Governor Deneen an opinion on the Chicago & Alton thimble-rigging by Harriman, in which he says some harsh things about the swindle. He goes so far as to call it 'manipulation.' When it comes to remedies he is in doubt. The state of Illinois, he thinks, is not the proper authority to begin action to recover the loot. He has nearly convinced himself that if any civil proceedings are brought they ought to be by the company itself. That is to say, the Harriman crew ought to sue themselves. If they do not do so then some single stockholders should bear the heavy burden of a suit. Finally Mr. Stead declines to say at this time whether the members of the conspiracy are criminally liable under the laws of Illinois. If the offense had been committed by some vulgar criminal the attorney general by this time would have answered the question, and the offender either would be under indictment or the state would have confessed its impotency to deal with the crime. From all of which it would appear that the demand for prosecutors who will proceed against the big criminals just as they would against pickpockets is not yet filled."

REPRESENTATIVE Charles E. Townsend, of Michigan, insists that Mr. Roosevelt must run for a third term; saying that the demand for his renomination will be so great that he cannot ignore it. The Nebraska legislature and the Iowa legislature have adopted resolutions expressing confidence in Mr. Roosevelt in his tilt with Harriman. The New York Times prints letters from a large number of republican editors to the effect that public sentiment is clearly with the president.