

assured it will join with us in a campaign having for its purpose the spread of enlightenment concerning the basis of the toothsome yellow pastry. Care should be taken in the selection of pumpkin seed, care should be exercised in the selection of soil, and care should be exercised in cultivation. Without all this the pumpkin pie of blessed memory will be impossible. The old yellow pumpkin that is good cattle and hog feed is not always good for pie purposes. The overgrown, obese and stringy pumpkin that looks like a barrel painted yellow is not good pie material. The smaller variety, the little fellows with smooth exterior and solid interior, that are produced by careful cultivation in rich soil, are the ones needed. Size is no criterion in pumpkins, though we admit size has something to do with the finished pie product. Unhappy the city man whose dwelling is set upon a lot so cramped that he can not have a hill or two of glorious pie pumpkins growing thereon, and doubly unfortunate he who is so ignorant as to imagine that any old pumpkin will make good pumpkin pies.

With the assistance of the pumpkin pie editor of the Washington Herald we hope to be able to start such a campaign as will result in a more careful selection of pumpkin seed, with a resultant crop of pumpkin pies that will command a return to the toothsome dainty and a desertion of the miserable concoctions and decoctions of French chefs and amateur cooks anxious to foist something new upon a long suffering and dyspeptic public.



MR. TAFT'S "CANDOR"

The Omaha (Neb.) Bee, whose editor is recognized as one of the chief supporters of Secretary Taft, complains that The Commoner has made "a complete misrepresentation of the secretary of war." The Bee says: "In public speeches and editorials in The Commoner Mr. Bryan persists in the declaration that Mr. Taft has made no announcement of his attitude toward the trusts and no promise that, if elected president, he will inaugurate or continue any legal prosecution of them."

Certainly The Commoner has no disposition to misrepresent Mr. Taft or any other man, and so we print below Editor Rosewater's statement of "the complete candor and frankness with which he (Mr. Taft) states his position and discusses public questions." The Bee says:

"In his speech at Columbus, before Mr. Bryan began asking questions, Mr. Taft said:

"I would restrain unlawful trusts with all the efficiency of injunctive process and would punish with all the severity of criminal prosecution every attempt on the part of aggregated capital to suppress competition through illegal means."

"This address was widely published and could not have escaped the attention of so omniverous a reader of political news as Colonel Bryan. In his address at Louisville a few days ago Mr. Taft said:

"Mr. Bryan asks me what should be done with the great combinations of capital. He says he would extirpate trusts root and branch. I don't know how he would carry out this policy unless he means that he would destroy the plants that create our prosperity. I do not believe either in that or government ownership, but I believe in making corporations obey the law and being prevented from destroying the prosperity of others or refusing to share with others the prosperity existing in their lines of business."

"One of the greatest sources of Mr. Taft's popularity with the American people is the complete candor and frankness with which he states his position and discusses public questions. He has practiced no evasion on the trust question, the tariff issue, imperialism or anything else in which the people have shown interest or concern. Mr. Bryan alone appears to have failed to discover this trait in Mr. Taft's character and to be the only one to conclude that Mr. Taft lacks positiveness on public questions."

It will be seen that Mr. Taft says he would restrain "unlawful" trusts and that he would be quite severe upon every attempt on the part of aggregated capital to suppress competition through "illegal" means. But why not make all conspiracies in restraint of trade unlawful? And why not see to it that the people are protected from men who undertake to suppress

competition through cleverly devised laws and ingeniously arranged systems?

Mr. Taft was not, however, protecting that reputation for "complete candor and frankness" which Editor Rosewater is building for him when he intimated that those who would extirpate trusts would destroy the plants. Mr. Taft ought to know that those who believe that private monopoly is as indefensible in the statutes of man as it is intolerable in the law of God are the defenders, rather than the destroyers, of property; they are the protectors rather than the assailants of industry. Their energies are directed at those conspiracies in restraint of trade, those conspiracies against industry and the very lives of men and women, which Mr. Taft—and we hope we do him no injustice on this point—would divide into two classes: Lawful and unlawful trusts; good conspiracies and bad conspiracies.

The American people have been studying these great questions for many years and we believe they will not be satisfied with the vague manner in which Mr. Taft describes his solution of the great questions that are stirring the hearts of the American people and must command the serious attention of American statesmen.



A BOOK WORTH READING

Eleanor Talbot Kinkead, of Lexington, Ky., has issued through her publishers, Moffat, Yard & Company, New York, a book which is well worth reading. It is a novel, "The Courage of Blackburn Blair," and the purpose of the book is set forth in the title. A delightful love story runs through the text and strengthens the moral which the author has in mind. The purpose of the book is to present the truth that moral courage is a higher virtue than physical courage, and that it is more manly to ignore an insult than it is to resent it with violence. It is a difficult task to convince the average person that one can have physical courage without using it in such a case, and yet what is civilization for if it does not result in a self restraint which will enable us to master ourselves even when it is easier to give a blow than to refrain from it. "He that ruleth his own spirit is greater than he that taketh a city," is the theme of the book, for the courage of Blackburn Blair is just the kind of courage of which the wise man speaks. The habit of resorting to a fist fight or to a revolver when an offensive remark is made is a habit to be discouraged, and no publication which has recently appeared has calculated to do more to reform the habit than the beautiful and touching story of Blackburn Blair. It is earnestly commended to the readers of The Commoner.



