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The Washington Post declares that a Democratic victory this year would not be good for the party. No, certainly not; but that is a party that never knows when it is well off.

The Sultan has decided to refuse to carry out the programme of Macedonian reform, as he promised. He figures that Russia is not going to bother him for awhile, and he is not going to reform until he has to. As a matter of fact, nobody expected he would.

The anti-administrationists and anti-imperialists were bitterly disappointed at Roosevelt's proclamation of neutrality. They evidently expected him to "butt in" and make a fool of himself and the country. But it is characteristic of Roosevelt that he never does what his enemies expect him to do.

The Baltimore papers are queer things to look at nowadays—not that they are not good papers, but they do not look natural, and they are filled with advertisements of merchants apprising the public of their "temporary locations." But the whole thing—papers, advertisements and news—give the reader an idea of grit and determination that is truly surprising.

The Novoe Vremya, of St. Petersburg, says: "God, right and international law are on our side." That may be so, but most people would hate to confess that even with all those allies they can't win any battles. The results are a kind of reflection on God, right and international law. But perhaps the Novoe Vremya is only guessing at it.

Is it not time for the Methodists to awaken to the necessity of making up the fund for the pensions of superannuated preachers? This church is usually prompt about these things, and here is a matter that demands immediate attention. The worn-out servants of the church have been deprived of their well-earned pensions by the defalcation of Willard Allen. More than $75,000 must be replaced and the church is showing a surprising apathy in raising the fund.

The season of Lent, which began yesterday, may be a period of self-sacrifice and fasting and repentance for some people, but for a certain class it always comes as a longed-for rest. The wearied inhabitant of the beau monde looks upon Lent as a vacation, a time to recuperate worn-out nerves and body, and to escape for forty days from the exacting round of balls and social functions. For them it is as necessary a part of the social season as is Sunday of the busy week. And yet, while the season of penitence exerts a marked influence on the social life of the larger cities, hundreds of small centers of population are scarcely aware of its existence. Its true meaning and purpose appeal only to Catholics and a few Episcopalians.

A poet writing for the Atlanta Constitution wants to know "What means this maudlin sentiment for Mongol victory?" It is true that "hearty sympathy" for anything that commands general approbation becomes "maudlin sentiment" when directed otherwise, and yet there has been nothing exactly maudlin about popular feeling in regard to the Japanese. The writer goes on, "Shall we give approbation to copper-colored bands," and again, "Shall an alien race with a yellow face command our sympathy?" That is the argument of the entire poem; characteristic, as coming from a Southerner, in making a race question of it. The sum and substance of the entire composition is, "The Japanese is yellow, the Russian is white. Therefore, it is our duty to hate the Jap and love the Russian. Anything else is maudlin."

Three hundred and fifty-eight years ago to-day there died at Wittenberg the originator of one of the greatest mental and spiritual movements the world has ever seen. The anniversary of Martin Luther's death will be remembered throughout the Protestant world to-day, but especially in Germany, the nation he reformed and bound together. He gave Germany its Bible, its very language. From a host of warring dialects he chose a pure tongue for his translation of the Scriptures, and the language of that translation is practically the classical German tongue of to-day. The Teutonic race has never produced a greater man than this sturdy champion of truth and liberty, and the greatest minds of Europe are laying their offerings to-day on that tomb in Wittenberg "where rests the heart whose throbbing shook the earth."

RAPID GROWTH OF JAPAN'S NAVY.

Perhaps few persons know that the Japanese navy, which is now surprising the world by its efficiency, had its beginning under American instructions. That some of its best officers, including one admiral, were educated at the United States Naval Academy, is well known, but its obligation to American instructors began further back than that. In fact, the main credit for the Japanese navy belongs to American officers.

The navy began with the purchase from the United States of the armor-clad Stonewall in 1866. This vessel had a curious history and was owned at different times by four governments. She was built in France under a contract with the Danish government and was to be known as the Sphynx, but as the Schleswig-Holstein war, in which Denmark wished to use the vessel, ended speedily, Denmark withdrew from the contract and the vessel passed into the possession of the Confederates, who named her the Stonewall. When she was finished and manned she put to sea and made for the port of Ferrol, in Spain, where she was blockaded by the United States warships Niagara and Sacramento. She managed to escape, however, and made her way across the Atlantic to Havana, where she lay until the close of the civil war and was then given up by Spain to the United States. Later she was sold to Japan and was sent over there by the United States and delivered to the Japanese government, under command of Captain, now Rear Admiral George Brown, now a resident of this city. She was delivered to the Japanese authorities in the spring of 1868. This was the first armor-clad vessel owned by Japan, and was the beginning of her navy.

