

## TAFT'S NOMINATION AND ELECTION NOW SAID TO BE CERTAIN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The campaign for President Taft's re-nomination today took a new stride, and for the first time came out with a confident blast. The friends of the President have always insisted that his strength was far greater than appeared in face of the loud Roosevelt and La Follette talk, and there have been signs recently that a more aggressive policy soon would be taken by the administration backers. Today the new policy was inaugurated by Secretary Hilles in a ringing assertion of President Taft's growing hold on the party.

Already the statement has accomplished its cheering on the Taft followers. Returning to the more active method of days when "practical politics" was the shibboleth, Mr. Hilles today claimed for the President an overwhelming control of the Chicago convention. Mr. Hilles has been working quietly in the executive offices and at his home, getting in touch with the situation in various States. Today he announced the results of his work, and those results are far more than he would have dared claim a month ago. At the convention, he predicts, there will be little opposition to the President, and with him once nominated the party will rally under him to victory in November.

This is the strongest statement of President Taft's case that has yet been made, and it is the kind of statement the old politicians like to hear. It has put a different face on things already. The President in his recent speaking tour in the Middle West did some strong talking on his own account, and he found that strong talk was what was wanted. Mr. Hilles today attributes the changed complexion of the Taft prospects in great meas-

ure to the President's strong utterances, and it seems certain that from now on the whole campaign will be more aggressive in tone.

Mr. Hilles cites recent events in New York, Indiana and Ohio. In New York immediately following his speeches there he was endorsed by the Executive Committee of the New York County Committee and in still more striking fashion by the General Republican Committee, of Kings County, Brooklyn. In Indiana, Mr. Hilles recites that every member of the Republican State Committee elected in the thirteen Congressional districts had declared for Mr. Taft. This is slightly offset by information from insurgent sources that these endorsements are of the Administration and do not apply to re-nomination. But even so, this marks a striking change from the situation a few weeks ago, when State Chairman Lee was talking for Mr. Roosevelt. In Ohio Mr. Hilles claims every delegate.

If today's tactics are followed it is thought there will be less need than was supposed for the establishment of outside headquarters. Nothing had come so far of the plan considered by Senators Crane, Penrose and Smoot for the establishment of such headquarters, and it now seems as if the plan may be abandoned. At least, if carried out, it will be solely on the initiative of the Senators, though of course it will not meet with the President's disapproval. What the President's friends have always wanted was an aggressive fight and today's work marks the final change toward aggressiveness that the last few weeks have indicated.

Mr. Hilles' Statement.  
In the statement, Hilles said:  
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## Australia Tries Democracy in New Military College

The regulations which have been issued for the Australian Military College throw an instructive sidelight on militarism as understood in the commonwealth, says a late London dispatch.

The Australian provides in many particulars a distinct departure from the methods obtaining in the by no means democratic though exceedingly hardworking institutions of a similar nature at Woolwich and Sandhurst and it must be admitted that the various features introduced into the military nursery of the Australian officer have much to recommend them.

The military college of Australia is designed to educate candidates for commissions in all arms of the military forces of the commonwealth, and only those candidates are admitted who intend to make the military forces their profession. To secure this end the cadets on joining the establishment are to be enlisted in the permanent military forces for a term of 12 years, service as a cadet being included in this period.

It is, however, more particularly in relation to the financial side of the cadets' career that the democratic principles governing the new establishment are apparent. No fees are to be charged for their equipment or instruction or maintenance, and their traveling expenses within the commonwealth and the college are to be paid on first joining and on graduation, no inconsiderable advantage in a country of such vast distances.

An outfit allowance of £30 on joining and a daily allowance of 5s. 6d. will be credited to the cadet's account out of the public funds.

This, however, is all that the cadet will have at his disposal for spending purposes, as he will not be permitted to receive money or any other supplies from his parents or guardians or in fact any one else, without the express sanction of the commandant. Care is evidently being taken that the Australian officer of the future shall be simple in his tastes and of a careful disposition.

## THE PANAMA CANAL AND THE WEST INDIES

Consul Julius D. Dreher, of Antioch: It has just been announced that the French government is about to send a commission to the West Indies to select a port in Guadeloupe or Martinique to be made a port of call for French ships that will pass through the Panama Canal, and that on the resumption of the British Parliament in February the first lord of the admiralty will present a scheme for a naval base in the Caribbean Sea, near Panama.

It has also been stated that British and German steamship companies have already made investigations with regard to coal stations in the West Indies. These announcements serve to call attention anew to the probable effect of the Panama Canal on these islands, a subject which has been much discussed in Jamaican and other West Indian papers, as well as in British and other foreign journals of high standing.

