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Vermont, which used to be "dry," tried licensing wet goods for a year, and has now gone back to the dry state again. Vermont is acting very much like the month of March.

Pio Del Pilar, who swore allegiance to the United States with many picturesque oaths, has joined the Filipino insurgents again. He is one of Boston's favorite George Washingtons.

The Vienna Christian Socialists are praying for victory for the Czar. Now, a point may be stretched to show that it would aid Christianity, but how is it going to help socialism?

Let the newspapers which are so concerned over our sympathy for "heathen" remember that Admiral Togo is a Christian, and has been for years. And Admiral Togo is doing most of the business right now.

Here are the figures that he who runs may read. In 1897 trade between this country and Porto Rico amounted to $4,000,000. Last year it came to $22,000,000. Trade follows the flag so closely that it almost steps on it.

Smith, the much-married, is getting uppish. He now tells Congress that polygamy is none of its business, but only the concern of the sovereign State of Utah. Let us beware of a State's rights controversy—those things are loaded.

In crossing Lake Baikal the Russian army appears to be repeating the experience of the hosts of Pharaoh, which met with considerable difficulty in attempting the passage of the Red sea. Only in that case the water was more comfortably warm.

When the Czar received the Kaiser's letter of personal sympathy and support he "burst into tears." Isn't that affecting? If the Kaiser's sympathy goes any further than words the Czar will receive a note from England that will make him weep some more.

Assistant Secretary of State Loomis announces that San Domingo will not be annexed by the United States or any other nation. Anti-imperialist papers may now stop worrying and turn their attention to finding some way to impede the progress of the Panama canal.

Listen to Bradstreet's: He says that 84 per cent. of the merchants who failed in 1903 did not advertise in the newspapers. It does not appear what was the matter with the other 16 per cent., but they must have mismanaged their business shockingly.

It has been discovered that the grub of the boll weevil is considered a tasty morsel by the mocking bird. So the sweetest songster of America will be propagated and encouraged in Texas, and the cotton belt will not only lose an enemy, but gain a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

Ten dollars an acre has been offered for land in South Dakota lying west of the Missouri river, and this is the first time anybody has wanted to buy it. This is a good start—it will be worth more after awhile. There are still thousands of acres to be purchased for a song which in a few years will be eagerly sought for.

Venezuela politics is almost as lawless as the brand manufactured in Kentucky. President Castro wanted to get rid of General Hernandez, a dangerous rival, so he appointed him minister to Washington. Then, when Hernandez had fitted up a handsome legation, he cut off his salary. Hernandez can be expected to start the next revolution.

An itinerant Methodist preacher in Missouri has inherited $500,000 from a relative in Jamaica. When he was told of his good luck, "Amen!" said the preacher, and went on with his work. But the Missouri papers are discovering that he is "a talented linguist, artist and writer." Of course. But before he got the money he was an unknown circuit rider.

The Atlanta Journal gets off the following remarkable epigram: "The sinews of war are made of gold and silver." Now, since Julius Caesar once remarked that "pecunia" was the "nervi belli," and since Francis Rabelais, fifteen hundred years later, admitted that "coin is the sinews of war," and furthermore, since the proverb has been repeated and fathered by several more or less famous people of modern times, the Atlanta Journal cannot be allowed to have said anything strikingly original. Still, "there is nothing new under the sun."

THE PROSPECTIVE COAL STRIKE.

The adjournment of the joint conference of the operators and miners of the great competitive fields of western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, on failure to agree upon a wage scale beginning April 1 next, will work serious and wide-reaching injury to union labor and subject the public to serious injustice. For years past the joint meetings of the employers and miners, in which have been arranged the scale of wages for this industry, have been the inspiration and model for almost all other organizations of capital and labor. For several years past the wage scale so fixed by this interstate movement has been the basis upon which the wages of substantially all the other mining districts have fixed theirs, excepting the unorganized coal fields of West Virginia and eastern Pennsylvania. Even these fields are largely governed by the prices made by this convention for the organized miners.

When the meeting assembled at the regular date in January the miners were asking an advance over the present scale paid, and the operators insisting that there should be a reduction of 15 per cent. Before this meeting adjourned in January they came to this position: The miners were willing to accept the present scale, the operators willing to return to the scale of 1902. No further progress seeming possible, an adjournment was taken with the hope that time and reflection would enable an agreement to be reached when the representatives were called together again.

