

OBSERVATIONS.

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truth and justice, and no one of them all better represents the spirit of American citizenship than he who helped to lead them and comes forward handsomely with the recital of their virtues and great charity for their short comings.

New York is to be congratulated upon her new governor, whose face bespeaks the qualities of American manhood which has made possible the victory of our arms, and augurs well for the happy solution of the problems which confront us as a nation.

When the czar of the Russias issues an invitation to the peace conference, and the powers reply expressing gratification at the happy inspiration and a lively hope that it may be the sign of a not far distant time when the nations of Europe shall beat their swords into plough-shares. We take courage and dream dreams, but it is rather dampening to the ardor of the optimist to learn that Russia has just concluded an arrangement whereby the rifles now in use in her armies shall pass into the possession of China and rifles of new and improved pattern be furnished the Russian soldiery, while it adds to the chorus of universal peace. Germany increases her war budget and adds to her legions, and England makes vigorous and telling efforts to increase her navy with no apparent intention of resigning her supremacy on the seas.

The letter of Lieutenant Whedon printed in this issue of THE COURIER contains a great deal of valuable information on Manila which has not been conveyed in other letters. Those who are interested in the price of living in Manila, the municipal lighting and sewage, the roads and the local geography and in the surroundings and conduct of everyday life will at once perceive the value of the lieutenant's letter.

EXCHANGES.

Lincoln, Jan. 3.—(Special.)—Five men hold the key to the situation in the organization of the lower house of the legislature. This was the most interesting fact of all the incidents which preceded the opening of the state legislature at 12 o'clock today.

These five men are W. D. Haller of Blair, and four supporters, namely, Nesbit, of Burt; Chambers of Washington; Hall, of Rock, and McCarthy of Dixon. These five refused to go into caucus, and as their votes were needed to defeat the populists on the floor of the house, they commanded the situation and compelled the surrender of the forty-seven who caucused, to the extent that they gave the five the privilege of organizing the house. When this was agreed to, Clark of Lancaster, had been chosen as caucus candidate for speaker, and four other house officers agreed upon. There were still remaining the designation of all the committees and the selection of ten officers of the house, besides the appointment of about fifty clerks and employes.

The Haller five agreed at 2:30 this morning to the proposition and went into caucus, when three cheers were given for the "reunited party," as it was put. These five men had stood out from the first because they conceived Clark's choice as speaker to mean an advantage to D. E. Thompson for senator. They thought he would use his position to strengthen Thompson through the patronage in the

hands of the speaker, but when that patronage was secured to themselves, they were assured that Thompson's back was broken, at least to that extent. That was what they were after and they won their point. In the make up of the committees these five have not been arbitrary. They were willing to name some chairman Clark had promised in his canvass for votes, for then they became their chairmen, not his. They were content to know that whatever of Thompson there was in the Clark deal had been effectually smashed and Clark shorn of his strength and glory. They didn't object to Clark personally, but to what they thought he stood for.

Zellers and Hastings of Dodge were late to go into the caucus. They stood out until 7 o'clock last evening, when they signed the agreement. They had satisfied themselves there was none of the senatorial question involved, and with this view of it went from the Haller side to the caucus. After the selection of Clark as speaker and before the surrender to the Haller five, Zellers expressed himself as having seen enough to convince him that there was as much of Thompson as Clark in it and regretted that he had gone into the caucus, and he welcomed the situation as it afterwards developed.

The senate organized with little difficulty. It chose a Lincoln man as chairman pro tem—Senator Talbot. Having placed a Lincoln man in the chair, in each house there are many who believe this town cannot now well ask for a senator, and that Thompson and the other candidates here have been furnished all kinds of nails for their coffins. Holbrook is a member of the committee appointed to select committees.

P. H. Wintersteen of Fremont has drawn a prize as custodian of the senate cloak room. R. D. Bacon and J. A. Stanley of Fremont and Dave Fowler of North Bend are pretty sure to get "something just as good" in the house.—Corr. Fremont Tribune.

The organization of the lower house of the legislature was effected by the supporters of W. D. Haller of Blair, a candidate for speaker. Though Mr. Haller did not secure a position in the chair, he and his faithful four were given the power and privilege of doing what ordinarily falls to the speaker. Clark of Lincoln was chosen speaker by a caucus, at which these five were not present, but their modest numerical strength was the equivalent to a balance of power. It is fair to them to state that they did not stand out against the caucus until the caucus came to them for the sake of patronage for themselves. They believed Clark's election meant evil to the party, because of the power it placed in his hands to organize the house in the interest of D. E. Thompson, the "barrel" candidate for the United States senate. This to them was offensive, as it ought to be to any republican who has the interest of his party at heart. There might be honest doubts as to whether or not Clark's manipulation of the house to his liking meant success for Thompson. The recalcitrant five were of the opinion it did, and the surrender to them by the forty-seven in caucus, of the make-up of the committees gave a solar plexus blow to Thompson's financial campaign for the United States senate. That much is clearly one of the results of the Haller supporters refusing to caucus until the Thompson gun boats had been sunk. It made assurance doubly sure that the house is not organized for purposes adverse to party interests. It was worth all the effort it cost.

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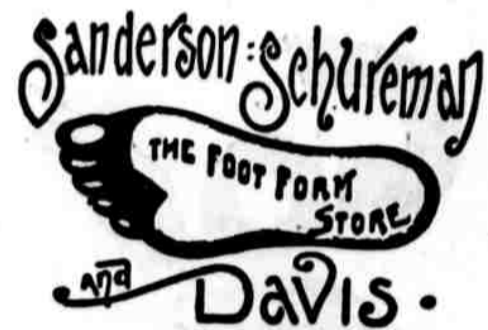
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George D. Meiklejohn's appeal to members of the legislature to rally around Thompson for the senate because his election would be of such great value to the party, state and nation, was manifestly made without a full knowledge of the situation.—Fremont Tribune.

Lincoln Special to the Omaha Bee: The members-elect of the legislature are at home for Christmas, and when they next come to Lincoln they will come to stay until after the first week of the session. During the week just past quite a number of the members have made hurried visits here, but these visits evidently had some quiet purpose in view, as the members were very little seen by the public after their arrival. Each of them was carefully taken in charge by the boomers of some of the candidates for senator, and little time was spent in actual sight seeing. As has been the case from the start, the Thompson forces are doing the best organized work, and the Thompson headquarters, which are in active charge of Brad Slaughter, present a busy appearance. The Thompson men claim now to be confident of success, saying they will lead from the start, and will win out inside of two weeks. In the meantime Hayward, Lambertson and Field have been continuing their visits over the state and each seems to feel much encouraged. Hayward was here today for a short time, and while he made no claims, one who is very close to him said tonight that the judge would lead in the race and that Lambertson would come next, with Thompson ranking third in the number of votes. This claim is combatted by the Thompson workers, and it is not known that Lambertson himself would put an estimate of comparative strength in that order. Shrewd guessers on political affairs say that from the present outlook Hayward and Thompson will start out about equal, with from twenty-five to thirty votes each, the others being distributed among the other candidates, with Lambertson leading the low men.—Columbus Journal.

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