Beneficial Results to West Indies and South America.

While the commerce of North and South America, of Europe, and the Far East will be profoundly affected by the opening of the new waterway, the West Indies, lying in the track of so great a part of the world's future

ocean traffic, will in a peculiar manner feel the effect of the numerous changes in ocean shipping routes. It may be taken for granted that as a result of these changes an impetus will be given to the development of the resources of these fertile islands, which will bring immigration of labor where most needed; the competition of various lines for the import and export trade will bring lower freight rates; the question of direct and more frequent European mails will be settled; and increased passenger traffic will make the advantages of the equable climate of these islands better known, especially in Europe, as a place of permanent residence or of resort to escape the severe winters of northern countries. That a new era of prosperity will thus come to the West Indies seems to be assured.

Owing to the larger population and amount of business in Europe and Asia, it is not to be expected that the opening of the Panama Canal will effect at once as great changes in the routes of ocean traffic as were brought about by the opening of the Suez Canal; but it should be borne in mind that the use of the new waterway is sure to result in the rapid development of those islands which are in the track of the world's future.

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## IS THE WORLD GROWING BETTER?

Rev. R. Elmer Smith at the Methodist church Sunday evening took for his subject the question, "Is the World Growing Better?" The text was taken from Psalm 42:5. "Hope thou in God." Mr. Smith spoke in part as follows: This world is certainly a most wretched and terrible world if we look at it through smoked glasses. There are some good people who never look at it in any other way. They prefer smoked glasses. They really like them. They have looked through them so long that their vision has become narrow and distorted. And the saddest part of it all is that they imagine they see clearly and intelligently. At the outset this preacher admits that conditions are not ideals by any means, that sin is robbing multitudes of people of the best things in life, that the accursed rum traffic is slaying its deluded victims by the hundreds of thousands every year, that mammon worship is the only worship that vast numbers know anything about, that lust is undermining the physical and moral health of a large fraction of frail humanity, that Sabbath desecration, profanity, civic corruption, etc., etc., abound. It is with sad hearts that we admit all this to be true. But let us pause this evening in the very midst of these discouraging facts and tendencies and ask—"Is the world really growing better?"

We will all admit that the world is growing better along material lines. The inventive genius of man has added much to the comforts and enjoyments of life. The swift ocean greyhounds have supplanted the slow sailing vessels. The rushing iron horse has superseded the lumbering stage coach. The convenient match has taken the place of the inconvenient flint. The humming sewing machine has caused the slow needle to be largely discarded. The electric light

has snuffed out the tallow candle. These are only a few illustrations taken from thousands which clearly show that the world is growing better from a material standpoint. The common people are today enjoying many comforts and luxuries that Washington and Franklin never dreamed of. The world is growing better from an educational standpoint. It would be a waste of time to attempt to prove this as it is perfectly obvious to all. Quincy testifies that he spent three weeks in a single question in long division, and was thrashed soundly every night for not being able to solve it. Surely we have improved upon such educational ideals and customs. The very poorest children now throughout our great republic may attend school and receive the same consideration as the children of the rich. The vast amount we are expending for education in these days would have been regarded as a criminal waste one hundred years ago.

The world is certainly growing better from a standpoint of medical science. A century ago if a child was ill the chances were that he would be bled profusely. If that did not kill or cure him he was filled with calomel. If a doctor in these days attempted to treat a patient as they did in the good (?) old days, he would either be sent to an insane asylum or state prison. Hospitals, dispensaries, retreats, homes for the aged, etc., are striking modern illustrations of the fact that the world is growing better from the viewpoint of the humanitarian treatment of the body of man. A century ago sanitation was in a crude state as compared with the present. Streets were typically drained, wells were dug in filthy soil, sewerage systems were scarcely dreamed of. Smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, cholera, etc., raged without any effort being made to segregate

it or quarantining it. In the open country in 1790 the death rate was greater than in the worst tenement districts of New York in 1890.