At that time Japan had no educated naval officers, but a lieutenant on an American ship in the Asiatic squadron undertook to instruct a class of young Japanese in marine engineering and gave demonstrations on the Stonewall, explaining the mechanism of the engineer's department and the operation of boilers, engines, etc. Another officer in the same squadron, a lieutenant, resigned his position to accept the position of admiral in the Japanese navy at a salary of $14,000 a year, and remained with them three years. From this small beginning, in which Americans had so important a part, Japan has progressed until she is now seventh in the list of naval powers. Her newest battleship, the Mikasa, completed in 1902, is the largest battleship in commission in the world, having a displacement of 15,200 tons and a speed of eighteen and a half knots.

There are American naval officers still living who participated in the expedition of 1853 which resulted in opening Japanese ports to foreigners and in her first treaty of friendship with the United States, and there are other officers who can verify the statements here made as to the important part borne by American naval officers in laying the foundation of her navy. The navy which she has built up so rapidly has not yet reached the zenith of its power, for a shipbuilding programme was agreed on only a few months ago to begin this year the construction of four battleships of 15,000 tons each, two armored cruisers of 9,900 tons each, four second-class 5,000-ton cruisers, fifteen torpedo boat destroyers and fifty torpedo boats. These vessels will not be completed in time to take part in the present war, but they will be in time to replace its losses. Japan's dockyards, which had no existence until within a few years, are said to have equipment equal to any in the world for construction and repairs. An island country with so great a seaboard was destined to be a naval power, and Japan is fast becoming a formidable one.

THE HEARST BOOM.

Washington dispatches state that Democratic leaders there are alarmed at reports of the growth of the Hearst boom. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say the Bryan-Hearst boom, as Hearst is the figurehead and Bryan the manager. Hearst represents what is left of Bryanism plus Hearstism, and if he should succeed in capturing the Democratic nomination this year he would probably help Bryan get it four years hence. They are a fine pair of political fakirs to be working a party that was once respectable.

The Journal is unable to understand why the Democratic leaders should be alarmed at the progress of the Hearst boom unless it is because they have worked themselves into a state of chronic nervousness to be frightened at anything. His friends are making great claims, but where is his strength? They claim the delegates from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and the Indian Territory, and say they will have those from the District of Columbia and Hawaii. Quite likely, as these are all rotten boroughs and Hearst can probably buy up the delegates, which is his only hope of getting any. But if he had all of these delegations he would hardly have the beginning of a respectable vote in the convention. There is no probability that he will get a single vote from New England, the Atlantic States, the middle Western or the Northwestern. His boomers claim he will have a majority of the Illinois delegates in the convention, but the assertion is vigorously denied by conservative Illinois Democrats, who probably know a great deal more about the situation than the Hearst boomers do. In the absence of the unit rule he might pick up a vote here and there of some surviving Bryanite, but these will be suppressed by the unit rule.

It is said Hearst is making desperate efforts in the South and spending a great deal of money organizing clubs, distributing literature, paying traveling agents, etc. His game there is to make Southern Democrats believe he is strong in the North. Southern Democrats have had enough of Bryanism and are not likely to take kindly to Hearstism. They will support anybody that New York will name, but that will not be Hearst. The New York Democracy, which means Tammany, have not shown their hand yet, and when they do it will not read Hearst. Unless they come out for some candidate before the convention meets the Southern delegates will go to the convention uncommitted and prepared to support Tammany's man. For these reasons it is not believed Hearst will make any headway in the South, no matter how much money he may spend.

All this relates to Hearst's so-called boom for the nomination, which the Journal believes is greatly exaggerated, and, like the "milk sickness" of early times, always to be found in the next township. But if he should happen to be nominated he would be the worst beaten man that ever ran for President. It might be possible for a multimillionaire to buy a majority in a convention, but he could never buy a majority of the American people. The masses of the people, Democrats as well as Republicans, are unpurchasable. They respect the high office of President far too much to be willing to see it made a subject of barter and sale, and they would place the stamp of their indignant condemnation on any man who tried to reach the office by that route. But this will not be necessary, for Hearst will not be nominated. When the real proportions of his boom are revealed in the convention Democrats will laugh to think that any person should have been alarmed by it.

OPPRESSING LABORING MEN.

The recent trouble between the local authorities of Monroe county and a party of railroad laborers came near having serious results. There was a narrow escape from a clash between the authorities and the laborers which would probably have resulted in bloodshed and in the calling out of the militia. The trouble was due to the non-payment of wages which the laborers had fairly earned under conditions claimed to be oppressive.

