

IF. If the steamship subsidy appropriation had been made an issue and favorably discussed by Mr. Burkett, would he have been elected over Berge who would have argued against it?

If Mark Hanna, in his western speeches had assured the people that he would immediately, upon the reassembling of congress, press a gift from all the people to a few shipbuilding folks of millions upon millions of dollars, would he have gained votes or lost votes for McKinley?

NOT A JOKE. A well known Topeka lawyer referring to the poly-partied statesman of the Platte, says: "When I think of Mr. Bryan I think of an Indian chief that I met up in Western Nebraska a great many years ago. His name was Ta-tame-ne, and it was translated to me as 'Walking Wind,' or 'The Wind That Walks.' It was indeed a very poetic name and quite applicable to a level country. The chief was a very quiet Indian and did not talk much. He was not probably in politics. He was not a joke. He probably never asked for a nomination."

MAKES A BREAK. The Omaha World-Herald of the 6th inst. has a scare head line; "Grosvenor Makes a Break." Then that remarkable journal explains that the "break" was an endorsement of President Cleveland for putting down a riot in Chicago with federal soldiers.

The W-H. evidently never heard that the house and the senate made the same "break" years ago, with unanimity. The W-H. is also luminously ignorant of the fact that the supreme court of the United States likewise made the same "break" and without dissent, declared that Grover Cleveland, in crushing out anarchy and Altgeldism in Chicago, as president of the United States, acted wisely, lawfully and efficiently. He discharged his duty as under his oath, he knew and appreciated his constitutional authority.

POLITICAL PARTIES. In the introduction to his most entertaining and instructive book "The American Commonwealth" James Bryce remarks:

"The whole machinery, of the national and state governments, is worked by the political parties. Parties have been organized far more elaborately in the United States than anywhere else in the world, and have passed more completely under the control of a professional class. The party organizers, in fact, form a second body of political machinery existing side by side with that of the legally constituted government, and are scarcely less complicated. Politics, considered not as the science of government, but as the art of winning elections and securing office, has reached in the United States a development, surpassing in

elaborateness that of England or France as much as the methods of those countries surpass the methods of Servia and Roumania."

Mr. Bryce wrote this before "the art" had achieved the election of Clark in Montana and Quay in Pennsylvania. His book is good as a thought suggester. Every patriotic citizen ought to read Bryce and do some thinking in behalf of honest, just and efficient government for Americans.

HIS ORCHARD. It was a bright balmy morning in April, more than a quarter of a century ago. The sun was nursing the young grass into verdure and the prairie was just beginning to put off its winter coat of sombre colorings. Tranquil skies and morning mists were redolent at Arbor Lodge of the coming resurrection of the foliage and flowers that died the autumn before. All about the cottage home there was hope and peace; and everywhere the signs of woman's watchful love and tidy care, when suddenly, toned with affectionate solicitude, rang out:

"Carl! Carl!" but no answer came. Down stairs, up stairs, at the barn, even in the well, everywhere, the mother's voice called anxiously again and again. But the silence, menacing and frightening was unbroken by an answer from the lost boy. At last, however, he was found behind a smoke-house busily digging in the ground with a small spade, though only five years of age, and he said: "I'm too busy to talk. I'm planting an orchard;" and sure enough he had set out a tiny seedling apple tree, a small cottonwood and a little elm.

The delighted mother clasped him in her arms, kissed him and said: "This orchard must not be destroyed."

And so now

"I hear the muffled tramp of years
Come stealing up the slopes of Time;
They bear a train of smiles and tears,
Of burning hopes and dreams sublime."

The child's orchard is more than thirty years of age. The cottonwood is a giant now and its vibrant foliage talks, summer after summer, in the evening breeze with human like voice, and tells its life-story to the graceful, swaying elm nearby, while the gnarled and scrubby little apple tree shaped, as to its head, like a despondent toadstool, stands in dual shade and bears small sweet apples, year after year, in all humility. But that orchard must not be destroyed. It was established by the youngest tree planter who ever planted in this tree planters state and for his sake and the memory of the sweet soul who nursed and loved him, it lives and grows, one cottonwood, one apple tree, one elm.

"But O, for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still."

The memories that live and bloom in trees, that whisper of the loved and lost in summer leaves are as imperishable as the seasons of the year—immortal as the love of a mother.

POSTAL REVENUES.

The annual report of Postmaster General Smith shows a deficit of \$5,385,688 for the year. While it is gratifying that the deficit is less than preceding years it is disappointing that the department cannot be brought to a paying basis. The postal service should be self-supporting. Our postal laws should be amended to prevent abuses now so flagrant in the transportation of second-class matter. The laws are so lax that tons of bulky advertising literature, gotten out in magazine form, are registered as second-class and passed through the mails at great loss to the government. If the law was amended and these abuses abolished the Postmaster General estimates that the saving would be between \$12,000,000 and \$20,000,000 annually. This would enable the revenues of the department to meet all expenditures and at the same time afford the means of making many legitimate and needed improvements.

Speaking of the proposed change in the postal laws, Postmaster General Smith makes this timely comment:

Amend the Law.

"The measure of reform naturally encounters the strenuous hostility of the limited special interests, the expense of whose private business is now largely paid by the government instead of by themselves. But this antagonism alone is not enough to defeat it. There is opposition of a different character which rests on a misconception and which ought to be removed. It is founded on a fear that the proposed act is aimed in part at some legitimate publications of the second class, and that its enactment would deprive them of the privileges which the existing law intends they should possess. This is a complete misapprehension. It is not sought to change the policy of the present law or to abridge the privileges it confers upon regular and legitimate publications for the dissemination of public intelligence.

"It is only sought to cut off the abuses which the law never contemplated and which have crept in through the ambiguity of its provisions or through doubtful interpretations that have opened a wide door for wrongful entries. It is aimed at the serial paper-covered books, at the private 'house organs,' at the spurious trade journals, and sheets of an exclusive advertising character, at bulk distribution which is falsely called subscriptions, and at the repeated turn and overturn by news agents of unsold periodicals. There is no objection to serving these purely private enterprises through the mails, but there is no reason why the government should carry them at the second-class rate of a cent a pound, involving a dead loss to it of millions of dollars a year, when other articles of the same kind rightfully pay the third-class rate of 8 cents a pound."