

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE DEMOCRATS of Illinois have nominated as their candidate for governor Adlai E. Stevenson, former vice president. The democrats of Illinois are jubilant over the prospects of carrying that state. The Chicago Record-Herald says: "It has been a decade since the democrats of Illinois had a love feast, but it now looks probable that they will have one at the next meeting of the state central committee or at the state convention held September 9." Mr. McGoorty, speaking of the nomination, says: "The party has honored itself in the nomination of its most commanding figure, Adlai E. Stevenson. I hold him in the highest respect and predict his success at the polls in November."

SPeAKING OF Mr. Stevenson to newspaper correspondents, Mr. Bryan said: "While I take no part in the contests between democrats, either in convention or primaries, I am sure I will be pardoned in this case if I say that while we had a number of worthy democrats aspiring to the governorship of Illinois, no one among them was superior in his qualifications to Mr. Stevenson. I believe he will make a very strong candidate and will greatly aid the national ticket. The dissatisfied republicans, and there are many of them in Illinois, will feel that no harm could come to the state from Mr. Stevenson's election. His large public service and his sterling qualities combine to make him the ideal candidate, and he will make an ideal governor."

REFERRING TO the Hearst independence party platform, Mr. Bryan made this statement: "It contains a number of planks which are identical with or substantially similar to the planks of the democratic platform. For instance, it demands the election of senators by the direct vote of the people, as the democratic party does; its tariff plank is quite like our tariff plank; its plank on the trusts, while opposing private monopoly, is not as specific as ours; its railroad plank does not differ much from ours; its plank on Asiatic immigration is quite similar, and its labor plank, like ours, contains a declaration in favor of trial by jury and in regard to the exemption of labor organizations from the operation of anti-trust laws. Like our platform, it condemns the extravagance of the republican party and demands greater economy. It does not advocate, however, the establishment of a department of labor with a secretary in the cabinet. It does not oppose imperialism, which has been used to justify the increase in our standing army, and its plank as to publicity of campaign contributions is not nearly so strong as ours. The question that must confront the member of the independence party is this: Will he assist in the defeat of the democratic party, which stands for so much that he favors, merely because he can not get all that he would like? Either the democratic party or the republican party will win, and the voter, who, preferring the democratic platform to the republican platform, joins with the independence party, merely assists the republican party, and thus defeats several of the reforms in which he is interested. Take, for instance, the plank in favor of the election of senators by the people—the democratic party has endorsed that reform in three campaigns; the republican convention defeated the proposition by an overwhelming vote. If the democratic party succeeds its members are pledged to this reform. The republican party is not pledged to it, and the republican candidate has gone no farther than to say that he is personally inclined toward it. This reform is necessary before any other reform can be secured. Is not the independence voter justified in helping the democratic party to secure this reform? So in regard to the labor questions. The democratic party is in favor of remedies demanded by wage earners and a wage earner who votes with the independence party simply defeats the reforms in which he is interested. And the same argument might be made in regard to those who favor tariff reform, the extermination of the principle of private monopoly, and the remedy of other evils which have grown

up under republican administrations. The question is not whether one can get all the reform that he wants, but how he can get the most reform. The democratic party offers him the best opportunity to secure that which is obtainable at this time."

UNDER DATE of Lincoln, Neb., the Associated Press carried the following dispatch: "Enthusiastic over the prospects of democratic success in November, Representative Henry D. Clayton of Alabama, chairman of the committee on notification of William J. Bryan, arrived today. He was accompanied on the journey from St. Louis by Dr. J. W. McClure of Sedalia, Mo., a member of the committee. 'I have every confidence in the election of Bryan and Kern,' said Mr. Clayton. 'The whole sentiment of the country is in that direction.' On the way to Lincoln from his Alabama home Mr. Clayton engaged many men in conversation as to their political views. 'I found a majority of those with whom I talked for Bryan,' said he. 'I met many traveling men and only one declared himself out and out for the republican candidates.' Mr. Clayton said that the 'rock-robed' democrats were not much interested in the election because they intended to vote the democratic ticket anyway, 'but,' he declared, 'the men who have not heretofore voted for Bryan and who propose to do so this year are the ones who are enthusiastic.' Chairman Clayton criticized Mr. Taft's speech of acceptance for having, as he said, 'dodged the Chicago platform.' 'That speech is weak and inane,' he declared, 'but it established one fact and that is that the republicans have beat a retreat and that they are on the defensive.'"

