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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1908.

Taft Activity in Alabama.

The Taft boom has struck a considerable obstruction in Alabama, the first State on the roll call of the national convention. There is a strong anti-administration wing of the Republican party in that Commonwealth. It has an organization of its own, a State executive committee, and an active chairman. At a recent meeting it was determined to hold a State convention for the selection of anti-Taft delegates to Chicago, and a resolution was adopted expressing the opposition of those present—twenty-six in all—to the attempt of the President to nominate his successor.

But the "live wire" of the meeting, as an account in the Birmingham Age-Herald tells us, was the adoption of a resolution calling on the United States Senate to make an investigation of violations of the civil service law on the part of Federal officeholders, as well as "certain pernicious political activity of which Federal officeholders have been guilty." In explanation of this resolution, Judge D. N. Cooper, of the Sixth Alabama district, said to an Age-Herald reporter "that it was common gossip in Marion County that the deputy marshal had endeavored to gain support for Taft candidates for delegateship by stating that he controlled the patronage of that district, the appointment of bailiffs, and the filling of Federal juries." The discussion of the resolution, according to the Age-Herald's account, bordered on the sensational.

The terms of the resolution and the reasons adduced by Judge Cooper for its adoption furnish mighty interesting reading, even at this distance from Marion County. We had not supposed that the Taft boomers had gone so far as to parcel out bailiffs to men sound in the Taft faith, or to exchange places in the Federal jury box for Taft votes. That is raking the Federal patronage with a fine-tooth comb, as it were, for something of value to the Taft campaign. By whom is that sort of thing ordered, or suggested, or encouraged, or does it just naturally happen? Political activity of the sort described by Judge Cooper is not only pernicious, as the Taft workers ought to know, but it is extremely foolish. It does Taft infinitely more harm than good.

Can it be possible there is more to this submarine business than appears on the surface?

Mr. Hearst's New National Party.

William R. Hearst's Independence League has decided to hold a national convention and to form a new party, thus initiating a movement that may give some uneasiness to both the old organizations, particularly if the Republicans should persist in their policy of doing nothing at the present session of Congress, and if the Democrats should attempt an appeal to the conservatism of the country. Mr. Hearst, who is the inspiration of the cause, regards both the existing parties as hopelessly reactionary. "The word Democracy," he says, "defines no doctrine; the word Republican expresses no principle." The bitterest political differences of opinion he finds in the Democratic party, where conservative and radical are uncompromisingly opposed. A similar division, though not so marked, characterizes the Republican party. This being the situation, Mr. Hearst thinks the time is propitious for a real national party, standing for popular reforms which other parties are reluctant to grant. The platform of the new party Mr. Hearst thus describes:

"The first purpose of our platform is to restore the power of government to the people, to make their will supreme in the primaries, in the elections, and in the control of public officials after they have been elected.

"Our second purpose is to destroy the power of selfish special interests by wresting from their hands their main weapon, the corruption fund, and by preventing absolutely the use of any money at elections except for literature, for meetings, and for legitimate appeals to the intelligence and patriotism of the voter.

"Our third purpose is to correct some of the obvious financial and economic evils of the day, to promote not only the creation of wealth, but a more just and equable distribution of wealth, and to prevent the interruption of the mighty march of national progress and prosperity by the criminal methods of the highwaymen of high finance.

"Our fourth purpose is to frame certain schemes of constructive legislation to develop the resources of our great country, to increase national and international facilities for trade and commerce, to restore confidence and employment, and to encourage all legitimate business enterprises."

To carry these principles into practice the Independence Leaguers demand two very radical changes in the American political system, both of which directly traverse the main body of belief entertained by the leaders of existing parties. The first of these is the broad application of the initiative and referendum to national, State, and municipal affairs, and the second, the extension of the principle of public ownership of public utilities as rapidly as our governments, municipal, State, and national, shall demonstrate their ability to conduct such enterprises for the public benefit. While the platform stands for a number of other things that may be termed radical, most of the other propositions advanced in it have already been appropriated by Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan, and they do not involve any serious modification of our political or industrial system. But the initiative and referendum, coupled with public ownership, would reduce representative government to a nullity, and bring about an industrial order, so far as railroads, telegraphs, street railroads, water, and lighting companies are concerned, that would closely resemble the socialistic state, with its industries controlled by the workers. Perhaps we are going in that direction, anyway, but it is easily conceivable that a government which owned and controlled the vast interests included in our public utilities—a government whose every important act could be dictated by the initiative or estopped by the referendum, whose officials were subject to instant decapitation by the recall, would be a government so far removed from that which we now live under as to justify the appellation "revolutionary." It would be, not a representative government, but, as the reformers say, a pure democracy, in which the people, theoretically, at least, directly manage the complicated political affairs of State, city, and nation, with an industrial organism annexed.