The present meeting convened on Feb. 29. After much discussion a status was reached substantially the same as at the previous meeting, namely, the miners agreed to accept the present price, the operators demanding the price of 1902. The difference between them was 10 cents a ton on the basal item of screened lump coal. For several days this position was occupied, neither party being willing to recede. The operators then, to avoid a strike, made a compromise offer which, simply expressed, was to divide the difference; that is to say, make the scale on screened lump coal 5 cents lower than the present wage, and 5 cents higher than that of 1902, and, in addition, to make this contract for two years.

It was believed by the operators and by very many of the more conservative miners that this offer, made in a conciliatory spirit, would be accepted by the miners, and that an agreement would be reached and signed on Saturday. This proposition was supported by Mr. Mitchell in what his friends agree was perhaps the master effort of his life. It was supported also by Vice President Lewis, by Secretary Wilson and by many of the ablest leaders among the miners. Nevertheless when the vote was taken, the miners rejected this conciliatory compromise offer of the operators. Consequently when the joint conference was called Saturday evening at 4 o'clock the effort failed and the conference adjourned sine die.

The position of the operators was based upon the broad view that prices were too high; that the inevitable ebb of the tide was at hand; that it was the part of wisdom to meet this situation with intelligent, conservative treatment, demanding a moderate decrease.

The operators were not moved to this conclusion by any immediate selfishness or desire for gain, as all that was conceded by the miners would be given the public on the price of coal. They believed that there was but one interest—that common alike to operators and miners, and that this conservative treatment and moderate reduction, agreed upon cordially, would sound a note far-reaching, guaranteeing undisturbed prosperity and going beyond anything and everything done up to this time to show the possibility of harmony between capital and labor on a receding scale as well as upon an advancing tide.

When two parties meet for the purpose of reaching a mutual agreement and after a thorough discussion of controversial issues, come to a fixed and definite disagreement and one of the parties in a conciliatory spirit, for the purpose of breaking the deadlock, offers to divide the difference, it would seem there remains for the other only one of two things to do: accept the offer, or by refusing it, acknowledge that they are not sincere in their declaration of purpose of reaching a fair agreement.

There is hope, it appears, that a strike may be avoided. If the committee should decide to leave the question to a referendum vote, the local unions, or a majority of them, might see the matter in the same light in which it appears to the leaders and wisest heads of the organization. Men from outside the district have had a hand in bringng matters to their present status. With a referendum vote only those who are actually concerned will have a vote. It is for them to consider the immense losses a strike will bring to both labor and capital, the disturbance of public confidence, and the universal suffering that would follow a strike. The rights of the public should control the action of both parties.

AN OBJECT LESSON.

The people of Indiana are to-day presented with a spectacle which should prove a valuable object lesson—the spectacle of a Democratic city administration openly breaking its ante-election promises within five months of its inauguration. There is nothing unique in the situation. It is an oft-told tale, a story as old as the Democratic party, but it carries a moral which Indiana voters may consider with profit.

The Democratic party is a party first of promises and then of broken promises. It will promise anything the people please to get into power, and it will do anything its leaders please after it gets into power. In the recent municipal campaign an element in this city demanded reform. And the Democratic party was at once a reformer. It traded its sandbags for halos and robed itself in garments of shimmering white. It declared itself the thorn-crowned guardian of civic purity and asserted, like the inebriate father of the immortal Huckelberry Finn, that it "hadn't never been understood." It shrieked "Reform" from the flagstones and the housetops—and it gained its point. That was five months ago. To-day the halos are vanished and the distinctly practical politician who led the reform hosts has forgotten public purity for potatoes. The winerooms and dance halls, the evils of which had driven Mr. Holtzman's campaign followers to the verge of nervous prostration, are running wide open, Sundays as well as week days. For two Sundays in succession Journal reporters have collected evidence absolutely proving that the wineroom and dance hall is a regular Sunday attraction. The mayor has accepted the Journal's statements as true and promised prosecutions under the evidence submitted by the reporters of this newspaper. But the Journal wishes to disclaim any wish to act as Mr. Holtzman's police force. As the weeks and months go by the Journal finds nothing to regret in the fact that it is in no wise responsible for the present reform administration. This newspaper has called attention to rank violations of the law and it will continue to discharge its duty in that regard, but it feels that there are other newspapers in Indianapolis which are better fitted, in view of ante-election editorial promises, to aid Mr. Holtzman to maintain that moral altitude which was indicated as being his in the days of the last municipal campaign.

For those who elected the present city officials the situation is not a pleasant one to contemplate, but the most effective pills are not always sugar-coated nor are the most valuable lessons the easiest to learn. The election of five months ago is insignificant in comparison with that which is to come next fall, and the people should remember the broken pledges of the Indianapolis Democrats when the Democratic national leaders begin their promising in the next campaign.

THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

There has been a vast amount of newspaper gossip connecting Senator Fairbanks's name with the vice presidency, and most of it has been harmless so far as his interests and those of the party are concerned, but two or three publications within the last few days certainly place the senator in a false position before the public. It has been stated recently that Mr. Fairbanks has informed his friends that he will accept the nomination, and one newspaper has gone so far as to intimate that it is authorized by the senator practically to declare him a "receptive candidate." Those who know Mr. Fairbanks best know such assertions to be as silly as they are unwise. The Journal has no hesitancy in declaring that Senator Fairbanks has never made any such statement to anybody. It is generally recognized by his friends that if he should be nominated for the vice presidency it would be because his party drafted him, and for no other reason. It is a matter of general belief among Republicans from Maine to California that Senator Fairbanks is the most available man for the vice presidential nomination, and it has been the general opinion that he will be forced to accept that nomination as Mr. Roosevelt was forced to accept it four years ago. But the statement that Mr. Fairbanks is in any sense a candidate is without foundation in fact.

There can be no question but Senator Fairbanks would add strength to the ticket. He possesses elements of strength peculiarly his own. He is strong geographically, politically and personally. The general judgment of him is, and correctly so, that he is not only a very able man, but that he is pre-eminently a safe one. To wide popularity among the masses he adds especial strength among conservative business men. He is strong in New England, in the Eastern States, in the middle West and in the Northwest. In Indiana he is exceptionally strong.

If Senator Fairbanks should be elected Vice President Republicans would feel that he was in the direct line of promotion to the higher office. Because he would be making somewhat of a present sacrifice in accepting the nomination for second place they would feel like rewarding him. He would make an ideal president of the Senate, and as a recognized presidential possibility he would invest the office of Vice President with unusual dignity.

The Journal does not share in the feeling of some of the senator's friends that his acceptance of the nomination for Vice President would mar his political future. The fact that he would accept it from a sense of duty to the party would enhance the high esteem in which he is already held. This is not his last chance, nor is the floor of the Senate his only field. He is still comparatively young, and his political career has not culminated. He can afford to wait. Time is his friend and ally. If he should accept the call of the party to become its candidate for Vice President this year his nomination for President four years hence would be almost a foregone conclusion.

The New York Sun has just finished proving that T. Roosevelt is and has been in the past a remarkably long-headed person. When he was assistant secretary of the navy he wrote two memoranda on the subject of torpedo-boat warfare, and at these his superiors were inclined to sneer. The Sun has dug them up and published them; and the prophecies in regard to the value of these boats have been strikingly fulfilled on the Yellow sea. On whom is the laugh?

News from St. Petersburg indicates that Russia does not yet consider the war actually begun. The Japanese naval victories do not mean anything, she says—wait till all the soldiers get there, then we'll show you. Also, it wouldn't make much difference if Port Arthur did fall. And all these assurances come under the head of what is known to the sporting fraternity as "dope."

MINOR TOPICS.

There are ninety-six Filipino boys being educated in American schools. One of them is in Santa Barbara, Cal. This is the delightful way in which he speaks of his early experiences:

The other boys were most kind to me, for the teacher asked them to be good to a stranger. They invited me to join them in games, but the same were greatly rough, so I preferred to look on. The American girls are very fine and beautiful. They made friends so easily that it nearly took away my breath. In our country girls always wait for the men to speak and smile and make friends. Here the girls do it all most freshly.

Here is a prospect that is almost heartbreaking. It is well known that nature has a way of evening things up, and that at the end of each year the temperature averages about the same. Now there is a shortage of 333 degrees of heat since Jan. 1. All these degrees will have to be added this summer to make the books balance. It is discouraging.

All who have relations living in St. Louis would do well to hurry up and renew the correspondence which was dropped so many years ago. There remains only a few weeks to establish terms of sufficient intimacy to warrant the expectation of an invitation for a visit this summer.

In Waterbury, where the watches come from, a woman drank a pint of cider brandy, a pint of rye whisky, an ounce of carbolic acid, four ounces of chloroform and a drachm of sulphate of morphine. The doctors think she must have been trying to commit suicide.

Chicago may declare war against Great Britain. The British government has transferred Consul Wyndham from the windy city to Boston, and considers the transfer a promotion. An ultimatum is expected from Lake Michigan almost any day now.

A man loaned $4,000 for a total interest of $32,000 in eight years. In the investigation it comes out that he is the father of Lillian Bell; so that proves that genius is hereditary. Only father has Lillian beat to death.

