

TWO GOVERNORS.

Pennsylvania's new governor, like the new governor of New York, was nominated because of his good personal abilities and reputation, by a political ring whose reputation was anything but savory. A good man had to be nominated in each case to prevent certain defeat at the hands of an aroused people. In each case baneful influences in state politics gave their support to these candidates, and they were elected while protesting their entire lack of sympathy for this sort of support. Whether or not it is possible for a governor to be independent after receiving such support has been one of the subjects of speculation since the election in these states. Thus far Governor Hughes has given every indication of perfect independence and integrity. When it appeared the other day that the legislature had been organized by the same old hand he said simply that he should appeal from the legislature to the people in case the former refused to carry out the promises made to the latter as the price of their election.

Governor Stuart has but just now taken charge of his office, and his inaugural message rings as true as did that of Governor Hughes. Whether he, too, means what he says we shall have an early opportunity to judge. William A. Martin, a Pittsburg councilman, was last week convicted of bribery. He says that he will not go to prison alone, that the rest of the profit takers must go with him. The Pittsburg grafting machine is a part of the state machine. Their hope of closing Martin's mouth lies in the chance of securing his pardon from the governor. The real test, one stronger than words, will come on the governor's action in this case.

AN OPENING WEDGE.

By the help of two members whose political existence by decree of their constituents ends six weeks hence, the house committee on merchant marine and fisheries has reported favorably a ship subsidy bill. The vote stood 8 to 7. But for our blessed device of letting men serve a session in congress after their successors are elected the tale would have been different, for two affirmative votes were those of Representatives Grosvenor and Littauer. The bill recommended by the house committee against the protest of Nebraska's representative on the committee, Mr. Henshaw, proposes to spend \$3,750,000 a year to subsidize seven lines of steamships running between the United States and South America and between the Pacific coast and the orient. To try to keep seven intercontinental lines of steamers going on a four million dollar subsidy looks much like trying to irrigate a Nevada desert with a garden hose; and so, no doubt, it looks to the subsidy hunters who get much less than they asked for if the bill passes as recommended. But it is an opening wedge. Four million dollars will make the beneficiaries just so much stronger in their pressure for more millions later on and herein lies largely the opposition to the subsidy in the minds of probably a vast majority of the people. It finances at public expense the effort of one more interest to control our representatives at Washington, and there are already too many of that sort there.

Samuel Pomeroy Colt, organizer and master of the rubber trust, received thirty-nine votes for senator on the first ballot of the Rhode Island legislature, seventeen short of the number necessary to elect. Senator Wetmore, who is a candidate for re-election, received thirty-one votes, and William Goddard, millionaire banker and merchant, received forty-one. In this mill of the millionaires the real fight is probably to be between Wetmore and the rubber king. Mr. Goddard announced his candidacy as an independent on a reform platform last May, and being supported at the polls by untethered voters of both parties received a strong popular endorsement. The forty-one votes which he received in the first legislative ballot represented a large majority of the people of Rhode Island, though by no means a majority of the legislature. It is not in the least likely that he can draw votes from either Wetmore or Colt, and the first ballot probably expressed his greatest strength. Senator Wetmore was the only avowed candidate against Mr. Goddard before election, but he starts eight votes behind Mr. Colt. Either Wetmore or Colt is supposed to be satisfactory to Senator Aldrich, and they will probably be allowed to spar for points before Boss Brayton is sent in to award the prize. The proceeding should add impetus to the movement for the popular election of senators.

Lincoln is not alone in trouble to keep its preachers. The Biblical World complains that the shortage of good preachers is general and alarming. Theological unrest has deterred many, it thinks, and the stampede to commercialism and its more distinctly visible rewards has carried with it much good timber that might in a more spiritual age have devoted itself to laying

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up less destructible though less glittering treasure. All religious leaders admit that there has been a loss in the number of men entering the ministry in the last twenty years, though some now maintain that the number has remained stationary since the turn of the century. There is a disposition to claim that the decline in number has been accompanied moreover by a shrinkage in general ability. This may be a deceiving appearance, due to the lack of such mountain peak preachers as Beecher to attract attention to the great ability of some pulpits, but the fact remains that the competition for the successful preacher is extremely severe just now; enough so, perhaps, to stimulate the inflow of the theological schools somewhat. In fact, it was reported by numerous seminaries last fall that their attendance this year shows a gain over past years.

