

lutely no experience in municipal government? Of Mr. Burton the North American says:

"He abandons a brilliant career in congress because he believes it his duty to make Cleveland a republican city in local as well as national elections. He would have our hearty and unqualified hopes for success if his antagonist were almost any other man than the man he is."

Then the North American turns its attention to Mr. Johnson, and of him it says:

"We know Tom Johnson, too. We know him to be the best mayor ever chosen by an American municipality. We have heard this big, tireless, fearless Greatheart called a hypocrite, fanatic, demagogue and tyrant. We have learned that all such censure was inspired by the exploiters, the extortionists and the oppressors of the public. And we know that the lie is given to the accusations by all his actions."

That is high praise indeed: "The best mayor ever chosen by an American municipality." And after calmly looking over the situation from coast to coast the North American says:

"We should count the election of Theodore Burton in any other city a victory for the general good. Yet we should reckon the ousting of Tom Johnson from the mayoralty of Cleveland—even by Theodore Burton—as little short of a civic calamity."

That sums up the situation as it exists in Cleveland today. Theodore Burton, honest, able and energetic, but wholly without experience in municipal affairs, and Tom Johnson, honest, able and energetic and thoroughly familiar with municipal government in all its phases—"the best mayor ever chosen by an American municipality"—are opponents in the municipal campaign in Cleveland. One, unwittingly and unintentionally, perhaps, is the candidate of a political faction that puts partisan success above civic well being. The other the candidate of men of all parties who recognize in the purification of municipal politics the key to the solution of the problem of purifying and elevating national politics.

In view of all the circumstances should the result in Cleveland be in doubt? Is it possible that in the light of their past experiences the voters of Cleveland will fail to prefer the reelection of "the best mayor ever chosen by an American municipality?"



OKLAHOMA'S RETORT

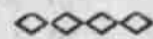
"My opinion of the Oklahoma constitution is unfit for publication," was President Roosevelt's remark—"laughingly made," according to the Associated Press correspondent—when asked to express an opinion thereon.

For the constitution, 180,836.

Against the constitution, 72,077.

Majority for the constitution, 108,759.

Oklahoma's answer to the presidential opinion seems to have been overwhelming.



AFTER ASSET CURRENCY AGAIN

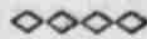
The financiers are planning to make another descent upon congress in the interest of asset currency. It will be remembered that at a meeting held after the last election the bankers' association formulated a plan and presented it to congress. But even when the election was over the republican congressmen were afraid to endorse this scheme, and the bill was never brought before the house. An effort is being made to revive the scheme, but it will hardly meet a better fate at this time now that the presidential election is approaching.

Knowing that public sentiment is against an asset currency, the friends of this policy call it an emergency currency, and provide that a tax shall be imposed upon the issue so as to compel its retirement as soon as the emergency is over. This is a mere subterfuge. They aim to get a recognition of the asset currency principle, and then they can reduce the tax afterwards. The first result of the election of 1896 was the reduction of the tax upon national bank circulation. The banks insisted that they were issuing money for the accommodation of the public and that therefore they ought not to be taxed for it, and while the taxes were increased upon the general public by the Dingley act, the tax upon the banks was decreased. If they can now secure the right to issue an asset currency in an emergency, they will next insist that the tax should be reduced and then we will have the asset currency in its naked ugliness.

The fight must be made against the principle, and must be made now. An asset currency is dangerous, and its opponents will be able to invoke the very arguments which the

financiers used in 1896 against silver. They professed to be very much alarmed lest the widow and the orphan would suffer from a fifty cent dollar, and now they are advocating an asset currency under which a dollar will be put forth that has no intrinsic value at all and is only redeemable when the redeemer is solvent. While most of the banks or nearly all of them might redeem their notes, the fact that an occasional bank might fail to do so would cast a suspicion upon all asset currency because it would be impossible to tell in advance which bank would fail. We can not afford to have such a currency in circulation. In the name of the widow and the orphan we protest; in the name of an honest dollar and a sound currency we indict this cheap dollar, this dishonest money. Labor must not be swindled by such legerdemain. The dollar in the hands of the toiler must not be subject to shrinkage when a cashier disappears or a bank president loans to himself upon worthless collateral. The national honor must be sustained, and the money of the country must be good all over the world.

Strange this reversal in the situation! The champions of an honest dollar now the defenders of a debased currency, and those who were charged with repudiation the champions of national integrity!



A GAME OF MARBLES

Methods of some "Napoleons of Finance" are aptly described in the story of a game of marbles as told by a writer in the New York World thus:

"Let's play marbles," said little Tony Radby, who is great at the game.

"But we haven't any marbles," chorused Tommy Nary, Granny Sly, Tomm/ Dolem, Petey Broad and Willie Kinsel, all Tony Radby's dear chums; nice little boys, whose papas are financiers, bringing them up in the way they should go.

