

Aldrich, republican leader of the senate and foremost advocate of the establishment of a central bank, has been in the middle west recently making numerous public addresses. It is interesting to note that while the democrats are strongly opposed to such a bank, a majority of the republicans in all sections are in an uncertain frame of mind. The World presents the following concrete expressions of opinion on this point: Against a central bank—Democrats (16) representing each of the four geographical divisions, Senators Johnson, Alabama; Fletcher, Florida; Congressmen Palmer, Pennsylvania; Nicholls, Pennsylvania; Small, North Carolina; Lamb, Virginia; Slayden, Texas; Ashbrook, Ohio; Barnhart, Indiana; Sabath, Illinois; Graham, Illinois; Borland, Missouri; Booher, Missouri; Latta, Nebraska; Martin, Colorado; Rucker, Colorado. Summing up the general drift of opinion on this bank question, it would seem that 90 per cent of the democrats are opposed to it, while 75 per cent of the republicans, regardless of sectional lines, are of undecided mind and apparently open to conviction. The next important question raised by President Taft is that of amending the Sherman anti-trust law so that its scope shall be narrowed to actual conspiracies and monopolies suppressing trade. This would relieve labor unions of liability in case of boycott and likewise exempt a great variety of corporations that are now technically violating the law. On this subject there is no division of opinion politically or sectionally, democrats and republicans alike can be divided into two classes—those who favor a revision of the law and those who are of doubtful opinion. They stand in about equal proportion in these two attitudes. Very few members of congress are opposed to considering the subject. Among those who declare openly for amendment of the law reducing its rigidity and scope are: Representatives Palmer of Pennsylvania; Nicholls, Pennsylvania; Spight, Mississippi; Ashbrook, Ohio; Barnhart, Indiana, Sabath, Illinois; Latta, Nebraska; Rucker, Colorado, all democrats. Among the republicans, Hayes, California; Kopp, Wisconsin; Pearre, Maryland; Fuller, Illinois, may be cited as specific examples of those who are decisively for amendment. The establishment of postal savings banks appears not to meet with the general favor claimed for it by persistent advocates in the past. On this subject, as with others at issue, there is no particular party line division. The proposition has strong advocates and strong opponents among both democrats and republicans. For example, out of twenty representative democratic members of congress with whom the World communicated on this subject eight declared for postal savings banks, nine reported themselves opposed, and three were not prepared to give an answer either way until examination of the details of the scheme. Similarly, among twenty republicans nine favored the plan, two opposed it, and nine preferred to give no definite answer. Among members of congress approached by the World on this subject there appears to be almost unanimity of opinion that a new law governing the practice of injunctions must be enacted. There is very little expressed opposition in either party, the only question being how strong a curb should be imposed. Among republicans, particularly those of the eastern and northern central states, there is a more favorable view to subsidies, as a number of representatives who assert that they have not yet made up their minds are inclined to take a rather lenient attitude toward the proposition.

THE UNITED STATES government has severed diplomatic relations with the government of Nicaragua. Secretary of State Knox on December 1 returned the passports of Felipe Rodriguez charge d' affairs of the Nicaraguan legation with a letter scathingly denouncing President Zelaya and his government. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says: "The letter is definitely declared to represent the views of President Taft, and is about as plainspoken as anything emanating from the state department in many years. The extraordinary feature of the letter is that it seems to evidence an intention on the part of the United States to hold President Zelaya personally responsible for the alleged torture and execution of the Americans, Cannon and Groce, and exhibited the unique situation of one government holding the chief executive of another practically as a common malefactor. Zelaya is branded as a violator of solemn international convention, a disturber of the national and international peace, a tyrant whose administration

has been a blot on the name of good government. Secretary Knox virtually announces the recognition of the Nicaraguan revolutionists, declares it to be the conviction of the United States that the revolution represents the sentiments of a majority of the Nicaraguan people, and that there is evidently no responsible government with which the United States can deal. He therefore announces that all parties will be held accountable for their actions as affecting the interests of Americans and the peace of Central America. He further informs Senor Rodriguez that while he has lost his diplomatic quality, he may still serve as an 'unofficial' channel of communication with the faction which he is regarded as representing. This brings the crisis as near to the status of war as it could be brought by executive action without a definite declaration by both houses of congress which will convene next Monday. Mr. Knox's letter in all but so many words makes it plain that the action represents the wish and attitude of all the Central American states with the single exception of Honduras, which is regarded here as entirely dominated by Zelaya. Mexico has all along shown its sympathy with the United States in this matter."