Now comes an account of a similar state of affairs on the line of another railroad which is being constructed in Dearborn county. It is stated on seemingly good authority that since last May the construction company having charge of the work has employed nearly 15,000 men who were promised $1.50 a day and who received only $1.30; that they were paid off in checks which were cashed at the company's commissary at a discount of from two to ten per cent.; that they were charged $4 a week for board of a very inferior character and subjected to other extortions with the object and effect of causing many of the men to throw up their jobs at the sacrifice of wages due them.

Such practices as these are a disgrace to the employers who use them and would be to the State if it had not tried to prevent them. An employer, whether an individual or a corporation, that will take advantage of the necessities of laboring men to oppress and rob them of their earnings and charge them extortionate prices for inferior supplies, is devoid of humanity and insensible to justice. It does not matter as to the color, the nationality, or the antecedents of the laborers; they are entitled to fair treatment and justice.

The State has tried to prevent such practices as these by the enactment of laws regarding wages to be paid, regularly and weekly in cash, without any rebate, and by prohibiting "pluck-me" stores and discounting wage checks. Unfortunately the weekly payment law was held unconstitutional, and the others, it seems, are systematically violated. There ought to be some way of punishing those who are guilty of these wrongs.

A little reflection ought to convince the rural-route carriers that it will be better for them in the long run to discard the private service for newspapers and country patrons and depend solely on their salaries. As long as they engage in the former it will be an argument against increasing their pay, whereas if they rely on the government, alone, they will get a liberal increase in the near future. This view does not take into account the obvious impropriety of government employes constantly receiving fees and tips from private employers.

The action of the officers of the United Mine Workers in ordering a suspension of work on Friday afternoon as a tribute to the memory of Senator Hanna is believed to be without precedent. Senator Hanna was known as a stanch friend of organized labor, but it was not known that the labor leaders themselves entertained so high a regard for him. It will be the first time in the history of the world that nearly 300,000 laborers have suspended work for half a day in honor of the memory of an employer of labor.

One of the first fruits of the war in the East is the opening of the Korean port of Wiju to the commerce of the world. This was done on the application of the United States and it shows that Japanese influence is dominant in Korea. As long as Korea was under Russian influence it was impossible to secure the opening of this port.

MINOR TOPICS.

The Springfield Republican is a nice paper because it is so thoughtful of its readers. Other papers publish the news and let the readers form their own conclusions, but not so with the Republican. It devotes a half column to teaching its subscribers how to read the war news. With rare sagacity it lets out the secret that war rumors from Halifax, Oshkosh or Kalamazoo are not so credible as those from Tokio or Shanghai; that if Alexieff says he has torpedoed a battleship he may be believed, but if he says he is going to take Tokio to-morrow he may be bluffing. With these little aids to intelligent reading the news becomes so much easier to understand; and the Republican deserves the thanks of its readers, who appear to be a pack of school children, if they stand in need of such directions.

With Korea it is simply a matter of waiting to see which power becomes her master. There used to be a confidence game variously known as "two-pluck-one," "easy money," etc., in which three persons laid coins on the table and the odd man took the pot. Two of the three were confederates, and, by previous agreement, one invariably threw "tails" and the other "heads;" the third man could not win. Whether the result of the present conflict is heads or tails, Korea loses.

An engineer on the Union Pacific broke the record of that road by making 111 miles in Wyoming in 93 minutes. He wasn't ordered to make a speed trial, but he had news that his wife was dying, and that was more effective than orders. But it turned out all right; he broke the record, his wife is better, and there is a new pair of twins in the family.

"In pronouncing the Russian names," says a helpful contemporary, "the reader should remember that the letter j is always pronounced like y." That explains why the Russians thought they had such an easy victory ahead of them. They thought the Japs were Yaps.

The Conried "piracy" is now official, and has the stamp of imperial disapprobation. The Kaiser has expressed his sympathy with Frau Wagner over the taking of "Parsifal" to New York. That will help some.

It is said this is the era of young men, that after the age of forty-five it is hard for a man to obtain a position. There has lately been much talking in this strain. And yet a man eighty years of age, a man who sang at Lincoln's funeral, was admitted to the bar in Nebraska the other day and will hang out his shingle and wait for clients.

The President of Panama and two of the three Vice Presidents are doctors. The electors may have thought that the body politic would need careful medical attention; but it is hoped for the sake of the Panams—that is the easiest way to get out of it—that the bills will not be proverbially high.