Three checks were stolen from the office of the Atlas engine works last Wednesday. The Journal, however, must refuse the request to give the prize offered several days previously for the first robbin' of the spring.

Former President Wos y Gil, of San Domingo, is coming to the United States for a visit. He will travel incognito, however, so he may get away without giving any one a chance to find out who y Wos.

The war correspondents are requested not to lose sight of Major General Pflug for a single minute. We'd rather hear about him than those other generals—he rests the jaw so.

Lieutenant Totten has calculated that the world will come to an end in the year 1919. Oh, well—that's fifteen years yet; plenty of time to get the canal dug.

A small boy in Ohio died of heart failure while being spanked by an indignant parent. Boil your spankings!

THE HUMORISTS.

The Ship.

"Young Spenderly has been flying high since the death of his millionaire uncle."

"Yes, he has found it smooth sailing since he came into his heirship."—Town Topics.

Qualified.

"We want a man for our information bureau," said the manager, "but he must be one that can answer all sorts of questions and not lose his head."

"That's me," replied the applicant. "I'm the father of eight children."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Time for Forbearance.

Daughter—Maw, I want you to stop bossing paw until after I get married.

Mother—Why, I should like to know?

Daughter—Just as quick as I get a little bit intimate with a young man he begins to ask if I take after you.—New York Weekly.

Six Short.

The actress who got one bouquet
Was mad as a hatter, they suet,
For it seems she had given
Her order for seven,
And the florist had gotten his puet.
—Philadelphia Press.

He Had a Way with Him.

Jane Seymour was boasting to Anne Boleyn.

"Henry has just asked me for my hand," she remarked.

"That's nothing," retorted the Queen, "he has just asked me for my head."

Subsequent events showed both ladies granted the request.—New York Tribune.

Reckless Daring.

"Brave? He's one of the bravest men I ever knew."

"I've never heard of him going to war or rescuing anybody from drowning."

"That may be, but he once ran for office in Kansas and wore evening clothes and an opera hat right where the voters could see him."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Men Are Honest.

She wore her heart upon her sleeve,
O do not say 'tis cause to grieve
That she should thus reveal it,
Because she never knew till then
There were so many honest men—
For not a one would steal it.
—Philadelphia Bulletin.

CHURCH AFFAIRS.

Spencer's Service to Christianity.

Whatever just criticisms may be made against the agnosticism of Mr. Herbert Spencer and his school, it is certain that these men have put our Christian faith under a vast obligation in showing how illimitable was the universe and its problems, how profound the mysteries of mind and matter and Providence which transcended any cheap and easy explanations. They enlarged by their scientific explorations the sphere of cosmical study until we all stood awestruck before the surpassing and inexplicable wonders of nature. Such a Creator as we saw there manifested is evidently not to be cramped up and confined in our little rigid human definitions.

Henry Ward Beecher once spoke of the Deity in these significant and true words: "The immensity of His being lies beyond the grasp of human thought. The attributes are but alphabetic letters. We spell a few simple sentences. But the greatness, the scope, the majesty, the variety that is in Him we cannot compute. It will break upon us when we shall see Him as He is, and not through the imperfections of human analogies and experiences. I thank God that there is so much that is unknowable. When Columbus discovered America he did know that he had discovered a continent, but he did not know its contents, what the mountain ranges were, nor what or where the rivers were, nor the lakes, nor the inhabitants. Yet he did know he had made the discovery of the continent. And I know God so that I walk with Him as a companion, I whisper to Him, I believe He imparts thoughts to me and feelings, and yet when you ask me, 'Can you describe Him? Can you make an inventory of His attributes?' I cannot. I thank God that He so transcends anything we know of Him."—Western Christian Advocate.

Religious Custom of Fasting.

Detroit Catholics who grumble at the hardship of keeping Lent in the manner prescribed by the church can derive some comfort from hearing of the rigorous manner in which it used to be regarded a few centuries ago.

"The fasting custom originated with the Jews, who took only one meal a day, and that at sunset," said Fr. Ernest Van Dyke. "The Christian church adopted the custom and enforced it rigorously until the ninth century, when some relaxations began to be introduced. The relaxations commenced by breaking the fast at the noon hour, or 3 o'clock in the afternoon by our time, instead of at sunset. This custom was everywhere prevalent in the twelfth century, and in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries it began to be taught that it was permissible to break the fast at midday. But all this time the faithful ate only one meal a day.