The world is growing better from a standpoint of government. We sometimes think that government in our day is bad and it certainly is. But if we compare it with the good (?) old days we will find a few crumbs of comfort. Government on the whole is more just now than in any previous period in the history of the world. To suggest a single illustration, let us compare the government of today with the government of Rome under the Caesars. In those days kings murdered with impunity their nearest relatives and all others who were offensive to them, and no one dared to protest. A great gulf was fixed between the soliticians and the slaves. The latter class had no rights whatever. Government and law was for the few rather than the masses. Victors gloated in the most brutal manner over the vanquished. The picture is so dark that it would be hard to paint it in colors too dismal. Compare this condition with conditions now prevailing under any Christian government and we will clearly see

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## LOANS ON HONOR MADE IN FRANCE

From Consul Carl Bailey Hurst, Lyon: An association of philanthropists a few years ago established in Lyon a society called the "Loan of Honor," for the purpose of lending money to clerks, operatives, and other in pecuniary distress. The sole obligation on the part of the borrowers is to promise on their word of honor to return within a certain time the amounts lent. The success of the undertaking has been striking. During the last fiscal year money was lent to 384 persons among whom were fifty-one clerks, seventeen small trades people, twenty railroad employes nine teachers, and mill hands, mechanics, pharmacists, typewriters, students, tailors, printers, and carpenters. Of these aided, sixty-eight were women, nearly all occupying humble positions.

The chief causes that brought about the request for loans were. Sickness, 119 cases; lack of work, eighty-three cases; debts, eighty-four; starting housekeeping twenty-seven cases; and in smaller number, redeeming pawn tickets, etc. All those granted loans were married people, with the exception of twenty-seven, although sixty-four couples were childless.

When a loan is solicited, a question blank is usually given to the petitioner asking for information that will enable the society to decide whether money can be judiciously advanced. Investigation is made as to the merits of each seemingly favorable case, after the question sheets have been returned. Of about 740 question papers given out 70 remained unanswered. Naturally the sums lent are not large, ranging between 25 and 500. Most of the loans have been paid either fully or in part, and the society has not had to put down more than \$200 to profit and loss. The society's receipts are derived from the dues of members, an annual bazaar, small contributions by the city and departmental governments, and from occasional private donations.

Its proved practical usefulness in an untried field tends to strengthen the presumption that the work of the society, especially among those holding minor posts in commerce and trade, will be of lasting benefit in teaching young clerks and others the value of unwritten obligations in business dealings.

GERMANY GET NAVAL BASE.  
MILAN, Jan. 26.—It is stated that an agreement has been reached between Austria and Germany by which the latter country will secure a naval station at Trieste. A coaling station will be established there, as well as great docks in which repairs can be made to the largest dreadnoughts now under construction.

GENERAL STRIKE IN LISBON.  
LISBON, January 25.—A general strike in sympathy with the agriculturists of the Evora district was inaugurated in Lisbon today.

The strikers stormed the street railway sheds and succeeded in preventing the military from sending out cars.

Large numbers of workmen, including printers, are joining the strike. The Government, which fears the strike movement will spread to Oporto and Santarem, has consigned all the regiments to barracks.

## NAMES OF CANAL FORTS TO BE FOR FAMOUS MEN

Forts of the Panama canal and the batteries comprising them, says a dispatch from Culebra, will be named in accordance with the following schedule. The military reservations at the Pacific terminus will be named Fort Grant and Fort Amador, the first in honor of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, U. S. A., President of the United States from 1869 to 1877, and the second in honor of Dr. Manuel Amador Guerrero first President of the republic of Panama. The reservations at the Atlantic terminus will be named Fort Sherman, Fort Randolph, and Fort DeLesseps, in honor of Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. A. Major-General Wallace F. Randolph, U. S. A., and Count Ferdinand DeLesseps, promoter of the Panama canal.

Fort Grant military reservation—Battery Newton, in honor of Major-General John Newton, U. S. volunteers (brigadier general, chief of engineers, U. S. A.)

Battery Merritt, in honor of Major-General Wesley Merritt, U. S. A.

Battery Warren in honor of Major-General Gouverneur K. Warren, U. S. volunteers (lieutenant-colonel, corps of engineers, U. S. A.)

Battery Buell, in honor of Major-General Don Carlos Buell, U. S. volunteers, (colonel, assistant adjutant-general, U. S. A.)

Battery Merritt, in honor of Major-General Ambrose E. Burnside, U. S.

volunteers (first lieutenant, third U. S. artillery)

Battery Parke, in honor of Major-General John G. Parke, U. S. volunteers (colonel, corps of engineers, U. S. A.)

Fort Amador military reservation—Battery Smith, in honor of Major-General Charles F. Smith, U. S. volunteers (colonel, third United States infantry.)

Fort Sherman military reservation—Battery Howard, in honor of Major-General O. Howard, U. S. A.

Battery Stanley, in honor of Major-General Davis S. Stanley, U. S. volunteers (brigadier-general U. S. A.)

Battery Mower, in honor of Major-General Joseph A. Mower, U. S. volunteers (colonel, twenty-fifth infantry.)