The old gold brick and green goods men have a new "graft" that possesses the merit of being both up to date and alluring. A Denver man paid a fancy price for a "radium brick" the other day, and now he is waiting patiently for it to begin emanating power. At last reports it had not yet started.

The statisticians say that no vegetarian people has ever conquered a meat-eating people, and that in a conflict between flesh eaters and rice eaters the former has invariably won. Well, if Japan wins, another precedent will be broken; and what a boom it will be for the breakfast food companies!

It is announced from St. Louis that the Coliseum, where the Democratic convention is to be held this summer, is practically fireproof. That is reassuring, for between the burning oratory, the fiery invectives and the hot time in general it is going to be severely tested.

This country has already exported 3,000,000 barrels of apples to foreign countries this season. The greatest of American fruits is becoming more popular with foreigners every year; but let us hope that enough have been kept at home for mince meat and cider.

The Yalu river will in all probability some day take its place beside the Potomac, the Iser—rolling rapidly—the Rubicon, and all the others whose waters run red through the pages of history. For the Russians it promises to be a Yalu peril.

Up in New Hampshire they are puzzled about the weather. The only ground hog seen on Feb. 2 in that State was found in Coos county frozen to death on the snow. Now, what does that signify?

In Iowa, on Tuesday, a four-year-old boy shot and killed his three-year-old brother with a revolver. They teach the young idea how to shoot at an extremely tender age in that Western country.

District Attorney Jerome announces that New York is far cleaner than Chicago. New York acknowledges it and goes right on criticising Jerome. The affair now becomes Chicago's.

Admiral Alexieff gets another chance, and if he fails again he will be allowed to join that choir invisible consisting of General Weyler and Sir Redvers Buller.

Physicians now assert that tight collars are injurious to the eyesight. If that is true, those Russian gunners must all wear about No. 13.

THE HUMORISTS.

Happy Thought.

"General," reported the Tory innkeeper, "the American force is divided into 100 companies, each containing sixty minutemen."

"Good!" answered Cornwallis. "I shall send word to England that we have met the enemy and they are hours."—Harvard Lampoon.

Has One Merit.

"How is your experiment of sleeping in the open air for the cure of your asthma succeeding?"

"Well, it has had one good result. I've frozen my nose and a part of one ear, and they have made me forget my asthma."—Chicago Tribune.

At the Club.

"Your dues are due," the treasurer
Observed to McAdoo.
"Please make no undue ado, sir,
But do just what is due.
Your dues, I say, are overdue—
Undo the due dues, do!"
—Judge.

Great in His Line.

"It was a mistake to ask that man if he thought America would ever produce a great composer. I am afraid you hurt his feelings."

"I don't see why," responded the musical young woman.

"He is the inventor of a soothing syrup."—Washington Star.

Hens as Roosters.

"Old Weatherby is having an awful time with his poultry."

"What's the matter?"

"Why, ever since the price of eggs has been so high the hens are so stuck up they insist upon roosting on the front steps."—Detroit Free Press.

One of Her Grandfathers.

"Some of my family have been very long-lived," said the woman in the cerise panne hat. "My father died at forty, but one of my grandfathers lived to be ninety-eight."

"Which grandfather was that?" asked the white beaver.

"Oh," said the lady in cerise, "that was my grandfather by my first husband."—Washington Post.

Papa Pays the Freight.

My daughter asked the count
To be her valentine.
He first asked the amount
Of money that was mine.

And then he whispered yes,
So now I'm feeling blue.
It's up to me, I guess,
To pay the postage due.
—Judge.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD.

Like Lot's Wife.

Senator Chauncey M. Depew, famous for his post-prandial speeches, is the author of this story:

"One day I met a soldier who had been wounded in the face. He was a Union man and I asked him in which battle he had been injured.

"'In the last battle of Bull Run, sir,' he replied.

"'But how could you get hit in the face at Bull Run?' I asked.

"'Well, sir,' said the man, half apologetically, 'after I had run a mile or two I got careless and looked back.'"—Omaha Bee.

Jap Surprised Her.

Travelers on their first trip abroad are likely to place too low an estimate on the intelligence and education of the foreigners they see. An American woman was walking with a man in The Hague, when she saw a Japanese standing in front of a shop, his expressionless face perhaps appearing to her as an illustration of the stolid, illiterate people of the Orient, as she had imagined them.

"Oh, see, there is a Jap," she exclaimed.

The native of the far East removed his hat, bowed gracefully and said in perfect English:

"Yes, madam, I am a Jap."—Detroit Free Press.

Wonderful Invention.