When we consider how deeply popular rule, by means of the initiative and referendum, conjoined with government ownership and operation of vast industrial and transportation enterprises, would cut away the foundations of our present political institutions, and when we observe that there is a large and increasing body of public opinion supporting these subversive proposals, the conclusion is forced upon us that radicalism has gained a much stronger hold upon the American people than the timid conservatives of old parties are willing to admit. Mr. Hearst has been stimulating this radicalism for a number of years through his papers; he now proposes to test its extent by direct appeal through a party organization—an organization that will have the obvious advantage over its competitors of being avowedly and sincerely and aggressively radical.

The verdict in the Stoessel court-martial was promptly reversed by the civilized world, whether Russia ever reverses it or no.

The Searchlight on the Navy.

It is to be hoped that Senator Hale, chairman of the Senate Naval Committee, and Senator Tillman, the head of the minority membership of that committee, will spare no one in their proposed investigation of naval administration. There is enough to justify a thorough inquiry, regardless of the effect upon people or politics. There is something radically wrong in the Navy Department when it becomes necessary for the Secretary of the Navy to address "categorical questions" to individual officers to ascertain whether there has been a combination to influence public sentiment against the existing system and methods. A firm head of the Navy Department would not have permitted the situation to develop as it has since the offense of last session, when the naval general board was responsible for a crude circular sent out by each midshipman at the Naval Academy to "My Dear Father," asking the stimulation of neighborhood sentiment at home, so that "fires might be built" under the chairmen of the House and Senate Naval Committees, and get them to promote certain radical naval personnel legislation. This was an offense which ought to have led to an investigation then and there by the Secretary of the Navy and the ordering away from Washington of the officers who were responsible for the composition of this discourteous communication. It was well known in the Navy Department who wrote these circulars, and it was as well known who instigated this ridiculous campaign.

Another remarkable incident has occurred during the past week. It is the failure of the Navy Department to reply in full to the Senate resolution calling for information respecting names and duties of those naval officers who are employed in Washington. The Senate resolution was plainly expressed, yet the reply sent from the Navy Department was incomplete, in that it omits from the list of officers on duty in Washington on January 1 last such a prominent officer as the Admiral of the Navy and the officers of less rank who are on duty in connection with the naval general board. Undoubtedly this omission is an oversight, but it is striking, and naturally invites the suspicion that it was intentional. Such an action would hardly be regarded as one of purpose because of that suspicion, but this proceeding would probably be possible to those who were capable of sending out the "My Dear Father" conflagration circulars.

It is an incident of this sort which justifies the inquiry now promised by Senators Hale and Tillman.

"Bryan, is it? Well, he is an easy man to beat," remarks the Baltimore American. Perhaps so; perhaps not! Pride, be it remembered, optimistic contemporary, sometimes goeth before a fall!

Brig. Gen. Saxton.

One by one—faster and ever faster—the noble heroes who came to the front at the greatest crisis of the nation's history, the civil war, are passing away. Modest, retiring gentlemen, living lives of peace and simplicity, doing their duties as citizens, they have been—and those remaining are—a great and fine leaven in this republic; an inspiration to the young; fine examples of what life well and honorably lived may come to. It is only when one of these modest heroes falls that the attention of the world is called to the part that they played in history.

Here was Brig. Gen. Rufus Saxton, who, stricken with heart disease, passes away in his eighty-fourth year. For sixty-one years he served his country continuously as a soldier, and rank by rank he rose, nearly each step upward being a reward for some special service, until he reached the rank of brigadier general. In the meantime, he had won the medal of honor and the thanks of the Congress; had turned back the Confederate troops under Stonewall Jackson at Harper's Ferry, so that the march on to Washington was forever made impossible; had served on many fields and in many capacities—including that of commanding a gunboat—and when his work was done he settled down here quietly in his home in Washington, his sword laid by, taking the rest which he had so nobly earned.

