

insurance work by the best lieutenant the system has ever had, Honest Hughes, and the turning back for all time into the system's maw of the great insurance companies. What did the people do then? They hurraed for Hughes and grinned. Then came the work of Roosevelt until, from end to end of the world all could see the coming doom of the system. What did the people do then? They shouted: 'Lay on, Roosevelt, but do hurry it up so that we may take possession of all the coming benefits and not suffer a pain or an ache or a dollar's loss in the getting of them,' and grinned. Then came the climax—the panic, when victory, full, complete, was in our grasp. And what happened? You know, but I will recall it." He speaks of his determination, announced to Ridgeway, to speak against the system from the steps of the National City bank during the recent panic, and says: "Right here I met the first real set-back since the beginning of our fight. You showed me that my move was too dangerous to receive your approval, that it not only meant ruin to your magazine, but that it also meant, in your opinion, ruin to the country and a great calamity to the American people. I argued with you, showing that if I could not strike at the one time when the destruction of the system might be accomplished, then my work had been for naught. (I must, in fairness to you, admit that I agreed with you that from your standpoint it would be wrong to aid me in doing what I proposed.) In the midst of our argument conditions culminated in the complete surrender, the black-jacking in the house of his friends, of President Roosevelt; the system was in the saddle and the opportunity I had waited and worked and suffered for had gone. And the people? What did the people do? They turned upon Roosevelt quicker than a cur dog at the first sign of danger turns upon his master, until he, surrounded and realizing the desertion of the people, was obliged to do that which has assured to the system a representation and a democratic presidential nominee who will be satisfactory to them. And the people? They gleefully hurled their bonnets in the air and rent the blue with their praise of the people's saviours—Morgan, Ryan and Rockefeller—and grinned. Then it was I decided that my duty to my family and my duty to myself, called me to halt all my effort, good, bad or indifferent."

THE WASHINGTON correspondent for the Omaha World-Herald sent, under date of January 24, this interesting dispatch: "Taking as his text a statement by ex-Congressman Grosvenor of Ohio, that 'Bryanism has been the bane of the democratic party in the east and the great middle-west all these years,' Congressman Hitchcock of Omaha this afternoon stirred the house by a speech of a half hour in which he answered General Grosvenor. He referred to the ancient Ohio statistician as 'this prophet out of a job,' and proceeded by an analysis of election returns from 1896 down to date to show that Bryanism far from being the bane has been the strength of the democratic party. Mr. Hitchcock was repeatedly interrupted, now by democratic applause, and again by republican questions. Representative Kiefer of Ohio was especially insistent on getting in some remarks and Mr. Bonyng of Colorado was only less ardent in his desire to correct the Nebraskan from time to time. Messrs. James of Kentucky, Gaines of Tennessee and other democrats also interrupted by way of approval and fortification of Hitchcock's statements. When he was done the speaker was congratulated by a long list of democrats, and even republicans. There were no dull moments while his address was in progress. The name of Bryan was cheered, as were the repeated points which were made to prove that Bryan is, in fact, the very leader whose strength can give most confidence to his party. General Grosvenor, with his fancy for figures, had declared that Bryan could count only 166 electoral votes. Mr. Hitchcock pointed out that, in making this calculation, he has classed as surely republican these states which are decidedly debatable: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York and Ohio. In all these, he said with their total of sixteen electoral votes, Bryan polled more votes twice—in 1896 and 1900—than any democrat either before or since. In New York in 1900 he polled more votes than New York's favorite son, Judge Parker, a strong man, an eminent lawyer and a most distinguished citizen, did four years later. The republican majority against Bryan was less than against Parker in Parker's own state. In Indiana he

polled more votes than any democratic candidate ever polled, before or since, for any office. More than this, when he ran the second time, although running against a man who was president and who had just emerged with the glory of having conducted a successful and victorious foreign war, Mr. Bryan polled just about the same strength as the first time he ran."

ISAAC J. WEIL of New York has something to say of Mr. Pulitzer's more or less famous "Bryan map." Writing to the New York World Mr. Weil says: "Permit me to express my appreciation of the series of map cartoons showing the United States divided into political camps by the colors black, white and gray, said to be the result of Mr. William Jennings Bryan's influence in the political arena. They are exceedingly instructive as well as humorous. There is a smile for every republican who is glad Mr. Roosevelt is president because of Mr. Bryan's influence. There is a smile for every dissatisfied republican and every democrat who is pleased that a republican president is now in office during this period of depression (perhaps also the result of Mr. Bryan's power for evil). There is a ripple of joy in every cartoon for every member of the socialist party who believes that both Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan are responsible for existing evils in our economic conditions. It seems there must also be a smile for the artist and also for the editorial writer, for in all probability the latter remembers the elections of 1894 and 1895. Why should the congressional elections of the former and the state elections of the latter year not also be credited to Mr. Bryan's account? For was Mr. Bryan not a member of congress from March 4, 1891, until March 4, 1895? Should his influence on political life not be extended back to his first entrance into the political arena? Whatever the idea, motive or reason for the arrangement of colors, the result is certainly good, for the black stands out boldly and creates a positive impression on the mind and reminds one of the necessity of more white on the map, a work which many of Mr. Bryan's admirers intend to assist him in during the coming presidential election. The one chief idea that is forced upon the reader apart from the humor is that a man who has been only a private citizen since his retirement from congress should be sufficiently forceful to divide the nation as the World portrays."