"An official of St. Petersburg," said Jacques Lebaudy, the explorer, during his recent residence in London, "told me an odd story of a mujhik's first train ride.

"This old man, who had never before been away from his village, made up his mind one day to go by rail to Moscow. Accordingly he bought a third-class ticket and set off.

"The down express and the up express met at Bologos, a station between St. Petersburg and Moscow, and the passengers of both trains were allowed a half-hour for supper. Among those who alighted from the St. Petersburg train the old peasant found a friend whom he had not seen for many years. The two supped and drank a glass of vodka together, and afterward, in the excitement, the old man boarded his friend's train instead of his own.

"Talking gayly, he rode the wrong way a good many miles. Then all of a sudden he became grave and his eyes opened wide in wonder and awe.

"'Da, Ivan,' he said, 'what a wonderful thing these railways are! Here we sit in the same carriage, I going to Moscow and you to St. Petersburg.'"—Transatlantic American.

Mutual Feeling.

A young man having evolved what he considered a good joke forwarded it to a comic paper, but received no answer. Desirous of ascertaining the fate of his contribution, he sent the editor the following letter:

"Sir: I have carefully read your paper for the last month, but fail to find any trace of the joke I sent you on the 5th ult."

In due course he received this reply:

"Sir: In reply to your letter I deeply sympathize with you, for, since I received your MS. on the 5th ult., I have carefully read it several times, but up to date I, too, have failed to find any trace of the joke referred to."—Chicago Journal.

Logical Answer.

After the Hon. Cave Johnson had served his long and brilliant career in Congress and had retired to the quiet of private life, he once stepped into the office of his nephew, Robert Johnson, then a young lawyer of much promise, and finding the young man engaged in writing with a gold pen had occasion to remark upon the extravagance of the rising generation.

"Why is it," he asked, "that every young man now has his gold pen, while those of my day were content to use their goose quills?"

"I suppose," replied Robert, in the most innocent manner possible, "it is because there were more geese when you were a young man."—Boston Post.

It Was Not a Bribe.

Dr. George F. Shrady, of New York, is an authority on cancerous diseases, and it is reported that the Kaiser's physicians are to consult him regarding their royal patient's case.

This report recalls a story of Dr. Shrady that his friends told several months ago. The physician, it seems, had taken a liking to a certain table water and recommended it strongly to a great many of his patients. Thus its sale had been increased to a marked degree.

One morning Dr. Shrady was surprised to receive a letter from the manager of the firm that handled the water. The manager thanked him effusively for his recommendations. "They have done us," he said, "untold good. They have introduced us into an excellent market. We are deeply indebted to you and we now venture to send you 500——"

Here the page ended, and Dr. Shrady, as he turned over, frowned and murmured:

"This will never do. They must not try to bribe me."

Then he read on:

"——of our circulars for distribution."—Denver Times.

Country Paper Hits Back.

The Chicago papers have a good deal of fun at the expense of the country newspapers. What's the matter of 'em? Are they jealous because we live out here where we can get fresh air and fresh eggs and enjoy life as it was meant to be?

These poor, warped artistes (note the e in that word) fiddle around like a lot of school girls and hit upon some of the funniest things you ever heard. Why, every now and then somebody laughs at them.

The writers laugh and think it's a good joke when some of the country newspapers say: "Hiram Higbee has sold his Holstein cow to Ez Mawfield," but, of course, it is the thing when they say: "Algie Van Poochenstein has just returned from the continent with a $3,800 bull terrier from the Epsom-Squirtem kennels."

Oh, that's great. That bull pup would bring about 20 cents in the dog pound, and Hi Higbee's cow could sell for at least $40 in the dark.

Because "Ozzie Benton was over to Union Center Thursday to see his best girl" they throw a shoe. But if "Harold Worstinghauser Pook, the society leader, was in Milwaukee last Sunday to visit Miss Gertie Crabst" they drool all over their 30-cent "dickey" and have three pictures of Gertie and Harold on the front page.

It's all right for them to set the standard. Sure, Mike.

But's time they got out of their rut and changed the subject.—Marengo (Ill.) Republican.

Story of Bobbie Burns.