A STUDY FOR men and women everywhere is provided in the following news item printed in the Chicago Record-Herald of Thursday, December 2: "The benevolent management of 'Freiberg's,' Ike Bloom's notorious resort on Twenty-second street, yesterday served notice of a series of 'Christmas awards' on all the girls who frequent the place. The prizes are to be given to the girls who sell the most drinks between December 1 and January 1. They are three in number as follows: To the girl who sells the most drinks, \$100; to the next most proficient drink seller, \$50; to the third most proficient drink seller, \$25. About twenty girls are regular attendants at the dance hall and the monthly sales of drinks, especially during holiday seasons, run up to many thousands of dollars. Although the character of the resort is well known numerous efforts on the part of reform organizations to close it have been ineffective, chiefly because Alderman 'Bathhouse John' Coughlin, poet and cotillon leader of the First ward ball, owns the building which houses it. Formerly the resort was run in a rough-and-tumble fashion that brought down on it much public condemnation and even warnings from the police, but recently Bloom has put it on a 'business basis,' which has eliminated much unnecessary expense and brought in the money faster. Under this new regime 'Freiberg's' has become very exclusive as to the women who are admitted within its portals. Applications for 'positions' are referred by the attendant at the door to Bloom himself, who, before accepting any girl, makes her subscribe to a series of rules of which the following are a few: 'All girls must be in the hall by 9 a. m. and must remain until 3 a. m. No girl may leave without the verbal or tacit consent of the manager. No girl may refuse a drink if her companion offers to 'buy.' She need not drink it, but she must accept it.' The only pay the girls receive is the right to remain in the place. All the 'house' gets out of it is the profit on the drinks—but that's plenty. A complete system of white slavery is, however, obvious. Largely on account of the political influence that is back of the place 'Freiberg's' has been immune from the order recently enforced against all the other resorts in the district, requiring that no men shall be employed on the premises. So far as the moral tone of 'Freiberg's' is concerned it is no better than the worst 'joint' in the 'tenderloin.'"

AN INTERESTING statement relating to the government's revenue through the liquor traffic is given in Washington dispatches. These dispatches relate to the annual report made by the commissioner of internal revenue. According to this report the receipts from taxes on whiskey were \$5,509,831 less during the fiscal year of 1909 than in the preceding year and on ales and beers, \$2,444,183 less. Apparently, if the figures are any indication, the drinkers turned to tobacco for solace in their deprivation, for the revenues from that source increased during the same period \$2,024,423. The largest increase was in chewing and pipe tobacco, \$1,478,875 and the revenue from cigarettes increased \$722,912. The total revenues amounted to \$246,212,719, of which \$128,315,181 came from spirits, \$56,303,496 from fermented

liquors, and \$51,887,187 from tobacco. The cigarette habit is steadily growing despite the efforts of legislatures in some of the states. There were 6,086,291,908 "coffin nails" smoked during this fiscal year, an increase of 703,087-278 over the amount consumed in 1908. At the same time there was a decrease of 152,185,830 in the number of cigars smoked and an increase of 24,647,925 pounds of smoking and chewing tobacco consumed. The snuff habit also seems to be growing, for there were 27,019,627 pounds of this sneeze mixture sold during the year, an increase of 4,471,866 pounds over the preceding year. The commissioner estimates that the receipts from the tax on corporations will produce \$15,000,000 in 1910 and \$52,000,000 in 1911. The cost of collecting the internal revenues for the past fiscal year was 2.02 per cent, compared with the average cost of 2.69 per cent since the creation of the bureau. The states producing the largest quantities of spirits are Illinois, 37,793,376 gallons; Indiana, 21,916,486 gallons; Kentucky, 27,524,275 gallons, and Ohio, 9,119,611 gallons. New York leads in the production of ales and beers, followed by Pennsylvania, Illinois and Wisconsin. Pennsylvania and New York produced the greatest number of cigars, New York the largest number of cigarettes and North Carolina and Missouri ran close in the amount of smoking and chewing tobacco produced. Because of the restrictive legislation against the sale of liquors in the southern states, there has been an increase in the number of seizures of property for violation of the internal revenue laws in that section. In Georgia there were 688 such seizures, in Alabama 228, North Carolina 450, South Carolina 219, Virginia 204 and Tennessee 108. The total value of property seized during the year was \$543,255.

REFERRING TO the result of the liquor fight in Alabama the New York World says: "Alabama has rejected by a substantial majority the proposed prohibition amendment to the state constitution, but the fact does not necessarily imply a repudiation of prohibition. All that the state has done is to refuse to make abstinence a constitutional question. It declines to bind itself irrevocably to prohibition. The opposition of temperance leaders to the amendment and the reversal of the vote of cities and counties which had long—in some cases for twenty years—given their support to prohibition under local option may properly be taken as evidencing a view of temperance as a question of legislation and not of fundamental law. It was moreover inevitable that a reaction should occur against a drastic law rigidly enforced. A protest against the strict enforcement legislation enacted last August may perhaps be discerned in the result of Monday's election. But even so, the verdict is not conclusive. The liquor interests may be expected to make the most of this apparent setback to the dry law. It is their first victory to break a long series of defeats. Prohibition has made gains during the past twelve months in thirty states. Nine states with a population of above 12,000,000 have prohibition laws—Maine, Kansas, North Dakota, Georgia, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee, where liquor traffic was stopped last July and the manufacture of liquor abolished after December 31 next. Florida will vote next year on state prohibition, and active temperance campaigns are in progress in twelve other states. There are 375 prohibition cities with a population of 2,000,000, and no one knows quite how many inhabitants of towns and counties living under 'dry' conditions by local option. The Alabama verdict may prove hardly more than a temporary check to the impetus of the extraordinary wave of prohibition sentiment."

#### MR. STEVENSON'S BOOK

Mr. Bryan has just received an autograph copy of a book recently issued by a former vice president, Adlai E. Stevenson, through his publishers, A. C. McClurg & Co., of Chicago. The title of the book is "Something of Men I Have Known." Those who are acquainted with Mr. Stevenson personally need not be assured that the book is worth reading. Mr. Stevenson has had an unusual opportunity to meet and know personally the great men who have come into prominence since the civil war. His skill in narrative has given him more than national renown, and his comments upon the men whom he has known will enhance his reputation. Those who read "Something of Men I Have Known" will add to their store of general knowledge, as the book will be an invaluable addition to this department of literature.