

# CURRENT TOPICS

"THERE ARE going to be some surprises in New York state and the New England states when the fall elections come around," said O. B. Blackburn, a soap and knit underwear manufacturer of New York and Providence. Mr. Blackburn made this statement to the Washington correspondent for the Louisville Courier-Journal. Then he added: "I think you will find that after the votes are counted that Mr. Bryan will be the man who will occupy the White House, and not your friend Taft. There is a change of sentiment throughout the northeast that will not down, and it is all for Bryan. The people there do not look upon Bryan as they did twelve years ago. If you notice, several of the papers that were antagonistic to Bryan are slowly but certainly turning to him. I am a democrat, but voted for Roosevelt, and would do so again; but I will not vote for his substitute, and that is the way many persons in that section of the country are talking. Many republicans, business men—two of my partners, for instance—are going to vote for Bryan. One of them said a day or so ago that he thought Taft would, in a way, carry out Roosevelt's ideas, but they were sure Bryan would carry all of them out. They want certain revisions in the tariff, and will get it if Bryan is elected. Another thing, they are tired of the Cannon rule and feel that if Bryan is elected it will in a measure mark the downfall of 'Uncle Joe' as king in the house of representatives. In the central part of New York state, which the republicans have always considered strongly theirs, an undercurrent is moving that broods ill for the candidate who does not work for the farmers' and small manufacturers' interests. In going through that section of the state bankers, farmers and business men are discussing the issues and platform Mr. Bryan stands on, and all that I could hear was favorable. As I have said, they do not dislike Mr. Taft personally, but they do not like the idea of his standing on Mr. Roosevelt's 'pins.'"

THE WASHINGTON correspondent for the Louisville Courier-Journal sends to his paper the following: "Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, is a busy man these days at the headquarters of the organization. Many important conferences are being held this week upon matters affecting the welfare of the vast army of members. As is generally known the Federation people have a few scores to settle politically this year with candidates who they claim are foes of organized labor, and it is a noteworthy fact that with scarcely an exception these foes are republicans. Mr. Gompers is beginning to receive letters from all industrial centers regarding his recent editorial in which he advised laboring men to oppose Judge Taft and to support Mr. Bryan on the ground that the democrats have shown that they are more friendly to laboring men than republicans in the demands they have been making before congress and the courts of the country. As soon as the purport of that editorial was sent out, the head of the Federation received telegrams of approval from most of the largest cities, but now letters are rolling in. The Federationist, organ of the organization, has been read and the position of Mr. Gompers has been thoroughly discussed in the local unions all over the country. Some of the strongest indorsements that have been given him are in Chicago. His advice from that big city are to the effect that in the meetings of the largest unions there is hardly a dissenting voice. This information quite naturally causes Mr. Gompers to feel elated and he evidently does not appear to be the least disturbed over reports which have appeared in numerous republican papers to the effect that organized labor will condemn him for the stand he has taken in the great contest."

SAMUEL GOMPERS, president; Frank Morrison, secretary, and John Mitchell, member of the executive committee of the American Federation of Labor, have been cited to appear before Judge Gould of the District of Columbia on September 8, and answer to the charge of contempt. They are charged with having violated the court's order not to put a certain stove