"People had previously broken their fast only when their work was over for the day, but now they had to labor after having eaten, and they began to complain. This brought out the introduction of the collation in the evening, and the mitigation soon spread all over the world. Up to recent times all white meats were forbidden. This included butter, eggs, milk and cheese, and practically all there was to eat was fish, bread and vegetables. This was what was called a 'black fast,' and when I was in the seminary in Italy no white meats were allowed, except for those who were ailing. In this country the black fast is unknown.

"It was exceedingly hard in the old days to get a dispensation. Wenceslaus, King of Bohemia, got a dispensation in 1279, only after a strict investigation, and was enjoined not to take meat in the presence of others. In the fourteenth century King John of France was allowed to eat meat on days of abstinence, except during Lent and all Fridays and certain vigils. In those days dispensations were never granted to the laboring classes or to the clergy, but to-day all engaged in hard labor are allowed to eat meat on Wednesdays in Lent at one meal, and their families also enjoy the same privilege, because if one were to eat meat and the others fish it would be necessary to provide what would practically be two dinners, and this would be a burden upon the poor people.

"In the old days people used to fast every day in Lent except Sundays. Now it is only two days a week. Then they used to eat only one meal a day. Now they can eat as often as they want, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, when they are allowed one full meal and one collation."—Detroit Journal.

Millions in Missions.

The American Board, which was organized at Bradford, Mass., June 29, 1810, did not receive its charter until 1812, the year in which the first missionaries sailed for India. Since that time it has commissioned 2,384 persons—949 men and 1,458 women. The total amount of money received for the board from its beginning until now is $34,431,255.51. The American Board's oldest mission in Africa is among the Zulus in the colony of Natal. This mission has twenty-three churches which are entirely self-supporting. The Zulu version of the Bible, now extensively used in South Africa, is published in New York, having been made by American Congregational missionaries.—Boston Herald.

America's Oldest Church.

San Miguel Church, in Santa Fe, N. M., is the oldest ecclesiastical edifice existing in this country. It was erected in 1582 and perhaps even earlier. In 1680 Santa Fe was burned and the roof of San Miguel was consumed and the interior badly damaged. In 1710 the church was put in thorough repair. Under the care of the Christian Brothers the church is kept in excellent condition. This adobe church in an adobe town is a unique memorial of one of the most stirring and romantic epochs of American history.—Denver Times.

Religion in Philippines.

The headquarters of the woman's work of the Episcopal Mission in the Philippines is in the Tondo district of Manila. A house formerly occupied by a Spaniard has been taken for the Church Settlement house. The head worker of the house is Miss Margaret Waterman, formerly of New York, and associated with her are Miss Harriet B. Osgood, a kindergartner, and Miss Thacher and Miss Oakes, both trained nurses. The house is rapidly becoming a center of influence and usefulness.—Manila Times.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD.

The Wrong House.

Judge Wade, the only Democrat in Congress from Iowa, is a pronounced tariff reformer. One day last week he was making a speech on that subject in the House. He was telling how futile it was to expect to get tariff reform from the Republican party. Out in Iowa, he said, after the last election, a man was sent to an insane asylum. An inmate said to him, "What did you come here for?"

"They sent me here," replied the man.

"Why did they send you here?"

"Because," said the man, "I am a tariff reformer, and I voted the Republican ticket."

"Ah," said the inmate, "that is, indeed, a shame. You should not be sent here. This is a place for the insane, and you are just a plain fool."—Washington Times.

Colored Hibernian.

"Private" John Allen says that an old darky preacher in Mississippi was recently approached by a deacon in the church, who desired to gain the reverend gentleman's consent to his daughter's marriage with him, the deacon.

"I doan' know 'bout dis," said the preacher, dubiously. "You ain't sech a young man, deacon. I ain't shore dat you kin support mah chile!"

The deacon bridled. "Dere won't be no trouble 'bout dat, sah!" he asserted, warmly. "I kin support her all right!"

The minister reflected for a moment. "Has you eber seen my Chloe eat?" he finally asked.

"I has, sah!" came from the suitor.

"But, sah!" exclaimed the old preacher, impressively, "has you eber seen her eat when nobody was a-watchin' her?"—Woman's Home Companion.

Graft in England.

Some years ago an investigation of election bribery in England disclosed the following method of buying votes: An elector entered the agent's room. Agent (holding up three fingers, to signify three sovereigns): "Well, Mr. Smith, how are you to-day?" Mr. Smith: "I am not very well to-day." Agent (holding up five fingers): "I am sorry you are not very well to-day." Mr. Smith: "Oh, I am not very ill. It is all right." Then Smith looked out of the window while the agent put five sovereigns on the table. It was then the agent's turn to look out of the window, and when he turned round again Smith and the money had disappeared. Smith never saw the agent put down the money; the agent never saw Smith pick it up. Consequently when a parliamentary commission was appointed the agent swore he never gave Smith any money and Smith swore that no one gave him any.—Kansas City Star.