Battery Kilpatrick, in honor of Major-General Judson Kilpatrick, U. S. volunteers (captain, first artillery.)

Fort Randolph military reservation—Battery Tidball, in honor of Brigadier-General John C. Tidball, U. S. A.

Battery Webb, in honor of Brevet Major-General Alexander S. Webb, U. S. A. (lieutenant-colonel forty-fourth United States infantry.)

Battery Weed, in honor of Brigadier-General Stephen H. Weed, U. S. volunteers (captain, fifth United States artillery.)

Fort DeLesseps military reservation—Battery Morgan, in honor of Brigadier-General Charles H. Morgan, U. S. volunteers (major, fourth artillery.)

## WIRELESS CONTROL BILL IS OPPOSED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The negotiations of the British Department of Posts with the Marconi people looking for a complete interlocking of the British Empire by means of wireless communication have revived interest here in the bill introduced before Christmas by Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, chairman of the Committee of Commerce, putting practically all wireless communication in the United States in control of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

The bill was proposed as a result of complaints by Government officials against the interference with important messages by amateur operators.

As the bill stands it is sharply opposed by the wireless interests of the country. Their objections are leveled particularly at the features of the bill putting practically all power in the hands of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, a subordinate bureau chief of the President.

Point is given to these objections by the recent action of the British Postal authorities in closing Great Britain absolutely to messages from the new Marconi station in Spain, after permitting formal messages of congratulation to be exchanged.

The bill, when introduced, was referred in the course of routine to Mr. Nelson's committee, and there intrusted to a sub-committee, headed by Senator Bourne. Mr. Bourne has already received voluminous protests from the wireless people objecting to having their whole business regulated by a single official.

The protests have made their impression, and the Senator has written to the Department of Commerce and Labor, asking that regulations be drawn up as they would be were the authority already vested in the department.

Mr. Bourne's idea is to see whether those regulations cannot in a great measure be framed to meet the ideas of those interested commercially in wireless messages. Then, if the regulations can be drawn in some detail, it is expected that the regulations themselves will be incorporated as a part of the bill and so restrict the arbitrary power of the official intrusted with the enforcement of the act.

The bill forbids any person, corporation or company within the jurisdiction of the United States to use or operate any apparatus for radio-communication as a means of commercial intercourse among the States or with foreign nations, or upon any vessel of the United States engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, or for the receipt of these messages, the effect of which extends beyond the exclusive jurisdiction of the State or Territory of origin or where interferences will be caused thereby with messages from outside, except under and in accordance with a license granted by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

## NEED HORSES FOR THE ARMY

NEW YORK, January 31.—A French writer on turf topics in a recent review of the racing situation states:

"Notwithstanding all the efforts that have been made to encourage horse breeding in France, it is surprising to learn that there is still the prospect of a shortage of horses for military purposes. Thirteen years ago an annual credit of \$240,000 was considered sufficient for remounts, but this has since been considerably increased, and the government is to be asked next year to provide \$9,000,000 for the purpose of improving the quality and quantity of cavalry mounts. Horses are still being bought from Ireland and other countries, as many of the French farmers do not find it sufficiently profitable to keep mares and maintain their produce for four years, notwithstanding the advantages offered to them by the government in the matter of stallions. It is the aim of the minister of agriculture to have all horses for the French army bred in France, and so make the army independent of outside assistance in case of war."

Violation of the bill is made a misdemeanor, subject to a fine of \$500, suspension of the license and forfeiture of the apparatus.

In addition, every license shall provide that, in time of war or public peril, the President may close any station or use it for the public service on payment of suitable compensation. Interference with a message from or to a naval or military station or a ship in distress, in addition to being punished by a fine of \$500, carries also a penalty of a year's imprisonment.

Messages of distress and answers thereto are given priority over all messages, and Government messages affecting the army and navy come next. Violation of this order of priority is made a violation of the bill and subject to a \$500 fine and revocation of the license. A section aimed at practical jokers forbids the sending of false distress calls or alarms, and the penalty here is a fine not exceeding \$2500 or imprisonment for five years, or both.

## DATE PALMS FROM EGYPT.

WASHINGTON, February 1.—Since the Department of Agriculture began scouring the world for grasses, plants and other products which might prove of value in this country, more than 32,000 shipments of seeds and seed plants have been received here, according to Dr. David Fairchild, in charge of this work.

Among the most recent shipments are some date palms from Egypt, which will be experimented with at some of the government stations to see whether this tree can be adapted to some part of the United States.