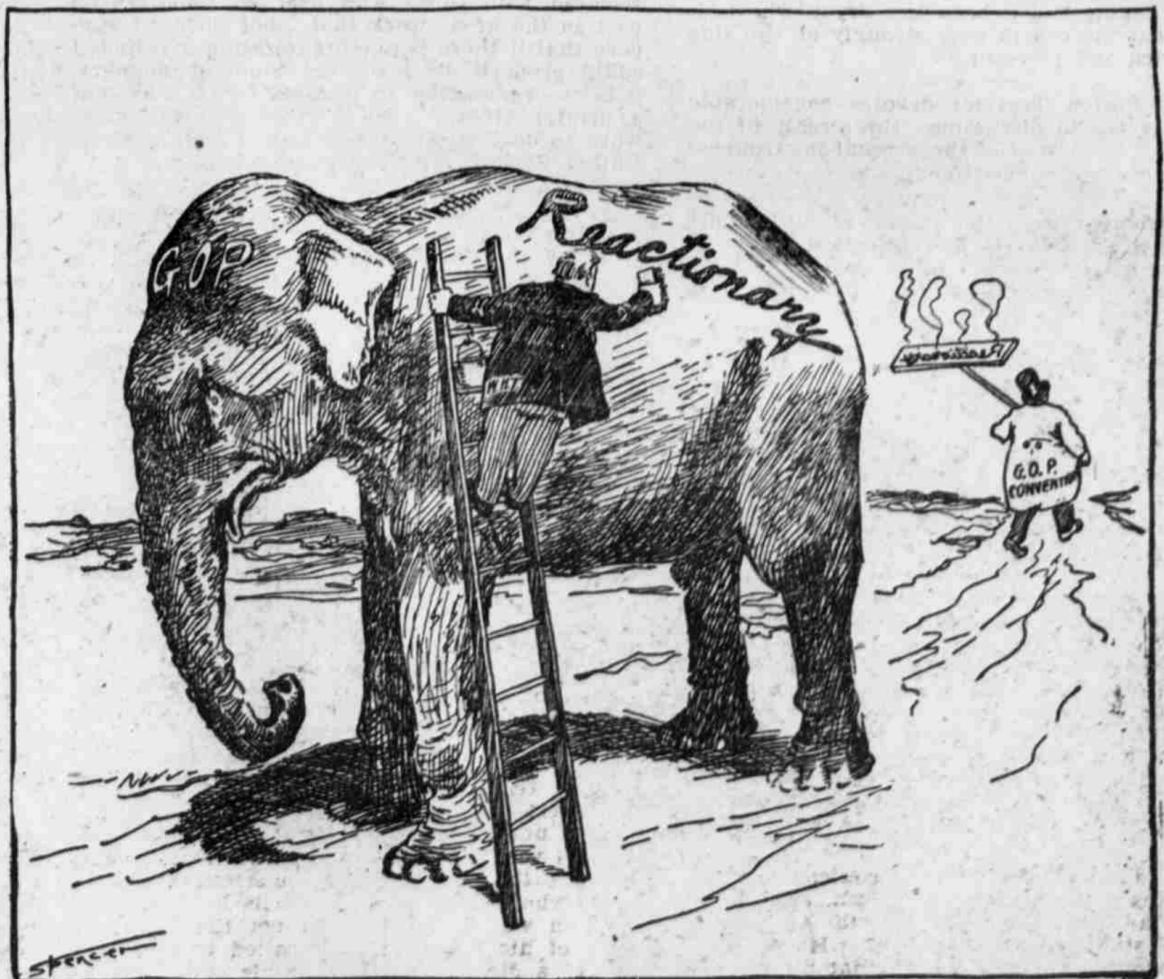
company's name in the "We don't patronize" list of the American Federationist, which is the official organ of the American Federation of Labor. The manager of the stove company, after claiming for many years that the "boycott" was really helping his business, brought suit before Judge Gould of the District of Columbia, asking an injunction to prevent further publication of the company's name in the Federationist. Judge Gould issued the restraining order. The company's manager now avers that the order has been disobeyed, and acting on this information Judge Gould has cited the officials to answer to contempt charges. Following the original order the Federationist dropped its "We don't patronize" list, but Mr. Gompers, the editor, commented on the order in every issue of the official organ. It is claimed that these comments were "sarcastic," "contemptuous" and "ingenious evasions" of the order. Mr. Gompers refuses to make any statement regarding the matter at this time except to say that as between obeying such an order and yielding his rights as an American citizen he will cling to his rights. Owing to the prominence in the labor movement of the men involved, and the public interest in the questions of injunctions and indirect contempt, the outcome of the case will be watched for with considerable eagerness.

A WASHINGTON dispatch to the New York World says "Attorney General Bonaparte smashed Oklahoma's Bryanite guarantee of bank deposits. In an opinion sent to the treasury department he held that it is beyond the power of a national bank to become a party to any deposit guaranteeing scheme. Therefore every national bank in Oklahoma will have to withdraw from the mutual deposit insurance scheme organized under the laws of Oklahoma in accordance with the suggestion of William J. Bryan. Practically every national bank in the new state is a party to the guarantee plan. Many of them went into it believing it to be meritorious. The others were forced in through loss of business. The comptroller of the cur-

rency has been fighting against the new departure since March. Some of the banks asked him for permission to join. He refused all requests, but refusals did not keep them out. Many national banks in Oklahoma have intimated to the comptroller of the currency that in the event they are forbidden to participate in the deposit guarantee they will give up their federal charters and reorganize under the banking laws of Oklahoma. All the participators in the plan advertise the fact that their deposits are guaranteed by the state and they are getting business away from national banks by reason of the guarantee, as well as from Kansas and Texas institutions. Mr. Bonaparte, in his opinion, lays down the broad proposition that a national bank is an instrument of the federal government, with no powers other than those conferred by the national banking laws. Nowhere can he find any authority permitting a bank to pledge any part of its resources to guarantee the debts of any other bank. That is what he thinks the Oklahoma guarantee scheme amounts to. By participating in the scheme he holds a national bank enters into an insurance scheme guaranteeing third parties against losses that may arise in transactions not a part of the business of the particular participating bank. While he admits the assessment is only one per cent of the average deposits, he points out the fact that there is a provision in the Oklahoma statute which amounts to a pledge of all the resources of the participators; that, he says, no national bank is authorized to do."

The Commoner will be sent from now until Election Day for Twenty-five Cents.

BRANDED



It won't come off, Mr. Taft