

be successful again with such tactics. Their national organization, the Anti-Saloon League, has got things so that it can threaten political death to the member whose activity blocks the path of the bill. The people of Washington have no say on the subject. They can deliver no votes anywhere. Ninety-nine per cent of the members of the house heretofore have meekly done the bidding of the league because the league has shown in a number of instances that it controls the balance of power between the two parties. It converted a republican majority of 255,000 in Ohio in 1904 to a democratic majority of 40,000. There is probably more drinking among the members of the fair sex in Washington than in any other city in the country. The influence of society is all in favor of the drinking, the members of the diplomatic corps and the foreigners generally being of the higher classes, setting the example. The members of the league and the W. C. T. U. have taken note of the fact that resorts in and around Washington where no liquors are sold have died lingering deaths, while resorts where liquor is sold have flourished. It is believed that President Roosevelt would veto a plain prohibition bill, while he probably would sign an appropriation bill on which there was a prohibition rider. It is in the form of a rider to an appropriation bill that the matter is likely to come before them. Representative Craig, of Selma, Ala., one of the new class of politicians in that old state, has announced that he will introduce a prohibition bill. Congressmen from the cities are about the only ones who will dare vote against the Craig bill."

ANOTHER SURPRISE which the Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says "amounts almost to a shock" was given to army circles when the war department posted the announcement that the president had directed the appointment of Colonel Charles S. Smith, ordnance department, to be brigadier general on the retirement of General Godfrey, which occurs October 9. The bulletin announced that the president directed the appointment and "wishes it announced that the appointment is made in recognition of Colonel Smith's exceptional services in connection with the establishment of the coast defenses of the United States and the supply of the artillery service with modern armament." The Globe-Democrat's correspondent says: "Colonel Smith's ability as an ordnance officer is not questioned in any military quarter. He is admittedly one of the best in the United States army. He is now stationed at the Sandy Hook proving ground. The complaint, however, grows out of the fact that he was not in line of promotion and was 'jumped' over the heads of fifty-three colonels, fourteen of whom are in the infantry arm of the service and in direct line of promotion."

MR. ROOSEVELT and the Taft managers appear to be having some trouble with the politics of Secretary of the Treasurer-Cortelyou and Harry New, who is just now acting chairman of the republican national committee. A correspondent for the New York Herald, who accompanied Mr. Roosevelt's party down the Mississippi, says that Mr. Roosevelt has learned an interesting political fact on his recent trip. This correspondent says: "The Taft men are now talking in a most ugly way about Secretary Cortelyou. They fear that he is not going to help them, and suspect him of being a candidate for president himself. The secretary of the treasury has a quiet way about him, and they are trying to smoke him out. I am informed that Mr. Cortelyou has never declared himself for or against the Taft candidacy, although he has probably felt with other members of the cabinet that the republican party would gladly give a renomination to Mr. Roosevelt, but might hesitate about letting him transfer them to some man of his choice. Secretary Cortelyou, however, has given the Taft boomers considerable advice when they called for it, and in their expressions of dark suspicion of the secretary of the treasury they also admit that he gave it truly. Some of his suggestions were followed and some were rejected. As to Mr. New there is also equal perplexity. Mr. New lives in Indiana. It has been generally accepted that there should be no opposition in Indiana to the candidacy of Vice President Fairbanks. Where Mr. New stands the Taft boomers do not know, and they have appealed to President Roosevelt to find out for them. If New is for Fairbanks they

want to know how enthusiastic he is and whether he can not be induced to get on the Taft band wagon. And then they want to know whether if Mr. New is for Fairbanks, his second choice is Cortelyou or Taft."

ACCORDING to this same authority Mr. Vorys and Secretary Garfield, both Taft boomers, "poured their woes and suspicions into the president's ear all the way from Canton, Ohio, to Fort Wayne, Ind." The Herald correspondent says: "The story they told about the situation in the south indicated that there might be contesting delegations from most of the southern states. This spells danger to the Taft cause, because on the seating of these delegations may depend the control of the next national convention. Here again the importance of the national committee comes in. The national committee decides what delegates shall go on the preliminary roll of the convention. The national committee decides who is the temporary chairman. If the opposition to Taft should be strong in the eastern and middle states, with Fairbanks controlling Indiana, Cannon, Illinois; LaFollette, Wisconsin; Knox, Pennsylvania, and Hughes, New York, the seating of southern anti-Taft delegates on the preliminary call might easily turn the tide against the president's choice. Reports from the south are that both Foraker and Hughes are dangerous competitors of Secretary Taft. The negro, angered at the Brownsville incident, has been organizing for Foraker and declaring against Taft. But there is an element of strength for Hughes in the south which has been overlooked, and which is becoming a figure. Governor Hughes is a Baptist. The Baptist church in the south is very strong among the negroes, and, while it may be regarded as a singular thing to affect a political campaign, it is said that it will lean delegates for Hughes in the south. The charge made by Mr. Vorys on Monday during his talk with the president, that First Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock had been working against Taft in the south and trying to get delegates for Cortelyou, had been denied, but it is interesting as showing the plurality of purpose among those who are in the president's official family. Mr. Hitchcock may not be working for Taft, and the Taft men apparently decline to club Mr. Hitchcock into helping them. Others of the president's friends are working for Knox and still others for Cannon."

