

tween the republican and democratic parties today consist in the holding of the certificates of election. The results, so far as the people are concerned, are just about the same.

Congressman Humphrey of Washington is bemoaning the fact that with the largest commerce of any nation, we have the smallest merchant marine. The reason is not far to seek—it is in our foolish, criminally foolish, shipping laws, aided and abetted by fool tariff laws. To be permitted to fly the American flag at the masthead one must build the ship in an American shipyard, where the raw material is double the price of the same raw material in Canada or Great Britain, all owing to the tariff. As a natural result shipbuilders go to the Clyde for their ships. Suppose you were to build at Buffalo a vessel to engage in the lake-carrying trade, it would cost you about 50 per cent more than if you built it in Toronto. And suppose that vessel should be caught in a storm on the lake and seriously damaged. And suppose you had to have that damage repaired in the shipyards at Toronto at an expense of \$5,000 before you could return and dock at Buffalo. Well, before you could dock at Buffalo and discharge your cargo you would have to pay a tariff tax of about 40 per cent on the \$5,000 worth of repairs you were compelled to get in Toronto. Lovely system, isn't it? And yet we bemoan the fact that our merchant marine is nil! Our national lawmakers have been guilty of many foolish things. One of the most foolish was the destruction of our merchant marine under the guise of "protection to American industries." Ship subsidy will not remedy the mistake, either; it will only intensify it.

Mayor Love has set a bunch of hornets buzzing around his ears by his recent interview in a Sioux City paper. The mayor is quoted as saying that labor was never better employed in Lincoln than at present, and any man conversant with the fact knows better.

Following the policy of a few so-called business men of advertising abroad that Lincoln needed mechanics in the building trades, the purpose being to beat down the wage scale and lengthen the working day, the city filled up with mechanics in these lines. The result is that building trades men were last summer idle in larger proportions than during any previous building season in ten years. It is all easy enough to say that there is plenty of work; it is hard to find it sometimes. And the man who has spent his life as a carpenter would make a poor out at digging sewer ditches, or surfacing railroad track. We opine that it would not be difficult for Mayor Love, who is a lawyer by profession, to get a job on a street railway repair gang, but we also opine that he would starve to death on the wages he could earn at it if paid in proportion to the work he performed in comparison with men who have spent a lifetime at that arduous and underpaid labor. Such interviews as Mayor Love gave out can have but one result, that of inducing more men to come to Lincoln in the hope of finding plenty of employment, and thus adding to the already large army of unemployed.

The railway postal clerks are at last showing symptoms of asserting their rights, despite the edict of the postmaster general that they must remain content to act as mere machines, deprived of the right to petition congress for redress of grievances and compelled to wear padlocks on their mouths. It would be merely showing their independence and their sturdy citizenship if they went on strike. Postmaster General Hitchcock's so-called plan of economy is nothing more nor less than compelling the already underpaid and overworked postal clerks to bear the burden imposed by antediluvian methods in the postal department. Men who point to the postal department as an argument in favor of government control and operation make a sad mistake. The fact is that the "P. O. D." is about the best possible argument against government ownership and control.

## TALKING OF MEN AND THINGS

Governor Woodrow Wilson has disappointed his enemies and made good the boasts of his friends. We say this because heretofore we have not held Governor Wilson in high esteem. During the last campaign this humble little paper said some very harsh things about Mr. Wilson, which harsh things were widely quoted by his opponents in New Jersey. Up to that time he had not given evidence of being friendly to organized labor interests, and had shown signs of being quite willing to be used as a stalking horse for special and selfish interests. Maybe we were laboring under a mistake, but we are inclined to believe that the sudden assumption of responsibility aroused Mr. Wilson to a better understanding of some things. Whatever the cause, it is quite evident that Woodrow Wilson, governor of New Jersey, is not the same Woodrow Wilson who was at the head of a great educational institution. When he succeeded in defeating James T. Smith, jr., who wanted to return to the senate after an enforced vacation, and compelled the legislature to carry out the expressed will of the people by electing James E. Martine, he elevated himself immeasurably in the opinion of all good citizens. The indications point clearly to the fact that Governor Woodrow Wilson is not going to be the stalking horse that the special and selfish interests imagined he would be.