A School Teacher's Story.

A prominent educator in Philadelphia tells the following story on himself: In his early teaching days he had a position in a country schoolhouse in New England. The people in the neighborhood worked out their taxes by giving him board, and when there was no vacancy in the farmhouses he took a small room, while the neighbors supplied him with food. One day a young boy came running breathlessly toward him. "Say, teacher," he gasped, "my pa wants to know if you like pork?" "Indeed, I do like pork," the teacher replied, concluding that the very stingy father of this boy had determined to donate some pork to him. "You tell your father if there is anything in this world that I do like it is pork." Some time transpired, and there was no pork forthcoming. One day he met the boy alone in the schoolyard. "Look here, John," he said, "how about that pork?" "Oh," replied the boy, "the pig got well."—Philadelphia Record.

One of John Lamb's Stories.

Representative John Lamb deplores the present lack of harmony within Democratic ranks and believes better days are coming. He illustrates the present status by a picture from pastoral Virginia.

"One of our good Virginia farmers," said Captain Lamb yesterday, "engaged an Irishman to plow his field. He turned over to this Irishman a yoke of oxen and a mule, and, directing him to begin the work, seated himself on the shady side of his porch and smoked his old cob pipe.

"But it wasn't long before a terrible hubbub was heard in the field. The farmer hurried thither to find the team at a standstill and the Irishman swearing as only an Irishman can.

"'Well, sor,' explained the plowman, who showed a familiarity with nautical terms, 'the larboard ox is on the starboard side, and the starboard ox is on the larboard side, and Jennie is afoul of the rigging.'"

Captain Lamb applies that description to the Democratic leaders.—Washington Post.

A Terrible War Plan.

The difficulty of capturing such a place as Port Arthur through naval attack recalls memory of one of the many inventions of the great Dundonald. That extraordinary genius devised a "secret war plan" which, he declared, would within four hours annihilate Sebastopol or Cronstadt, and he offered it to the British government for such use in the Crimean war. An expert committee investigated it, pronounced it practicable, infallible and irresistible, but added that it was too terrible for a civilized nation to adopt. Therefore, it was never tried, but has been kept to this day a profound secret. Whether there is any record of it or any one now living knows what its awful details were is uncertain.—New York Tribune.

The Czar's Dependence of Character.

The Czar Nicholas II is physically weak; his nerves are shattered; his will feeble. He is amiable where iron-handedness is essential. He is dependent when a strong individuality is required. He is constantly in subjection first to one influence and then another. He is more than usually amenable to women's control, and the fair sex has on more than one occasion exercised powerful, if not calamitous, influence upon his life.—Everybody's Magazine for March.

THE DRIFT OF POLITICS

John E. Lamb, of Terre Haute, who has just returned from a trip to Washington and New York, regards the nomination of Judge Parker for President at the St. Louis convention next July as almost as much of a certainty as that the convention will be held. Mr. Lamb was at the Grand last evening.

"The action of the New York Democratic state committee Saturday at Albany settled the matter, in my opinion," he said. "The Parker and anti-Parker, or Cleveland, forces measured strength on the question of where the state convention should be held, and the Parker people won out. The Parker people wanted the convention at Albany. Tammany wanted the convention in New York city and Tammany wants Cleveland—at least Mr. Murphy does, and he speaks for Tammany. Murphy thought he had control of the state committee, but he learned his mistake. The state convention will be held in Albany and the New York delegation to the national convention will be instructed for Judge Parker. It looks to me now like Parker's nomination is assured."

"Do you believe that Murphy and Tammany are really for Cleveland?"

"Yes, I do," replied Mr. Lamb. "I did not get to see Mr. Murphy while I was in New York, but I talked with Bourke Cochran. He is for Cleveland and he stands close to Murphy.

"Bourke Cockran wants Cleveland because he believes Cleveland can carry New York and give the State a Democratic Legislature that will send him—Cockran—to the United States Senate. I am inclined to believe that Mr. Cockran and his friends are a trifle selfish in their advocacy of Cleveland. They don't seem to care about the country at large, but they want control of the State of New York. However, Judge Parker is the man a majority of the Democrats throughout the country want, and he will be the nominee."