A story is told in Thornhill about Burns in his capacity of exciseman. Old Jean Davidson kept a small whisky shop, and was suspected of putting more fresh water into her liquor than was needful or lawful. Burns accordingly came with his apparatus, and at once detected the irregularity. "Now, Jean, ma woman," he said, "I canna tak this to Dumfries this night; 'tis ower late. But I'll seal it wi' the King's seal, and return to lift it in the mornin'." When he had gone to his lodging Jean fetched the village cooper, who removed a hoop from the barrel and bored a hole through which the adulterated liquor was drawn off, and stuff of regulation strength poured in. Then the hoop was refixed, and Jean, with a brave heart, awaited the gauger. In the morning up came Burns to claim the keg. "One minute, Mr. Burns," said Jean, sweetly. "Ye might jest test that whisky to convince me; since I canna see how I could have been makin' sic a mistake." "It means breaking the King's seal," said Burns, "but I'll just fix on another." So the sample was taken and tested, and, of course, found to be all right. Burns was bewildered. "Was there aught wrang wi' me, Jean, last nicht?" he asked. "Weel, Mr. Burns, 'tis na for me to say—weel, I just thocht ye were fully smert wi' your wee tester."—Chicago Journal.

Precedence in England.

I knew a young American girl, who, going to England under the care of an ambassador's family, and attending her first large dinner party, and looking about her, selected, as the guest in the room who most interested her, one man of distinguished aspect, whom she resolved to watch. When the guests were ushered into the dining hall according to the laws of precedence, she found herself at the very end of the brilliant procession, as one of two untitled plebeians in the room, assigned to the escort of the very man who had interested her, and who turned out to be Samuel Rogers, the poet and patron of art, and the recognized head of literary society in England. She always said that she secured two things at that entertainment, namely, the most delightful companion she ever had at a dinner party, and, moreover, a lesson in the outcome of mere hereditary rank that would last a lifetime. Rogers's poems are not now read so much as formerly, but at that time the highest literary honor a man could have was to dine with Rogers. He was also one of the richest bankers in London, and was very possibly the only person in the room who had won for himself a reputation outside of his own little island; but he was next to nobody in that company, and the little American girl was the nobody.—February Atlantic.

A Clever Swindle.

The following story was told the other day by a lawyer in the course of a discussion as to the value of an indorsed check as a receipt:

"A client of mine had a bill of $30 against a customer who, he thought, was very fair pay. One day this man came into his place of business in a great hurry and asked my friend to cash a check for him. The check was for $30. Well, my client gave him the $30 and thought no more about it until a request to settle the little bill brought the response that the customer had an indorsed check to show as a receipt. And it meant a lawsuit to collect the bill."—New York Tribune.

Everlasting Smokers.

Is it our own fault that men now smoke all over the house, in close carriages with ladies and between the dances at a ball? Men of the old school—there are a few left—of the fine old type that observes the rules of courtesy where women are concerned, would not dream of asking a girl to dance while shedding around them odors of whisky and tobacco. But the young men of the day, with a few delightful exceptions, make it their constant practice.—London Truth.

THE DRIFT OF POLITICS

"I am a Democrat. I have never voted anything but the Democratic ticket. I have never scratched a ticket, but have always stood loyally by the nominees of Democratic primaries and conventions. I say this because I want it understood that I am not prejudiced by my political beliefs when I say that Mark Hanna was the greatest friend of labor that this country has ever known."

The man who made this statement was John J. Hanihan, of Chicago, grand master of the American Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. He was at the Grand Hotel last evening, having stopped off in the city en route from Peoria, where the headquarters of the brotherhood are established, to Cleveland to attend the funeral of Senator Hanna. Mr. Hanihan is a member of the Civic Federation and has been in close touch with Senator Hanna for the last three years. He was intimately acquainted with the senator and acted with him in all his movements to bring employers and employes into closer relations.

"I am not ashamed to say," continued Mr. Hanihan, "that the tears came into my eyes and rolled down my cheeks when I heard that Senator Hanna was dead. I had hoped that he would recover, and when I learned of the game fight he was making against death believed that he would pull through. I regard his death as the loss of a personal friend, but, more than that, as the loss of one of labor's truest friends, a man who had done much for the laboring man and would have done a vast deal more had he lived but a few years longer. It may sound extravagant, but if there was a man in the country who could have brought about the millennium toward which we are all striving, Senator Hanna was the man, in my opinion.

"Senator Hanna was a man of immense wealth. With his millions he could have crushed the laboring man, but, instead, he always sought to better his condition and raise him above the level where he found him. He did more to bring capital and labor, or employers and employes, together than any other man this country has produced. He was always ready to meet laboring men and to meet them in a way that made them feel perfectly at ease. He was always ready to help them and he did help hundreds of them personally. If all, or if half, the big employers of the country were like him there would be no labor troubles.

"I want to add," concluded Mr. Hanihan, "that no thought of party politics enters my head when I speak of Senator Hanna. It was the man, not the politician, that I admire, although I believe that he was a true friend of labor, both as a man and as a politician."