To know him was to love him. Like all brave men, he was simple and kindly and most generous. He did not care to talk about himself and the deeds he had done, but he followed the feats in arms of others with keen interest, for he came of a family of soldiers and the fighting spirit was in his blood. The things which should accompany old age, as "honor, love, obedience, troops of friends," all were his. He could look back to the past and remember the personal friendship of President Lincoln, of Stanton, Gen. Sherman, Buchanan—the giants of a by-gone age; and at the time of his death he numbered dear friends by the hundreds among the distinguished.

Up to the time of his death he was apparently hale and hearty. He had faced the grim-voiced guns often enough, but had come through many battles with only one slight wound, and this never bothered him much. Age crept upon him in a kindly, blessed way; no illness, no suffering. And he stepped from life to death in an instant, prompt to the last to answer to the roll when his name was called.

It does not seem right that we should repine at the passing of such a man as Gen. Saxton. To lose his fine friendship, the inspiration of his presence; his fine example of the life of a Christian gentleman—these are losses indeed; but surely he earned his rest! A soldier's work he had to do in the world, and he did it well. Through sixty-eight years he never faltered in his service; and though we have lost him, his name and his deeds are part of the nation's history and the nation's glory!

Representative Ollie James is being boomed for Vice President. Parties opposed to Mr. James, if they ever sized him up physically, will state their objections at a respectful distance.

Mr. Roosevelt Was Right.

Argument as to the propriety of the President's abolition of the motto "In God we trust" from certain coins of the United States may be somewhat belated at this time, Congress apparently having pretty well made up its august mind to order said motto restored. Nevertheless, we think the President might, did he care to do so, even prove his plea by the Congressional Record.

Mr. Roosevelt took the high ground that the motto on the coin, while worthy enough as an abstract proposition, was, for all that, really a source of much irreverence; was treated in the light of a joke rather than a pious sentiment, and, therefore, was not only serving no uplifting purpose, but was actually bringing the name of Deity into disrepute. If the President was right in this contention, no man will deny that he was doubly right in ordering the motto's removal. The question, therefore, is, Was he right in assuming the position he did?

Mr. Sheppard, of Texas, delivered a very beautiful Congressional speech—really it was a fine effort—advocating the restoration of the motto to the coins. If every American viewed this matter, in everyday intercourse with his fellow-man, through the glasses Mr. Sheppard holds to his mental eyes, there would be no division between thinking men as to the propriety of the restoration. But they don't; there's the rub! Probably not one hundred people in this entire land could give a clear summary of just what Mr. Sheppard said. On the contrary, every irreverent joke made at the expense of the motto travels all over the country. When, in discussing this question, Mr. Knowland, of California, suggested the motto, "I know that my redeemer liveth," for clearing-house certificates, it was telegraphed out from Washington as something excruciatingly funny, when, as a matter of fact, it was a suggestion made in extremely bad taste, even if intended, as it doubtless was, as a mere pleasantry. It is only this presumption that saves the "joke" from blasphemy.

And these are the things, say what one will, that prove the President's case! If this motto leads people—and it does, apparently, lead them—into the temptation to make light of sacred things, it were better that it go from the coins. That is the President's contention, and it is as sound as a dollar! Congress may restore the motto—indeed, doubtless will do so—but it cannot shake the solid foundation upon which Mr. Roosevelt planted himself when he issued the order that brought about the argument.

If book agents and life insurance solicitors were forced to observe legal holidays, we wouldn't care how many Congress created.

"Uncle Joe's attention is respectfully called to the fact that Louis XIV was a great believer in forest preservation; and he was a sort of I-am-the-state statesman, himself.

Mr. Roosevelt appears willing to admit that he recognizes the name "William" embroidered on some of his political garments, but insists that it means Taft and not Bryan.

It now appears that the new rate law has driven the greater number of one-night-stand attractions out of the South, and left that section victim to the week-stand shows. This is clearly a case of going from worse to even more so.

Did you say anything, Senator Dick?

Soliloquizes thusly the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: "Admit we must, that Teddy has cussed many a trust; but where is the trust that he has bust since first he fussed?" To avoid trouble, we say right now, you may search us!

"Why send a million yearly out of Georgia?" demands a headline in the Atlanta Constitution. Perhaps Jacksonville and Chattanooga can tell why.