City Councilman Michael Bauer left Tuesday for New York, from whence he will soon sail for Germany, his native land, where he will visit for a couple of months. If "Mike" has as good a time in the Fatherland as thousands of Lincoln people hope he will the danger is that he will not care to return, and in that case we'd lose a citizen who is too good to lose. After "Mike" has properly shouted "Hoch, der Kaiser," a few times, walked up and down the Strasse until leg weary, and properly assimilated some of the real brown goods, we hope he will turn his face again towards Yankeeland, and hurry back to tell us all about the good time he had.

Senator-elect Luke Lea of Tennessee is an independent democrat, and his election is a merited rebuke to the democratic wing in that state which put whisky ahead of principle. Pattersonism in Tennessee put the Tennessee democracy "on the bum." Nebraska democrats now know what kind of "ism" put Nebraska democracy "on the bum" last November.

When public-spirited men like Col. C. J. Bills take hold of a public enterprise like the city hospital project, it always happens that a bunch of "knockers" jump up and begin shouting that there is a "nigger in the woodpile." It is this sort of thing that discourages men of means and willingness from performing distinct service for the municipality. Col. Bills makes red-hot reply to the "knockers" on the hospital project, and makes it clear that he and his associates in the project are wholly disinterested, having in

view the best for the city. If every "knocker" in Lincoln were to throw his hammer down at the same instant, we greatly fear the shock would jar some of the big buildings from their foundations.

It seems that Senator Cummins, after making "progressiveness" a good enough Morgan to ride into the senate upon, is now willing to slough off some of his progressiveness if it promises to help him in holding on to the job. When Cummins stood up in Chicago, and later in Lincoln, and declared in effect that the poorest kind of a republican suited him better than the best kind of a democrat, he exposed the fact that his progressiveness was only skin deep. Now that he is working for the confirmation of Walter I. Smith he adds to the evidence. Smith is his old time enemy, the representative of the Iowa "standpatters," and the man Cummins most fears when the time comes for the election of a successor to Cummins.

The unprovoked murder of David Graham Phillips, newspaperman and novelist, inflicts a sore loss upon the reading public. Phillips was of the new school which writes of red-blooded men, deals with present day problems from the standpoint of the public's interests, and calls a spade a spade. His first successful novel, "The Great God Success," was the stirring expose of the methods that obtain in modern daily newspaper offices, and was the beginning of a series of novels that had much to do with shearing the daily press of its powers of evil along lines of making "big business" rather than the interests of the people paramount. That he should be cut down in his prime, thus depriving the nation of his splendid ability and service, is deplored from one end of the land to the other. Phillips, like William Norris, was stricken just at the moment when ability was in its best flower.

Fred Warren, editor of the Appeal to Reason, has refused to endorse a petition for his pardon. Acceptance of a pardon is taken usually as an evidence of guilt, and Warren declares—and we so believe—that he has not been guilty of any crime. He was sentenced to one year in the military prison for having offered to pay a reward to any man who would perform an act exactly like one that the supreme court of the United States declared to be perfectly proper. When Moyer and Haywood were kidnaped from Colorado and run over into Idaho, Warren offered \$10,000 reward to any man or men who would kidnap ex-Governor Taylor of Kentucky, then and now a fugitive from justice in Ohio, and return him to Kentucky. The supreme court declared that the kidnaping of Moyer and Haywood was all right, but a federal judge sentenced Warren to prison for asking some one to do for Taylor what had been done for Moyer and Haywood. Under the circumstances Warren does well not to consent to a petition for his pardon. Warren in jail under such