MANY REPUBLICANS are protesting against the plan of the Roosevelt administration for choosing the republican nominee. In its issue of January 20 the Kansas City Journal (rep.) says: "Never has the power of the national administration been exerted with more desperate vigor in party politics than now. All over the country this influence is shown in zealous efforts to force political sentiment for one man or another regardless of individual opinions. In Ohio, of course, the 'big stick' is represented in the campaign of Taft, and this same method of campaigning has been resorted to by the Taft managers in Missouri. The theory that the voters of a political party have any right to be heard in its councils has given way to a system of threats and penalties against the man who may have an opinion of his own, if it be contrary to the dictum of those who have already made up the slate and seek to deliver the party bound and gagged to their candidate. That there is a great deal of Taft sentiment in Mis-

FIFTY FROM WELLINGTON, KANSAS

George T. Pitts, Wellington, Kan., writes: "I send you fifty subscriptions on sheet enclosed, with my check for \$30 in payment. Please acknowledge receipt, and be sure to get mailing address correct, and papers started this week if possible. I secured this list in three hours this Saturday afternoon on our streets from the usual Saturday crowd. If you will send me a good sized bundle of sample copies of The Commoner, I will use them, I believe, to advantage. It won't matter whether the samples are all of the latest issue or not. I would like to be equipped with a good supply for next Saturday, January 18."

souri everybody knows, but that there are many thousands of the rank and file who prefer other candidates can not be doubted. If Taft is as strong as his over-zealous organs and managers say he is, what is the use of instructions? He will get the votes anyway. Yet here we have the spectacle of a state chairman, intrusted with the responsibility of carrying out the wishes of his party, dictating to his party what it shall do. And when any republican lifts up his head and claims his right to be heard he is branded as a 'traitor.' Mr. Dickey complains that because some republicans are unwilling to be bartered like sheep they 'provoke' him by 'firing in the rear of our campaign.' Whose campaign is this? Does it belong to any one man or set of men? Are not the republican voters of Missouri to be heard and consulted? Under the present system of campaigning they are to be shut out and told that they are not wanted until election day, when they are supposed to go to the polls and help elect a man previously chosen by factional leaders."

SOMEWHAT similar protest is registered by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat (rep.) in its issue of January 14. The Globe-Democrat says: "We are certainly against any instructions by any faction that claims to speak for the whole party. Nor do we regard as competent instructions such action as was recently taken by the state committee. The committee's indorsement of one candidate, ignoring the others, was its own expression, and not in the nature of an obligation to be carried out by the party in the state. If the sentiment of the republicans of Missouri is all for one candidate, there can be no question as to how Missouri's delegates will vote. We deny that there is such unanimity, or that the sentiment has been definitely ascertained. No actual tests have been applied. The claims of those who have a favorite are gratuitous. They want the previous question called without debate, and settled before a single delegate has been elected. It is true that a delegate acts in a representative capacity. That is to say, he is expected to represent the majority of the party in his district, and as nearly all of it as possible. If he represents only a coterie of politicians or boomers, he does not represent the party. The eagerness of the boomers to instruct him in their own behalf is easily understood. He is tied up not to represent the party but some group of politicians that seek to substitute themselves for the party. If the republican voice of Missouri is all one way, the fact will decisively appear when the delegates are chosen. Not one has yet been elected in Missouri or any other state, and yet the boomers say a certain candidate 'will have 600 in the convention on the first ballot.' Their plan is to claim everything in advance with the utmost confidence. The idea is far from new. It is in the nature of a bluff, and evidently rests on nothing substantial as far as facts are developed."

SOMETHING about the birth of Tammany Hall is told by Frederick Upham Adams. Writing in Success Magazine Mr. Adams says: "William Maclay and Robert Morris were the first senators from Pennsylvania, and both attended the initial session of congress in New York City. Senator Maclay kept a journal of its proceedings, and his comments and deductions are the delight of close students of history. Under date of May 12, 1790, we find this entry: 'This day exhibited a grotesque scene in the streets of New York. Being the old first of May, the Sons of St. Tammany had a grand parade through the town in Indian dress. I delivered a talk at one of their meeting houses and went away to dinner. There seems to be some sort of a scheme laid off erecting some sort of order or society under this denomination, but it does not seem well digested as yet. The expense of the dresses must have been considerable, and the money laid out on clothing might have dressed some of their ragged beggars. But the weather is now warm.' This rugged and fearless old hater of royalty and aristocracy had participated in the celebration of the first anniversary of the founding of the Society of Tammany, and we know little more today of that embryonic organization than he did then, but we need not seek far for the causes which inspired its forming. Tammany was the political successor of the 'Sons of Liberty,' called in some sections of the country 'The Liberty Boys.'"