"Can a whale scream?" asks the Brooklyn Eagle. Don't know; but we never read a whale story—excepting that Jonah business—in which some old jack tar didn't bellow, 'There she blows, lads!'"

Our esteemed relative, the New York Herald, rather thinks it has the joke on us because of a story from Georgia in which we used this expression, "It concerns a man bitten by a rattler who subsequently recovered." We admit that was a trifle awkward; but, after all, "who" could only have referred to the "man"—nobody ever heard of a "rattler" being a "who." Now, if we had said "blind tiger" instead of "rattler," our contemporary would certainly have us down and out.

Mr. Harriman simply decided it was time to get the hook for Mr. Fish.

What does the "S" stand for in Frank Black's name, anyhow? Sass?

More legal holidays will fall on Saturdays this year than was ever known in this country before, and it is to be an unusually long year, too. This is certainly hard on the school children.

"The Lord help the Philippines if they fall into the hands of Germany," says a Paris newspaper. Is nobody going to do any praying for Germany in this emergency?

It is evident that Texas is preparing to throw that Joe Bailey fit all over again.

Some people affect to believe the idea of taxing Washington cats originated with somebody who has rats in his garret.

"We thank God we are not as lawless as Kentucky," says the Arkansas Gazette; which somewhat pharisaical remark prompts the Louisville Courier-Journal to render thanks that Kentucky hasn't any "Jeff" Davis in the United States Senate.

The Denver News calls the Balkans "Europe's Breathitt County." Poor old King Peter doesn't cut as much of a figure as the Judge Hargis of that bailiwick, however.

Naturally, Secretary Taft favors 20,000-ton battle ships. He may want to make a few Panama trips himself, if he should be elected President.

The Court of Claims rules that Baltimore was "loyal" during the war. The truth of the matter is, Baltimore had to balance its chew of tobacco exactly in the middle of its tongue in order to keep from falling off the fence one way or the other.

A man named Joe Brown being urged as a candidate against Gov. Hoke Smith is said to "write faultless English." That is a terrible handicap for a candidate to wiggle under.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

END OF A ROMANCE.

When courting he would oft enthuse
About her neat and natty twos.
He vowed that they
In every way
Were just the dearest little shoes.

He finally wed the maiden sweet,
At times they argue with some heat;
And wifey trim
Then jumps on him
With both those dainty little feet!

How It Will Advance.

"Talk about foresight!"

"Well?"

"Old Gotrox left a thousand tons of coal in trust, not to be touched until the youngest child is of age."

Served Him Right.

"Miss Vanessa," said the tactless fellow, "I am foolish enough to wish to get married. Will you have me?"

"No," answered the intelligent girl. "I am wise enough not to want a man like you."

Rough Usage.

"Some of the booms in Washington are being pushed."

"Yes?"

"Others are being stepped on."

Broke the Engagement.

She cast him off.
The pretty miss
Objected to
His cloven kiss.

All Regular.

"Yes; the duke loves me for myself alone."

"Bah!"

"But he does. Here are affidavits to that effect, duly drawn up and witnessed by his solicitor."

Endurance.

"They say her conversational powers are immense."

"Is that so?"

"Yes, sir. They tell me that girl once talked clear through 'Parsifal.'"

In Financial Terms.

"We took over the Binks Company and we took over the Winks Company, and we were doing fine."

"Well?"

"Meanwhile, our cashier took over a million dollars and busted us."

FACTS AND FANCIES.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Of First Importance.

"Bring me the morning paper," said the King.

"Your majesty," replied the premier, "I wish first to call your attention to certain affairs of state that——"

"Never mind them," interrupted the King impatiently. "I want to see whether I have been assassinated or not."

Going to the front door, the premier whistled to a passing newsboy.

Dream Stuff.

"I had a dream once that I had found my wife's long-lost wedding ring. Twice the dream was repeated."

"And then you went out and did find it?"

"No; that's the strange part about it, except that I never was married."

Mechanical and Otherwise.

"I want to get your indorsement of the finest voting machine ever devised," said the agent.

"Can't give it," replied the ward politician. "The man who devised the party organization up in my district has your machine beat a city block."

The Danger Zone.

"Is this seat engaged?" asked the young man.

"No," replied the handsome girl, "but it is only fair to state that I am not, either."

Realizing that it was leap year, he hastened to the safety of the smoker.

A Concession.

The court had ruled that the railroad magnate must answer questions.