Mr. Hanihan and John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers, will be two of the notable labor leaders of the country who will attend Senator Hanna's funeral to pay their last tribute to the man whom they regarded as such a true friend. They arranged yesterday to meet in Cleveland Friday morning.

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Turning from Senator Hanna, Mr. Hanihan talked of Democratic politics and paid a warm tribute to Thomas Taggart, of this city. Mr. Hanihan is a Hoosier born and bred, his old home being at Madison, on the Ohio river. Several years ago, just how many he did not say, possibly because he wished to spare Mr. Taggart's feelings, he was a waterboy on a woodtrain that ran between Madison and this city, and it was then that he became acquainted with Mr. Taggart, who was at that time connected with the restaurant at the Union station.

"I'm for Tom Taggart for anything he wants," said Mr. Hanihan. "He's a prince of good fellows and he's one of the shrewdest politicians in the country. I believe he will be the next chairman of the Democratic national committee—I know that the Illinois Democrats are for him—and I don't mind predicting that if the Democrats have control of the Indiana Legislature next winter Mr. Taggart will be elected United States senator."

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Hugh Th. Miller, of Columbus, has decided to enter the race for the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor. His formal announcement will appear to-day in the Columbus Republican.

"I have made a long and thorough investigation of the situation," said Mr. Miller last evening, "and I have received encouragement that, in my opinion, justifies my entering the race. I have decided to announce my candidacy only after deliberate consideration, and I need not add that I shall be in the contest until the finish. I believe, of course, that I can secure the nomination. Otherwise I should not become a candidate."

Mr. Miller is identified with the Irwin Bank at Columbus, and is also connected with the company that operates the Indianapolis & Columbus interurban line. He was formerly a member of the faculty of Butler University, in Irvington, and but recently was mentioned in connection with the presidency of that institution. He was a member of the House in the General Assembly of 1903, and a few months ago, when it was thought that he would be a candidate for renomination and re-election, was considered as a probable candidate for speaker of the House in 1905. The announcement of his candidacy for Lieutenant Governor will occasion little surprise, as it has been generally understood for some weeks that he would get into the race and that he was laying his plans to that end.

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Simultaneous with the announcement of Mr. Miller's candidacy comes a report from Muncie that Senator Walter L. Ball, of that place, will also enter the race, and that his announcement will be forthcoming within a few days. Gossip had Senator Ball into the contest for second place on the Republican state ticket several months ago, from the time of the adjournment of the last session of the Legislature, in fact, but he has never indicated definitely where he stood on the proposition. A few weeks ago a dispatch from Muncie affected to announce authoritatively that the senator would retire from active politics, but the latest reports are flatly contradictory of that.

Former Senator L. P. Newby, of Knightstown, was the first candidate for Lieutenant Governor in the field. He has been an avowed candidate for some months and has been actively at work in perfecting an organization. Mr. Newby was a candidate for the nomination four years ago and came within a few votes of receiving the prize he sought.

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S. M. Ralston, of Lebanon, who is counted as one of the probable candidates for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, was at the Grand yesterday.

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Charles S. King, of Wabash, was at the Columbia Club last evening.

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Enos H. Nebeker, of Covington, who was in the city yesterday, called at Republican State headquarters. He says that the Republican forces of Fountain county are in excellent shape, and that they are interested at present in the primaries for the selection of delegates to the State and district conventions, which will be held next Saturday.

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J. H. Bennett, of Monticello, who was here yesterday to attend the hardware dealers' convention, was a caller at Republican headquarters. He gave Secretary Sims a good report of Republican affairs in White county, saying that the organization there was in better shape than it had been for years. The Republicans are all on their tiptoes, he said, ready to jump into the campaign and sweep everything before them.

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Senator Eben H. Wolcott, of Wolcott, who has represented Jasper, Newton and White counties in the Senate during the last two sessions of the Legislature, was at the English last evening. The senator is a candidate for renomination, and he is one of the members who had their districts changed under the new apportionment. Now he is confronted with the attack on the constitutionality of the apportionment act, and until the Supreme Court passes on the question will not know exactly what counties will compose his district. The new apportionment places Benton county in his district in the place of Jasper.

Senator Wolcott was recognized as one of the Republican leaders in the Legislature, and his friends are confident that his constituents will return him, whether from the old or new district.

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George Shirts, of Noblesville, the secretary of the codifying commission, is being urged by his friends as the man to succeed to the Republican chairmanship of the Ninth district in event Fred A. Sims, who has been elected secretary of the State committee, decides that he cannot shoulder the responsibilities of both secretary and district chairman and relinquishes the latter place.