A COPY of a letter written by J. C. Garlington, member of the executive committee, Hearst's Independence league, to Charles W. Walsh, secretary of that league. Writing from Greenville, S. C., Mr. Garlington says: "You recently expressed a sentiment, in which I concurred, that when a man does not like the policies and methods of a party, it is his duty to get out. I went into this independence movement believing that it was laboring for certain well defined policies, chief of which was the elimination of the boss and larger opportunity for the individual. In the recent assemblage in Chicago there were men from many states who were impressed with the same idea. Before the convention met they were outspoken in the belief that it would be suicidal to the party and treachery to its principles to place an electoral ticket in the field in opposition to the party which has certainly given the independence movement 'half a loaf.' A national convention is a sovereign body. It is supposed to hear all sides and abide by the majority. This majority was not allowed to be heard. When Jacob I. Sheppard, of Kansas, attempted to express his views, he was dragged from the platform with your aid, connivance and approval. The conviction is inevitable that the independence party is working in the interest of Taft. If it is done wittingly, it has betrayed its trust; if unwittingly, it is too weak to be trusted. On fundamentals the independence and democratic parties are agreed. The placing of electors in the field can only have the effect of strengthening Taft. The part I took in organizing South Carolina was not on the understanding of any such purpose. Having lost faith in your movement and having no desire to aid in perpetuating a party that is not serving the best interests of the people, I beg to herewith tender my resignation from the executive committee."

THE NOTIFICATION ceremonies in Lincoln on August 12 were attended by a crowd estimated at from 20,000 to 35,000 people. As nearly as possible they were made non-partisan. Governor George L. Sheldon and other state officials, and E. R. Sizer, postmaster at Lincoln, were prominent among the guests upon the platform. There was no attempt at a parade of political marching clubs. The parade started from the postoffice square at 2 o'clock, headed

by a platoon of mounted police. Following came the Nebraska state band and the Beatrice military band. Following came the local reception committee mounted and under the leadership of E. H. Westervelt. Then came carriages containing the democratic candidates, the officers of the national committee and members of the notification committee. Citizens in carriages and on foot made up the remainder of the procession. The notification ceremonies were held on the state house grounds, a platform having been built at the north entrance. Upon the platform were seats for the guests and the notification committee; immediately in front of the platform was the section set apart for members of the press. Dr. P. L. Hall of Lincoln, vice chairman of the national committee, introduced Chairman Norman E. Mack of Buffalo, who presided. Chairman Mack immediately introduced Rev. Father Nugent of Des Moines, who invoked the divine blessing, the great audience joining with him in repeating the Lord's prayer. Chairman Mack introduced John W. Kern, democratic candidate for vice president, who spoke briefly, and then Congressman Henry D. Clayton of Alabama, chairman of the national convention at Denver was introduced and delivered the address of notification. This was followed by the reading of the notification committee's letter, Humphrey O'Sullivan of Massachusetts, secretary of the committee, reading it. Chairman Mack then arose and in a half-dozen words introduced Mr. Bryan, who immediately proceeded to deliver his address of acceptance.

AFTER THE notification ceremonies Mr. and Mrs. Bryan shook hands with thousands, the reception being held in the rotunda of the state house. The bands rendered popular songs. Bryan entertained the members of the notification committee and those of the national committee who were in Lincoln, at luncheon on the lawn at Fairview. The tables were spread under the trees, Mr. Bryan presiding at one, Mrs. Bryan at another and Congressman Clayton at another.

THE BOSTON Globe says: "Mr. Taft, in his letter of acceptance takes up the question of tariff revision, on which subject it was expected he would have something definite to say. What he said was definite enough, but it is frank beyond all expectation. The tariff, Mr. Taft admits, ought to be revised, and certain schedules ought to be reduced. 'On the other hand,' says Mr. Taft, 'there are some few other schedules in which the tariff is not sufficiently high to give the measure of protection which they should receive upon republican principles, and as to those the tariff should be raised.' It is easy to imagine the attention which this statement commanded in certain quarters, and to picture the satisfaction with which it was read by those who are tariff revisionists when the revision is upward. And it is easy, also, to see that the innocent promise of Mr. Taft's observation may be used by the republican campaign managers, who will publish all contributions—after election—to awaken in the breasts of tariff beneficiaries so lively a sense of favors to come that the celebrated fat-frying operations of former campaigns may be repeated this year with some show of grace and effectiveness."

ONE PARTICULAR bale of Georgia cotton is destined to become famous. A Savannah, Ga., dispatch carried by the Associated Press, says: "The first bale of 'factors cotton,' or that received in the ordinary course of business for this season, was bought today at the Savannah exchange by Murray M. Stewart for the Bryan democratic club. It was immediately compressed, placarded and shipped to Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, New York. The placard announces that it is the first bale and concludes: 'As surely as cotton is king Bryan will be elected president.' The bale is to be auctioned off in Tammany Hall and the proceeds will be devoted to the Bryan campaign fund."