"Do I understand your honor," queried the magnate, "that I shall first be sworn?"

"You must answer on oath."

"Then, your honor," continued the magnate, "in order that I may not appear recalcitrant, might I have the privilege of framing the questions?"

Superiority.

"Several of my ancestors rounded a century."

"My ancestors were not rounders," replied the other, somewhat stiffly.

IN DEFENSE OF HARRIMAN.

His Plan of Building Up Great Connecting Railway Systems.

From the Philadelphia Press.

It is not hostile to the public interests for a railroad to extend its system in this way. For one company to seize a parallel line for the purpose of crushing competition might be very injurious to the shipper and the traveler, but when the roads are not parallel and when the merger merely means an extension of a system, the result is generally beneficial. It is so patent as not to require argument that 100 small companies welded into one concrete system like the Pennsylvania is vastly better for the public than if all the little railroads were operated independently.

Omitting entirely the means by which it was done and considering the thing itself, the Union Pacific's acquisition of the Illinois Central was about the most commendable bit of enterprise in which Mr. Harriman has permitted his company to engage. So long as he devotes his tremendous energies to extending the Union Pacific's sphere of influence in wholly new territory the people can find no reasonable grounds for criticism.

Another Naval Inquiry Suggested.

From the New York World.

Since Representative Lilley is responsible for these charges, why does he not also call for a general inquiry into naval appropriations, such as he suggested last summer? The Naval Affairs Committee consists largely of members representing districts in which navy yards are situated. Some of the navy yards, as Representative Lilley has pointed out, are badly located or are almost useless on account of shoal water. Why should Congress vote appropriations largely for the political benefit of certain members instead of for the best interests of the navy?

Race-track Gambling.

From the Boston Herald.

Dr. Lyman Abbott puts it thus neatly and pungently: "There is only one argument in favor of race-track gambling, namely, that it improves the breed of horses. The answer to that argument is conclusive—it deteriorates the race of men."

An Architectural Omission.

From the Denver Republican.

If present signs at Washington are truthful, Mr. Harriman made a great mistake in not providing his $4,000,000 house with an adequate cyclone cellar.

Damage Underrated.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Boni de Castellane had to pay only a franc as damages to his princely cousin, and he is confident that he inflicted much more damage than that.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

This is the third Congress for James Thomas Heflin, Representative from Alabama, and though he is only thirty-nine years old, when he gets as busy as he did on February 22, the older legislators cast uneasy glances at the Alabamian.

REPRESENTATIVE HEFLIN.

When he got through his law course there were few institutions in Alabama that hadn't the name of James Thomas Heflin on their roster.

After going through the common schools of Randolph County he took a course at the Southern University, Greensboro. Then he took a course at the A. & M. College, at Auburn, Ala., later studying law at Lafayette, under Judge Denson. When twenty-four years old he was elected mayor of Lafayette; was re-elected; was register in chancery two years; then a member of the State legislature for two terms.

He was a member of the Democratic State executive committee for six years; a delegate to the constitutional convention of Alabama, and held the office of secretary of state for two years, resigning to accept a seat in the Fifty-eighth Congress. He was re-elected to the Fifty-ninth and the Sixtieth Congresses.

Representative Heflin's tilt with Representative Campbell over the "jim crow" amendment to the District trackage bill was one of the interesting features of the Sixtieth Cohgress thus far.

He doesn't know how it happened, but nevertheless he was assigned to the Committee on Agriculture.

* * * *

The custom of reading Washington's Farewell Address on February 22 was brought about by the late Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts. It was his resolution which provided for the reading of the address by the President of the Senate or some Senator designated by him.

It was read for the first time by the late Senator Ingalls, who was, at the time the resolution was introduced and passed, President pro tem. of the Senate, Vice President Hendricks having died. Ever since, it has been the custom for the presiding officer to appoint some Senator to read the address.

It hasn't transpired whether the intimate relation of the cherry to the natal day of Washington, or other causes, led him to forget, but it is a fact that Vice President Fairbanks did forget to designate a Senator for the honor, until a day or two before the 22d, it being called to his attention at that time by one of the Senate employes.

* * * *

It happened again yesterday. For the third time this month, while Senator Foraker had the attention of the Senate, a message from the President was announced. It has happened so regularly lately, that when the senior Senator from Ohio arises, all eyes are turned to the center door, expecting to see the President's secretary with a message, and their expectancy has been rewarded each time.