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Secretary Sims, of the Republican State committee, yesterday received a letter from T. P. Tillman, chairman of the Warrick county organization, stating that the programme for the Warrick county convention, which will be held Feb. 27 at Boonville, will include an unusual feature. Thomas W. Lindsay, former prosecuting attorney of that circuit and also former chairman of the Democratic county committee, has renounced his allegiance to the Democratic party, and at the Republican convention will deliver an address, in which he will set forth his reasons for this action and tell why he has determined to identify himself with the Republican party. Mr. Lindsay has been one of the leading Democrats of the county and his withdrawal from the party has greatly disconcerted his former associates.

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Judge David S. Gooding, of Greenfield, one of the sages of Indiana Democracy, was in the city yesterday looking after some legal business. At eighty years of age Judge Gooding is an active practitioner and has vigor, vitality and keenness that some men twenty years his junior might well envy. Furthermore he still takes an active interest in politics and is one of the Indiana Democrats who admire W. J. Bryan above all other men in their party.

"I regard Bryan as one of the purest and best men in personal character I have ever known, and as one of the greatest men this country has produced," declared Judge Gooding yesterday afternoon, when asked whom he favored for the Democratic presidential nomination. He did not say that he thought Bryan should or would be nominated again this year, but he was warm in his praise of the Nebraskan.

Judge Gooding has an unlimited store of interesting political reminiscenses, for he took part in politics from his early manhood and in his time had a hand in national affairs. Fifty-six years ago he was a member of the Indiana General Assembly and following that served as prosecuting attorney, was twice elected judge of his circuit and had other similar preferments. At the outbreak of the civil war he became an earnest Unionist and in 1864 was at the head of the Union electoral ticket in this State and in the Electoral College cast his vote for the re-election of Abraham Lincoln. It was largely through his initiative that Andrew Johnson was nominated for Vice President on the ticket with Lincoln, as in the Indiana Union convention he offered a resolution indorsing Johson, who was a war Democrat, as a cadidate for Vice President, the first movement of the kind that was made in the country and one that resulted later in Johnson's nomination.

As a result he stood high in Johnson's favor and when Johnson succeeded to the presidency upon Lincoln's death, Judge Gooding received his reward in the appointment as United States marshal for the District of Columbia, a position which he held four years. Upon his return to Indiana he was twice nominated for Congress by the Democrats in the old "Burnt district," in 1870 and 1872, and in his last race was defeated by the narrow margin of four votes. All in all, the judge has had a remarkable career in politics, extending, as it did, over such a long period in the epoch-making years of American history. In his prime he was rated as one of the best campaigners among Indiana Democrats and his services on the stump were in demand in other States, as well.

"I don't get excited over politics as I once did—at my age it doesn't pay a man to get excited over anything," said the judge.

However, when current political issues and tendencies were touched upon the judge did become aroused and with Democratic consistency predicted that the country is going to the demition bow-wows under Republican administration of public affairs. When urged that a man of his years should not be a pessimist he still adhered to his dark forebodings.

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The report in yesterday's Journal of the growth of the Hearst movement in Indiana aroused a number of local Democrats, many of whom were inclined to scout the suggestion that Hearst is making any headway in this State. Others, however, took the other view. John W. Kern, who has been regarded as an advocate of Judge Parker for the presidential nomination, was asked last evening what he knew of the Hearst movement.

"Well," he replied, "I don't pretend to be informed on that point, but I may say that I've heard some Hearst talk recently from sources that surprised me. One solid, substantial Democrat, who would be rated as conservative if nothing else, said to me to-day that he had about come to the conclusion that Hearst was the man upon whom all elements in the party could best unite. How much of that kind of talk there is going the rounds I can't say, but if there is much of it from men like the man who talked to me I should judge that Hearst is a factor to be reckoned with."

DEBATE ON BANKS WON BY CHICAGO MEN

Indianapolis Delegation Lose Argument Over Postal Savings Institutions.

The intercity debate of the American Institute of Bank Clerks between the Indianapolis chapter and the Chicago chapter at Chicago last night was won by the Chicago clerks, the vote of the judges being two to one. Chicago debated the affirmative of the question: "Resolved, That the United States government be authorized to establish postal savings banks." The debators for the Windy City were:

Paul E. Zimmerman and E. B. Wilson, of the Northern Trust Company and Victor E. Brown, of the National Bank of North America. The Indianapolis chapter, on the negative, was represented by Brandt C. Downey, of the American National Bank; Charles Z. Coffin, of the Indi