AT KINGSTON.

Earthquakes are ever a comparatively regular reminder that man peopled the earth before the earth was altogether ready for him. A third exceptionally disastrous shock within a single year on the western continent alone impresses upon us with extraordinary force the flimsiness of our footing here. There is an average loss of life from earthquake of about 3,500 people, but the western hemisphere alone has approximately contributed the full average number within ten months in the three disasters of San Francisco, Valparaiso and Kingston. The average is swelled by the destructiveness of earthquakes in the more populous orient, for instance the earthquake of 1891 in Japan which killed 9,960, and that of 1896 in the same country when nearly thirty thousand lost their lives.

An element in the disasters of the past ten months affects even our prairie states, where we feel fairly secure from anything more than the mildest of mundane eccentricities. This is the wide distribution of the economic loss involved. In Nebraska the people suspect that they are now paying in insurance premiums a share of the three hundred million dollars of property loss from the San Francisco disaster.

The property loss in Jamaica will be nothing like so great as was the case in San Francisco, but in a society that never has more than a few months' "living" laid up in advance a dead loss such as this disaster involves, falls with some weight. The direct property loss is of course not all. There is the enforced idleness of hundreds of people for a considerable time, and a reaction upon foreign trade with the island that will affect many countries with greater or less seriousness. The Kingston disaster will have its effect, perhaps at a remote time and not great enough to be visible to untrained eyes, upon the general prosperity of the United States.

THE PEOPLE'S LOBBY.

Somewhat less than two hundred years ago newspapers first began to print accounts of the sessions of parliament in Great Britain. The members did not like it. They solemnly resolved that to publish accounts of their proceedings was a breach of privilege, that it made the members accountable to their constituents, and they forbade the newspapers to continue the practice. The newspapers fortunately braved the wrath of parliament, and though many of the editors went to jail for their temerity they kept at it until the idea of the accountability of legislators to their constituents became soundly established. A point has now been reached when even the services of the papers have proved insufficient or unsatisfactory as a connecting link between legislator and constituent and three years ago the citizens' union of New York city established a publicity bureau at Albany to keep tab on the individual lawmakers in all details of their conduct. This was the original or at least the precursor of the people's lobby just now getting into action at Washington. An instance of the effect upon a constituency of detailed knowledge of a representative's record is found in the case of Charles Cooper, long a member from Kings county. The report of the publicity bureau showed that he was conspicuous for special and personal legislation, an "intelligent and dangerous" representative. He was re-nominated, but ran nearly nine thousand votes behind the head of his ticket and was defeated.

THE DIPSOMANIACS.

There is some demand in Nebraska for a repeal of the dipsomaniac law permitting the commitment of habitual drunkards to an asylum for treatment. The lack of facilities due to insufficient hospital room figures in the objections, and there is further the occasional assertion that the results in permanent cures have not justified the trouble and expense. The plan seems to have been an undoubted success in Connecticut, where it has been longer under test. Possibly the difference in result comes in some measure from the difference in practice that the minimum period of commitment in Connecticut is one year, whereas in Nebraska no such minimum is required or enforced. In New York an effort is being made to have authorized private hospitals or colonies of dipsomaniacs to which inebriates may be consigned for cure at the request of relatives who are able and willing to foot the bills. There will always, of course, be a certain proportion of failures from the dipsomaniac treatment. There is no doubt that such treatments may remove the craving for alcohol or drugs but there is no way of preventing the person who is fool enough to do it, from deliberately reacquiring the habit. It might be argued in spite of this that the system saves all who from the social standpoint are worth saving.

With all his faults, Senator Tiltman has never had to answer a charge of disingenuousness. He seems often to be governed by violent prejudices, but he says what he thinks and seems to be incapable of dissembling to achieve an end. As an implacable opponent of President Roosevelt he prefers to attack him squarely for his action in the Brownsville case rather than try to injure him from ambush by pretending to support him as a measure of hostility to the negroes. That kind of work is left for the Missouri legislature and perhaps some other senators.

Colorado's law-makers believe that when a man has paid for a thing he ought to have it. The senatorship was sold to Simon Guggenheim and the impression has gone abroad that he paid all it was worth.