* * * *

Found! At last the missing Senator, Jeff Davis, of Arkansas, has been located. Press dispatches indicate that he is at Ozark, about to launch forth on a speaking tour of a month. His title of supreme and exalted ruler of Arkansas is at stake. Notwithstanding his prized anti-trust measure is pending and he is missing the busy sessions devoted to the financial bill, he is about to hurl his ponderous frame and oratory into the revolution that is brewing against his sugremacy. His late friends and supporters, the Brotherhood of Allied Farmers, are in open revolt, and threaten the Senator's choice for governor with annihilation.

Senator Davis has a candidate for every State office, for he says men must be elected in Arkansas who will represent his ideals and principles there, while he is taking falls out of the corporations and trusts in Washington.

The speech he has prepared puts Pain's greatest display of fireworks to shame.

* * * *

The galleries were well filled yesterday, as it was known that several speeches of some length were to be made, and Senator Depew's reputation as an orator was sufficient to give him the attention of those present.

But by far the most attentive listener to the eloquent outpouring of the Senator from New York was his own pretty, young wife, who sat in the front row of the Senators' reserved gallery and followed her husband's every word and gesture with close interest.

Mrs. Depew is one of the prettiest women who are seen in the gallery, and not a few eyes were turned in her direction. A big, black hat of very tasteful selection formed just the right contrast to her blond hair, delicate cream-and-rose complexion, and blue eyes. She wore a cream-colored bodice, and where two deep revers came together below her neck a bow of ribbon that just matched her eyes was set.

And when the Senator concluded his speech with a peroration that brought spontaneous applause from Senators and those in the galleries alike, pretty Mrs. Depew dimpled and smiled and blushed so delightfully that it was a shame that the Senator's back was turned toward her.

* * * *

Senator Proctor, of Vermont, sat on the arm of a chair in the Senate chamber yesterday, and, swinging his legs with youthful abandon, conversed with "Fiddling Bob" Taylor, of Tennessee.

"If Senator Proctor would shave his upper lip, put a little rouge on his cheeks, and take on a little more flesh," remarked an onlooker, "he would be a double for 'Uncle Joe.'"

"Do you mean to say that Speaker Cannon uses rouge?" queried the innocent young creature in furs and lace by his side.

"N—n—no," replied the man, doubtfully; "but the memory of the wholesome life of a country lad is so strongly emblazoned on his features that one untutored in his biography might well suspect it."

* * * *

Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, and Senator Bourne, of Oregon, met at the White House yesterday. Both are millionaires. Senator Bourne is the sole patentee of the "second elective term."

"The President will not be renominated," said Senator Elkins to Senator Bourne. "There's no use of your wasting any more time in that direction."

"He will be nominated," said Mr. Bourne, emphatically.

"He will not," responded Senator Elkins.

"I will bet you $10,000 that Roosevelt will be named by the Chicago convention," rejoined Mr. Bourne.

"I will not bet," said Mr. Elkins. "But," he added, "if I thought you had that amount of money on you, I would throw you down and take it away."

The Self-evident Truth.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

It is frequently necessary to repeat a self-evident truth a great many times in order to get it believed.

THE OPTIMIST.

You can keep no real optimist long off the subject of hope, which, after all, is the very well-spring of optimism. There are so many pessimists in the world, people who insist on going about doubting not only the goodness of God, but dwelling on their own unworthiness, and greeting the morning not with a smile—which is the only way on earth to get a smile back in return—but with a snarl, that it seems to me that we cannot too often or too insistently voice the cry of hope—of the good things that are certain to come if we look for them; of hope that is ever a little way ahead of us, and which leads us with light step and gladsome heart onward always to better things!

It is hope—God-implanted in every man's breast and only to be smothered by persistent and wicked pessimism—that lifts us out of ourselves into the realm of higher things:

True hope is swift, and flies with swallow's wings;
Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings.

I suppose most of us remember where that passage occurs: the final speech of Richmond as he leads his forlorn hope to Bosworth Field to meet Richard III. Every man of that little company under the banner of Richmond, "meaner creature" though he might be, felt himself a king as he fought with hope in his heart for God and the right.