Mr. Lamb was asked if he did not believe W. R. Hearst would cut an important figure at St. Louis and be more of a formidable factor in the presidential race than some of the party leaders seem to think.

"Not in the least," he said. "Hearst is making a lot of noise, but he will not have sufficient strength in the convention to amount to anything. The Hearst boom is like a squab—largest when it's first born."

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Mr. Lamb announced flatly last evening that he was not to be considered in connection with the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

"I am not a candidate, shall not be a candidate and couldn't take the nomination if it were handed to me," he said. "I don't like to advertise my physical infirmities, but the truth is that my health is such that I would not dare undertake the work of an active campaign. My old enemy, rheumatism, is after me again, and any unusual exertion puts me down and out. If I had my health it would be another proposition and I admit that I would be glad to head the state ticket. The man who makes the race at the head of the Democratic ticket this year will be in good shape whether he is elected or not, providing he makes a good campaign, for he will be recognized as the leader of his party in Indiana."

Major G. V. Menzies, of Mt. Vernon, is Mr. Lamb's choice for the gubernatorial nomination. "Major Menzies is one of our strongest men and could put up a magnificent fight," he said. "I don't know what he thinks about it, or whether he would accept the nomination, but if I had his health I know mighty well what I'd do."

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The Indiana Democratic leaders are unquestionably trying to create the impression that there's nothing to it but the Parker band wagon in the Democratic presidential campaign. The Cleveland bugaboo is troubling them, but they feel reasonably secure in the conviction that Cleveland cannot possibly be nominated at St. Louis, no matter if he should have an instructed delegation from New York behind him. However, in view of what the Indiana leaders want to do, the question naturally arises, why aren't they organizing Parker clubs and giving some form and substance to the Parker movement? Hearst is having absolutely no competition in the way of such spectacular plays and Hearst's activity is bearing fruit. Already Hearst has made such a showing that his candidacy is no longer ridiculed by Democrats who are opposed to him, unless it be that the ridicule is for effect, and on the contrary, many thoughtful men in the party are growing decidedly alarmed and fearful that Hearst is really to be reckoned with.

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In Indiana Hearst and his hirelings are now paying especial attention to the First district. Clubs are being organized throughout the district and after it has been covered thoroughly, the organizers will go up into the Second and so on until every district in the State has been covered.

The William Randolph Hearst Club, in Evansville, has secured commodious permanent quarters in the heart of the city and will have a formal opening in a few days. It has been announced that the clubrooms will be open day and night to members and to all Democrats in sympathy with the Hearst movement. The papers published by Hearst and other Democratic organs will be kept on file, together with an abundance of Hearst literature. The club will be conducted on the plan of a county central committee, with every ward and precinct systematically organized. The charter list is growing rapidly, it is said, and it is announed that clubs are being organized in every county seat in the district to work hand-in-hand with the Evansville organization. The organization of clubs at Princeton, Boonville, Mt. Vernon, Petersburg and other points is now well under way.

The situation when Hearst has every district in Indiana organized in this manner will be one to cause the cold chills to creep up and down the spinal columns of old-line Democrats. Hearst will have a much more thorough organization than the regular Democratic organization and his organization will be much more formidable, because he has an abundance of money to do his work and the Democratic organization in Indiana has been virtually bankrupt for ten years. It takes money to get Indiana Democrats to working with any degree of enthusiasm and they will work just as hard for Hearst money as they will for the money from the regular organization.

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There is just one chance of Hearst's falling down with this sort of a campaign in Indiana. He may get double-crossed, in common political parlance. It has been reported from credible sources that the wily Mr. Taggart, who is running the regular Democratic organization in Indiana at present, has sent out the word to all the county, township and city workers of the State that Hearst has tapped his barrel for Indiana, and that they must give him a hearty welcome, help him organize his clubs, take his money and spend it where it will do the most good in the way of cheering up the "boys in the precincts." Then when the time comes to select delegates to the St. Louis convention the workers are to forget that they ever received a dollar of Hearst money, and are to look to Indianapolis for orders, which will be ironclad instructions that Indiana must send a delegation to St. Louis that Mr. Taggart can carry in his vest pocket and deliver where and to whom he pleases.

If Mr. Taggart can turn this trick he will have nothing to fear from Hearst and on the contrary will be under obligations to him, for the Hearst money will thus do as much good for the regular organization as if it had been distributed by Mr. Taggert himself as treasurer of the Democratic state committee. Mr. Taggart has been known to reap the benefit of money spent by other people who thought they were making great headway against him, and it is just possible that such is his game with Hearst.