IT WILL BE A GLORIOUS BATTLE

General H. Gray Otis is a badly frightened man. In an editorial printed in his paper, the Los Angeles Times, General Otis deals with "the issues and the struggle." In the beginning General Otis says that it is probable that Bryan and Taft will be the nominees. Following are extracts from that editorial:

"We have reserved for consideration last the industrial condition of the country and its possible effects upon the vote. There is only one way to enter into a conflict at close quarters which is wise and likely to succeed. That is for the leaders in the fray to know exactly their own resources, their weaknesses as well as their strength, and to learn about the enemy's conditions as carefully as possible. Now it is an undeniable fact that the industrial condition of the country at the time the voters approach the polls has an exceedingly important bearing upon the result. There is no doubt that the sweeping majority for the republican ticket in 1896 was largely due to the lamentable state of the industries and prosperity of the people. Four years later the republican party had been able to point out that they had redeemed every promise they made in the preceding election, and that party again swept the country with an enormous majority. So again four years ago the continued happy condition of the people inspired all minds but prejudiced or interested partisans to let well enough alone.

"What are the facts at present? The first three months of the current year shows that the bank clearings of all the clearinghouse cities in the United States fell below those of the same period a year ago by twenty-eight per cent; the gross railroad earnings were twelve per cent less and the net earnings showed a falling off of between twenty and twenty-five per cent.

There are 300,000 railroad cars idle this year owing to a lack of traffic compared with an utter impossibility to furnish rolling stock for the traffic offered a year ago. Now note the following: The failures in business of all kinds for these three months of 1908 numbered 5,000, with liabilities running to over \$75,000,000. These figures have never been exceeded in any corresponding three months in the industrial history of the United States. It is estimated by those in closest touch with the conditions that not less than 1,000,000 persons are out of work in the United States, taken as a whole, one-third of these being railroad employes. Iron and steel production is now about one-half of the normal output.

"While this depression exists, strange to say the country is exporting foodstuffs and crude oil and its products beyond anything ever known before. These sales run to about \$20,000,000 a week. The crop prospects, taking the country as a whole, are unusually good. The question is, what effect will these influences have upon the general business of the country between now and the first week in next October? If this depression remains as it is, with business concerns failing in great numbers, involving enormous liabilities in which concerns that still survive stand to lose this money, the effect upon the vote in November is difficult to estimate. If, on the contrary, the business of the country should undergo a very general revival, showing a recovery from depression more rapid than ever known before, the people would take as an important justification of republican administration.

"The conclusion the intelligent mind will reach is that the republican party confronts anything but a walk-over in the fall election. The status calls for the most earnest and faithful devotion of every good republican in the country to the party and its cause. It calls on every republican to get into the party ranks, to kindle one's own enthusiasm with the fires of earnestness which are sure to spread to neighbors on all sides, to drop all party squabbles, all factious disputes, and to rally under the flag for the sole and undivided purpose of electing the candidate of the Chicago convention to the presidency. With the struggle before us, anything like halting, hesitating, divided ranks, will result in utter failure.

"The times feels keenly the uncertainty of the situation, the strenuousness of the struggle, the imperative necessity of all getting into line, getting in straight, toeing the mark and marching shoulder to shoulder. This is the only course that promises success."



GUARANTEED BANK DEPOSITS

People insure their goods by land and sea. The custom is of long standing. It has not driven capable shipbuilders and navigators out of business, nor retarded the introduction of improved methods of house construction, nor yet laid a withering blight of paternalism and socialism upon the world. In view of which we hardly understand why a proposal to insure bank deposits should produce such commotion.

The guaranty of deposits, as enacted in Oklahoma or as proposed in the Fowler bill, is simply a system of insurance. A very small tax, or premium, levied upon all deposits—something like forty cents on the thousand dollars, we believe—would have covered all losses suffered by national bank depositors through bank failures. Such insurance would not "put good bank management at a discount."

Nobody deposits money in any bank unless he believes it to be thoroughly safe. He chooses one bank rather than another because it is more convenient or more accommodating, or for some such reason. He would still choose the bank that did his business most satisfactorily, and therein the good banker would still have all his advantage over the indifferent or poor one.

Every good banker ought to favor every proposal which would improve the banking business as a whole, which would increase public confidence in banks in general, which would tend to make every man with any money deposit it in some bank instead of hoarding it, which would lessen the probability of panic among depositors in unquiet times.

Opposition to bank-deposit insurance seems to us mostly the mere fear of a novelty.—Saturday Evening Post.



A republican exchange says that Senator LaFollette would be more of a republican if he voted less often with the democrats. True, but he wouldn't be right nearly so often.