WILLIAM F. WAKEMAN, of New York, secretary of the American Protective Tariff League, recently made a trip through the west and returning gave out this interview: "I was greatly surprised on a trip I have just made through the middle west at the extent of the tariff revision sentiment. I believe in telling the truth and so I do not hesitate to say that this is a fact. While in Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland and Pittsburg, I talked with forty or fifty prominent business men and found them favorable to revision. I must admit, too, that reports received by our organization indicate that the sentiment is general throughout the country. I confess that these reports and my interviews surprised me. Perhaps the sentiment is due to our abundant prosperity. I will say further that if this sentiment continues the present administration will control the next republican convention and name its legatee. I believe President Roosevelt wants the nomination and under present conditions will get it, but there is grave doubt in my mind whether conditions will be the same. The convention is nearly a year away. There may be such a change by February as to make the naming of its legatee by the administration impossible."

CONCERNING Mr. Roosevelt's centralization scheme the Washington correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer says: "During his trip down the Mississippi river last week the president discussed, in his characteristic way, a number of subjects of general public interest, but the proposition advanced by him which is destined to create the deepest stir, ultimately, if not in the immediate future, is that the federal government should exercise complete control of all interstate railroads. It is his purpose to recommend to congress that legislation in consonance with that idea be enacted next winter, and then, it seems assured, there will be precipitated one of the most notable debates and controversies ever begun in that body. The natural corollary of the president's proposition

is that the authority now exercised over railroads by the various states will decrease in the proportion that the power of the national government increases. The president is willing that the states retain some power, but very little, as this sentence from his St. Louis speech indicates: 'There will be local matters affecting railroads which can best be dealt with by local authority, but as national commercial agents the big interstate railroads ought to be completely subject to national authority.' The deep significance of that suggestion was overlooked by the country generally for the reason, perhaps, that the president was delivering a new address every day, and it was difficult for the public to keep up with him and at the same time not miss any of the interesting details of his novel sail down the 'Father of Waters.' But now business, and at once the question arises how that men who evince an intelligent concern in public affairs have begun to analyze and digest his speeches, they find much food for reflection in his advanced railroad views, and anticipate they will make a profound impression upon the country. They believe the question of states rights will come to the front again and that this time northern states will be no less aroused than the southern states, for in the north legislatures have been just as zealous in passing drastic laws affecting the railroads as have the general assemblies in the south."

IT HAS BEEN no great secret that the president intended to advocate an extension of federal authority over interstate railroads, but until his Mississippi river speeches it was not known to what extent he would carry this policy. The Enquirer's correspondent says: "Now, it is expected, the states will awake from their lethargy and inquire: 'How much authority does he propose shall be left to us?' It is assumed that the president's plan is to grant federal charters to railroads doing interstate business, and at once the question arises now and whether that would interfere with the state charters under which they are now operating. Many states now tax the franchise value of common carriers as well as other public utility corporations, and when Mr. Roosevelt was governor of New York he forced such a law through the legislature at Albany. If railroads should be incorporated by the national government hereafter would such incorporation deprive the states of the right to levy and collect a franchise tax? That is one of the numerous pertinent questions now propounded by persons who desire to understand the full significance and consequences of the enforcement of the president's new plan. Another is: Would the states have the power to regulate the rate of fare, such as Ohio has done? And again: Would the states be allowed to fix rates within their own borders, or would the various state railroad commissions have to go out of business and yield their authority to the interstate commerce commission or some other federal body established at Washington? These are questions for the lawyers to settle, particularly those who pride themselves on being experts as constitutional interpreters. It certainly requires no stretch of the imagination to see the field of discussion and controversy that is opened up by the energetic and determined Mr. Roosevelt. But the president does not stop at national incorporation of railroads. He proposes federal charters also for corporations other than common carriers which engage in interstate commerce. That is not a new scheme with him, but it suggests the same line of thought and speculation with respect to the power remaining with the states, insofar as supervision and control of such corporations is concerned."

A PARIS cablegram to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat follows: "A rumor which for a long time has passed from mouth to mouth regarding the exhumation of the supposed body of John Paul Jones was given publicity today in the Cri du Paris, which says that the truth is beginning to filter through. The Cri du Paris says that the pretended discovery was only an invention published during the excavations. The truth is that five coffins were dug up. Four of them bore plates identifying their contents, but the fifth was blank. The paper ridicules the measurements of the anthropologists, which it says were compared only with a portrait of the admiral and their pathological observations. The mention of Paul Jones to the members of the committee of the Vieux Paris who followed the excavations caused them to burst into laughter."