

President Harrison, upon the endorsement of Justice Brewer.

No active opposition to the nomination of Mr. Bryan or the endorsement of the Chicago platform developed at the meeting, but the date decided upon of holding the national convention may have a purpose, not yet fully appreciated, that may mean disaster to the Nebraskan. Mr. Bryan and his friends were in favor of holding the convention prior to the meeting of the populists so as to avoid any embarrassments that might result from a nomination at the hands of the populists before he had been named by the democrats. The committee, however, notwithstanding the expressed wish of Mr. Bryan, decided upon July 4th as the time for the convention, nearly two months after the meeting of the populists.

If the populists should nominate Bryan, as it is expected they will do, it is apt to complicate the situation quite materially. Mr. Bryan could not afford to endanger his standing with the populists by declining the nomination. On the other hand, it would be equally impolitic for him to accept, thereby becoming a populist and discrediting himself as a democrat. The situation is extremely delicate and the query naturally arises, was there not method on the part of the committee in placing Mr. Bryan in a box from which, apparently, it will be quite difficult for him to extricate himself? Had the committee been so disposed, would it not have been as easy to have acceded to his wish in the matter of time as it was in regard to the place? In the event of a populist nomination, it is quite probable that Mr. Bryan will attempt to postpone an acceptance until after the democratic convention.

When interviewed in regard to the action of the committee, Mr. Bryan is reported to have said:

"I do not think that the location of the convention is of great importance from a party standpoint. It is more a matter of convenience to the delegates and visitors than of party advantage, although, of course, there is little advantage in the enthusiasm aroused in the immediate neighborhood of the convention."

It is quite significant that he maintained a profound silence in regard to the time of holding the convention and commented only on the noise and place.

ROOSEVELT. Governor Roosevelt has just appointed Hugh McRoberts as quarantine commissioner. McRoberts achieved no little notoriety while treasurer of Richmond county from 1873 to 1876. According to the records of the board of supervisors, he was a defaulter to the extent of \$72,000. The governor is the object of a great deal of criticism because of this appointment alleged to have been made at the dictation of the

machine in spite of the protest of the respectable element of his party. People are wondering if the governor is not, like many other highminded men who have entered political life with lofty ideals, falling from grace and serving the interests he so violently opposed but a little over a year ago. Can it be that his aspirations for 1904 are causing him to now attend to the preliminaries?

FREIGHT RATES. Judge Munger, of the federal court, has issued a restraining order preventing the state board of transportation from putting in force the reduction of rates contemplated until a hearing of the case by the court. The United States supreme court perpetually enjoined the state board of transportation and the railroads from enforcing the rates under the Newberry Bill of 1893, on the ground that the rates fixed by the law did not yield the companies a reasonable return on their investments. It was also stipulated that the rates could not be changed in the future without first making a showing to the court that the conditions justified a reduction and that the companies would be able to realize a fair return. The board made the reduction and sought to enforce it without first having obtained from the federal court a modification of the decree. It was upon this ground that the restraining order was issued.

NICARAGUAN CANAL. Serious opposition to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, negotiated with Great Britain to permit the construction of the Nicaraguan canal, has developed in congress and on the part of the press of the country. The principle points involved in the treaty are, that Great Britain guarantees the right of constructing the canal and the United States the neutrality of it and in case of war guarantees not to fortify it.

It has aroused a storm of criticism on the part of newspapers, heretofore friendly to the administration, notable among them, the New York Sun and Times-Herald. It is opposed on the ground that it is a revival of the most obnoxious feature of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, viz.: the concession to Great Britain of the right to interfere in American affairs. This is held to be a violation of the Monroe Doctrine. By inviting foreign nations to assist in establishing the neutrality of the canal it is urged that we invite them to a participation in American affairs, which also violates the Monroe Doctrine. The argument is also advanced that if we build the canal we should reserve to ourselves the right of protecting it as we would any other property.

The friends of the treaty, in speaking of the neutrality provision, declare that no other policy is warranted in the pres-

ent advanced state of civilization and commerce among nations, and look upon it as a way of promoting international unity and amity. They also declare that the neutrality of waterways is what the United States has always insisted upon; that it was what we demanded in the case of the strait of Gibraltar and the entrance to the Baltic Sea, and have made a similar announcement relative to the Yukon river. It is quite probable, because of the determined opposition apparent in the senate, that the treaty will be amended before being reported.

AMERICAN CONSULS. Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister, in an address

delivered at the University of Pennsylvania, in commemoration of Washington's birthday, made some observations relative to the American consular system, that are timely and worthy of consideration. He said:

"One of the first requisites toward maintaining proper relations with the orientals is to understand their ideas and to judge them, not by your standard, but by theirs. This is as much applicable to commercial and social intercourse as to diplomatic and international affairs. I must acknowledge that your diplomatic and consular officers in China have thus far acquitted themselves well, considering the disadvantageous position in which they are placed. Most of the European governments send young men to the east to learn the language and study the customs of the country; after a residence of two or three years, when they prove themselves proficient, after passing a strict examination, they are then placed in responsible positions as student interpreters, consular assistants, etc. Merit is rewarded by promotion. Thus those governments have competent men specially fitted for service in the orient. It may not be unwise for your government to adopt a similar system."

HOW LONG? How long before the manufacturers

of oleomargarine assemble in national convention and demand legislation from congress to protect their wholesome product against fraudulent imitation by bad country butter?

Much nasty, rancid, worked-over and chemically "fixed" butter is on the market. It might be sold as oleomargarine. In the name and for the fame of the fat American steer, from whose tallow oleomargarine is evolved, legislation is demanded by the oleomargarine makers. When will they convene and command congress as the butter-makers did?

The Supreme Court of Missouri has just declared the anti-department store law, passed at the last session of the legislature, to be unconstitutional. The law was intended to operate against the large department stores and applied only to cities of over 50,000.