"Neither have I," said Tony Radby. "That makes no difference. Here comes Frankie Franchise, the boy from Albany. He's got a big bagful of marbles; agates, whitealleys, chinas—fine ones, all of them. We'll make him put in for all of us. Say, Frankie, do you want to play a game of agates-up?"

"Sure," said Frankie, and opening the bag he displayed a collection of marbles that made the other boys gasp with envy.

First little Tony Radby made a ring; a clear, distinct ring.

"Put in," he said to Frankie.

"But where are your marbles," objected Frankie.

"Oh, we'll pay—if we lose," yelled Tommy Nary and Tony Radby and Granny Sly and Tommy Dolem and Petey Broad and Willie Kinsel—the last three learned the game in Philadelphia. "Now put in and shoot, Frankie." Then each borrowed a "shooter" from small Franchise.

The game did not last long. Every time little Frankie went to shoot the financiers' sons yelled "Knuckle down!" or "Feneveries!" Frankie hadn't a ghost of a show. When his last marble was lost Tony Radby said to him pleasantly:

"You can keep the bag, Frankie."

Then Tony divided the marbles among his dear chums, keeping half of them himself.



STRAWS

State railroad commissioners for northwestern states in session at St. Paul, Minn., expressed themselves in newspaper interviews against "absolute federal regulation."

Republican state convention for Nebraska held at Lincoln September 24 adopted this resolution: "We favor the enactment of a federal law and if necessary an amendment to the federal constitution which will forbid the federal courts from issuing writs of injunction against state officers charged by law with the enforcement of state statutes."

Attorneys general for twenty-three states in session at St. Louis adopted resolutions as follows:

Whereas, The efficient administration as well as the preservation of our dual system of government requires that each sovereignty be permitted to exercise its function as defined by the federal constitution unhampered by the other; therefore be it

Resolved, By the convention of attorneys general of the several states here assembled that we earnestly recommend to the favorable consideration of the president and the congress of the United States the enactment of a federal law providing that no circuit court of the United

States or any judge exercising powers of such circuit courts shall have jurisdiction in any case brought to restrain any officers of a state or any administrative board or a state from instituting in a state court any suit or other appropriate proceeding to enforce the laws of such state or to enforce any order, made by such administrative board, but allowing any person or corporation asserting in any such action in a state court any right arising under the constitution or any laws of the United States to have the decision of the highest court of such state reviewed by the supreme court of the United States as now provided by law.

We also recommend that suits in federal circuit courts by persons interested in corporations to restrain such corporations from obeying the laws of states in which they are doing business be prohibited.

State railroad commissioners in their national convention at Washington October 11, adopted the following report:

"The cases are rare where a railroad of any importance is not an interstate road. This may be argued as a reason for entire federal control, something we believe to be impossible without amending the constitution. This we do not think the states will concede until it is demonstrated that it is more practical than experience has yet shown it to be. There have been many general rate reductions in different states, followed by reductions in interstate tariffs, and so far as we know these have all been brought about by the affirmative action of state authorities. So far as we are advised, we know of no general reduction due to any action by the federal authorities. We believe that the best interests of the people would not be served by placing the entire responsibility for rate regulation in the federal government. We believe there should be a much closer relationship between the federal and state authorities than seem to exist at present; that in many matters a state commission should act as agent for the interstate commerce commission to the advantage of both."

In his St. Louis speech Mr. Roosevelt said: "My plea is not to bring about a condition of centralization; it is that the government shall recognize a condition of centralization in a field where it already exists."



IT MIGHT REFORM

In an interview with the New York Herald, Frank Jay Gould said: "If we could only have war with Japan right now it would not be such a bad thing as it seems on its face. For one thing, it would take Roosevelt's attention away from Wall Street and direct it in a new line."

How would it do for Wall Street to make it unnecessary for the president to watch it so closely?



PUT IT ON THE BEAR

The majority for the Oklahoma constitution is so large that it is difficult to count it. It is 108,759. If these figures reached the Louisiana canebrakes before the president left it was surely a sorry day for the first bear.



IF NOT, WHY NOT?

President Roosevelt would have the constitution stretched to cover present conditions. But wouldn't it be better to force conditions to become such that the constitution would cover them?



HELP!

Help! Help! all the world is crying.
Help for the hearts that are sobbing and sighing.
Help! Help! for the king at the door,
The little wan lad in the lanes of the poor.
Help! Help! There is need every moment
Of struggle and strife and the militant foment
For hand help and heart help and thought help
and cheer,
And the help of sweet laughter on lips ringing
clear.

Help! Help! Every life has its need,
Every heart its deep wound where the centuries bleed.
Help! Help! for the jester who blunders,
The ruler whose roar shakes the world with its
thunders.

Help for the weary who potter along,
The young with a ring of red morn in their song.
Help is the secret, the beauty, the might,
The lane of the lilies to God and the light!

—Baltimore Sun.