

DEMOCRACY. The Chicago Record of January 4th contains the subjoined from that pre-historic republican authority whose name is appended:

"W. L. Dale of Pierceburg, Ill., quotes Mr. Cleveland as saying that the democratic party can win success only by 'adherence to recognized democratic principles,' and then asks, 'What are recognized democratic principles?' That is an easy question. Recognized democratic principles are found in a pure and unadulterated state in the mixings of Thomas Jefferson, the discoverer of democracy, and can be interpreted by the leaders of that party. There is some confusion in the democratic party owing to differences in the interpretation of Mr. Jefferson's principles, just as there is in the church owing to the difference of opinion as to the meaning of certain language in the epistles of St. Paul.

"Jefferson was to the democratic party what St. Paul was to the Christian church. Both of them wrote many epistles. They were able, wise, clear and comprehensive, but, owing to mental astigmatism or some other reason, certain passages in the writings of both convey different meanings to different people. For example, Mr. Cleveland and Senator Jones of Arkansas agree precisely with Mr. Jefferson, but Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Jones do not agree with each other. Mr. Hill of New York and Mr. Croker, both true and genuine democrats, also agree with Mr. Jefferson, but differ on recognized democratic principles so far as the management of the party in New York is concerned. Mr. Croker rejects what Mr. Hill advocates and vice versa.

"An even more striking illustration is found in Nebraska. J. Sterling Morton, sometimes called the sage of Arbor Lodge, has adhered consistently to 'recognized democratic principles' in times of trials and in times of triumph, and his views are as sweet, pure and unadulterated as the maple syrup that comes from Vermont in hermetically sealed jars. Mr. Morton cultivates the germs of democracy at Arbor Lodge and disseminates them through a weekly newspaper called THE CONSERVATIVE, which is sent free to those who seek after truth and to all others at the uniform price of \$1.50 a year. Not far distant, in a neighboring town, another distinguished expounder is preparing to expound the recognized principles of the democratic party in a similar manner for the benefit of all who subscribe. (The terms of subscription may be obtained by applying to William J. Bryan, editor and publisher, Lincoln, Neb.)

"So long as the country has the benefit of THE CONSERVATIVE and the paper which Mr. Bryan is about to publish there ought to be no difficulty for any one to determine what recognized demo-

cratic principles are. If Mr. Dale and other inquisitive persons do not find them in Mr. Bryan's paper, they should search the columns of Mr. Morton's CONSERVATIVE, and, to use a phrase which seems apropos in this connection, they can pay their money and take their choice.

"As a precaution, however, before a final determination of the question, it might be well to consult Messrs. Cleveland and Jones and Messrs. Hill and Croker.

WILLIAM E. CURTIS."

THE ARMY BILL. The Army bill is now before the senate. The feeling is apparently growing that the insurrection in the Philippines is no nearer an end than it was several years ago. General MacArthur's casualty reports continue to come in with uninterrupted regularity and with no material decrease. The conviction is gaining ground that it will take years of hard fighting to effectually subjugate the islands and bring them completely under American control. Quite a number of the senators, though opposed to the Philippine program, are inclined to support the army bill because they see no other way out of the difficulty.

Senator Hoar, however, offers to senators of this mind, a way of escape. He suggests that the present army bill be amended to provide that no additional troops be sent to the Philippines except what may be actually required to garrison and protect places now in our undisputed control, until the president shall have made an effort to secure an armistice with Filipinos in revolt and invited ten or more of their leaders to visit the United States and state their case to the president, informing him explicitly of what they desire. This is a sensible suggestion and, if followed, would materially aid an amicable understanding between the Filipinos and our own government.

NEED OF REGULATING COURSE OF EVENTS.

In William J. Bryan's Lincoln speech he said the question whether he should again be a candidate depended on the course of events, and some of the party members who believe Bryan has defeated his party as often as one man should be allowed to do it propose to take the "course of events" in hand at once and see to it that it shall run in such a way as to convince the Nebraska orator that it is useless for him to aspire. Experience shows that this would be prudent, for after Bryan's first defeat his opponents in the party believed he would kill himself off if let alone and they found themselves mistaken; they remember that and propose not to take chances a second time.—Oakland (California) Enquirer.

PRESIDENTIAL TERM.

If ex-President Cleveland has started an agitation that shall result in the adoption of a single term of six or any other number of years for the president, he has added another to the list of desirable reforms. Every thinking man in the country knows that our present policy in electing a president every four years, and giving the incumbent a chance to degrade his office by working for a second term, is a costly mistake; but it will take persistent and united effort to change it. There is some reason to believe, however, that the country is ripe for a change, and that the principal thing required to effect it is an energetic and resourceful newspaper press.—Philadelphia Ledger.

RAILROAD POOLING.

Mr. Paul Morton, the Chicago railroad man, contributes an article to the Independent in which he says that one of three things is bound to come in the transportation business of this country legalized pooling, concentration of ownership, or government control. Like most railroad men, he is an advocate of pooling. But the people are opposed to this plan, and both the people and the railroads are opposed to government operation of the roads, so that there remains only the third course—the consolidation of railroad lines after the manner of industrial companies in the trust movement. Mr. Morton believes this to be inevitable if pooling is not allowed, and it cannot be questioned that such consolidation is gradually taking place, especially in the East. He thinks it would be better for all concerned if the roads were allowed to pool their business under the supervision of the interstate commerce commission.

Mr. Morton argues, as do the trust organizers, that competition has become too severe, and that it leads inevitably to consolidation. He holds that unrestricted competition means continued preferential rates for big shippers and big cities, while legalized pooling would protect the small shipper and the small town. He believes that the absence of a pooling law is hurrying the ownership of the railroads into the hands of a few men. If the movement is forced to continue in this direction he looks for so complete a consolidation of railway interests as to produce a popular outcry for government control. While he has no objection to the concentration of railroad ownership, he knows that most people have, and he thinks it might be better for all concerned if pooling were permitted as a temporary substitute.

While most people will not agree with Mr. Morton as to the advisability of the cure he proposes, it is worth while considering the alternative toward which railroad affairs certainly appear to be moving. Complete consolidation is no more desirable for the public than legalized pooling.—Chicago Tribune.