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The Democrats of Lincoln county, Georgia, who indorsed Judge Parker or any other Democrat except Hearst or Bryan, would have received the unqualified approval of their Indiana brethren if they had only included Cleveland in the list with Hearst and Bryan.

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John B. Stoll, of South Bend, has come out squarely against Cleveland. "Mr. Cleveland wil not be nominated at the St. Louis convention," he says. "He doesn't want it; he doesn't seek it, and he couldn't have it if he wanted it. That much is as clear as daylight."

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J. W. Ragsdale, of Franklin, who was the one Democrat found in Indiana by the Sentinel who thought Cleveland would stand a chance of carrying Indiana, was at the Grand yesterday.

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Francis T. Roots, of Connersville, who was selected last Thursday as one of the Sixth district's delegates to the Republican national convention, was at the Columbia Club last evening.

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The official call for the Republican state convention will be issued to-day by State Chairman J. P. Goodrich and Secretary Fred A. Sims. The call will set forth details of the arrangements for the convention.

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It is expected that the suit attacking the constitutionality of the 1903 apportionment will reach the Supreme Court within the next few days. The briefs in the Boone county case have been completed, but there has been some delay in getting the court record in shape.

No action has yet been taken to test the legality of the act extending the terms of certain county and judicial officers. The Republican state committee is taking the initiative in this matter, although the Democratic state committee has been similarly advised and has notified the county organizations to proceed on the theory that the law would be found invalid. It has been expected to bring the test suit in Hendricks county, and then in Randolph county, but in both instances it was found that there would be difficulty in making a case that would make the issue clearly and solely one of the constitutionality of the law. The state committee is anxious to have the question definitely disposed of on the first suit and appeal, and for this reason the attorneys are proceeding with unusual care. It is now thought that the suit will be brought in Warren county, as the situation there is believed to be such as to make possible a square test of the law. Litigation may be begun within a week or ten days.

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Will H. Hays, chairman of the Republican central committee of Sullivan county, has reported to Secretary Sims, of the state committee, that his organization is in good shape and is prepared to give Sullivan county Democrats a campaign that will be in the nature of a revelation to them.

"Mr. Hays outlined some of his plans to me and I'm inclined to believe that he's the right man for county chairman in that Democratic stronghold," said Secretary Sims. "As a rule it is difficult to instill much life in the organizations in counties where the majority is against us, but Mr. Hays is aggressive and wide awake and will make a great record, I believe. If he does as well as county chairman as he did two years ago as a candidate for prosecutor we'll be more than satisfied. He almost wiped out a Democratic majority of 1,000, for his opponent was elected by just fifty-three votes."

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W. H. Hawkins, former secretary of the Democratic state committee, who recently removed from this city to Terre Haute, was here yesterday and answered to roll call at his old headquarters, the lobby of the Grand. He brought a new story or two and the same old laugh with him and took a hand in the little game called "Carrying the State and country," which the Democrats play at the Grand every afternoon and evening.

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W. N. Hodges, sr., who lives on Martinsville rural route No. 4, writes the Journal urging the nomination of Senator Pressly Smith, of Morgan county, for Governor. Mr. Hodges says that some of the best Governors the State has had have come from the farm and that Senator Smith is a typical hard-headed, practical farmer, possessed of executive ability and an abundance of common sense.

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Rome C. Stehpenson, of Rochester, has been named as the Republican candidate for state sanator in thed istrict composed of Fulton and Wabash counties. The nomination is equivalent to an election, Mr. Stephenson was recently a candidate for chairman of the Thirteenth district Republican organization.

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W. L. Taylor, of this city, spent the latter part of last week in the northern part of the State. Last evening he left for a canvass of eastern Indiana. Before leaving the city he said he was delighted with the reception accorded him in St. Joseph and other counties in northern Indiana and that he was well satisfied with the present situation in the gubernatorial race.

Democracy Judged by Its Fruit.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

In the war of the revolution the Democrats sided with England and were called Tories. The anti-Federalists were Democrats. They were strict constructionists, State rights men and called the Federalists "Monarchists" and at one time called themselves Republicans. The anti-Lecompton Democrats, under the lead of Crittenden and Douglas, opposed the admission of Kansas, as a slave State, while the regular Democrats favored it. Booth, the assassin of Lincoln, was a Democrat. In 1840 the Democrats in New York split and were called barnburners and hunkers. The tariff of 1833 was opposed by Democrats, and the Legislature of South Carolina went so far as to declare the act of Congress null and void. Border ruffians were Democrats who invaded Kansas from Missouri in an effort to make it a slave State. In 1838 5,000