That is optimism at its highest. It leads us to the resolve to do the very best that in us lies, and to leave the issue, hopefully, with the God who fathers us all. "Heaven's will be done," cries the true optimist; "I am marching forward with hope, no matter what befalls." As Milton sang:

Yet I argue not
Against Heaven's hand or will, or hate a jot
Of heart or hope, but still bear up and steer
Right onward.

That is the only spirit in which anything good for the world was ever accomplished. It is not well to open the heart to hope, to invite it in as a constant visitor, and then to sit down, fold our hands, and wait—in hope. Real hope implies that a man has faith enough in the eternal purposes of God to strive toward his hope; march toward it; work for it; devote brain and heart and soul to its cause.

Hope in our hearts doth only stay
Like a traveler at an inn,
Who riseth up at the break of day
His journey to begin.

To begin the day's journey with pessimism and gloom is to carry a heavy burden on the back, a life's handicap in a race that is always to the swift. Equipped with hope, on the other hand, a man begins his journey with the sun in his smiling face, and as if he had borrowed some of Mercury's plumes to his feet. In one mood a man's voice is clear and clarion, his eye bright, his soul attuned to nature's harmonies, his heart clean, and his spirit brave; for the hopeful man will not let fear enter into his spirit, lest it halt him by the way. In the other mood the clouds are lowering dark; the way uncertain; the heart is heavy with doubt, and the memory of one's past sins and mistakes hang on him till his pace becomes painful and slow.

It is not a question of God's gift, abundantly held by one man, denied to another. The glorious gift of hope is there for all of us to take or leave, as we will. It is a question whether you would rather be miserable or happy; march resolutely forward, or hang meticulously back! The choice is left to ourselves.

Fix your hopes high then—as high as you will, nor fear to climb because the fall may be hard. Much better to fall than never to have striven. One thing certainly is demanded of a man in this world, that he should express something, do something, hope something. The chronic pessimist with his weak and mawkish cry of "What's the use?" is the only man who for his hindering the great scheme of happiness and joy should be utterly and deservedly damned! And even for such poor wretches there must be hope!

Hope humbly then; with trembling pinions soar;
Wait the great teacher Death; and God adore.
What future bliss he gives not thee to know,
But gives that hope to be thy blessing now.

DRIFT TOWARD BRYAN.

Eastern Eliminators Ignorant of Conditions West and South.

From the New York Tribune.

If any Southern State really contains the nucleus of an opposition to Bryanism that opposition ought to be visible in Tennessee. The leading Democratic newspaper of Tennessee's capital, the Nashville American, has fought Mr. Bryan consistently for the last twelve years. The Memphis Commercial Appeal ridiculed him in 1896 and 1900, and has barely tolerated him since. Tennessee took the lead among the Southern States in pushing Judge Parker for the Presidential nomination in 1904. Yet now it falls into line for Mr. Bryan without a whimper or a protest.

We have been somewhat amused at the efforts of the Bryan eliminators in this neighborhood, because they seem to be working in blissful ignorance of conditions in the Democratic party in the South and West. Those conditions are being disclosed as different State conventions come together and ratify a choice for the Presidential nomination which circumstances have made inevitable. Mr. Bryan gets the delegates everywhere for two sufficient reasons. In the first place, he has the support of the unshaken rank and file of the party, despite his past failures. In the second place, no offsetting pressure is being brought on the politicians to displace him; for displacement would necessitate replacement, and there is no leader of equal keel and amplitude anywhere in sight.

Postal Civil Service.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

In a well-managed railroad the smallest shipping clerk, or even the section hand, knows that if he can show the necessary qualities, and fit himself for higher place, he has almost infinite possibilities before him. Say that the incumbent of a village post-office knew that high position awaited the most industrious and efficient men in the lower ranks, would not that add an immense stimulus to the zeal and energy of the service? But under the present status of the smaller post-offices there is no such incitement. The stimulus is really that the incumbent or the incumbent's relatives shall faithfully serve the interest of the politician whose recommendation secured the small place.

Value of Snow.

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

The entire West is covered with a sheet of the spotless, and we hardly know of anything, if a hard course of reading on the subject counts for much, that will do next year's crops more good than this same mantle of purity.

Deeply Impregnated.

From the Kansas City Star.

If Hon. Leslie M. Shaw will stay in the West a few days longer he may take a decidedly more optimistic view of the "situation." It takes some time to get the Wall street germs entirely out of the system.

Beyond All Remedy.

From the Indianapolis News.

Still, most of us feel that when Boston tries its Christian psychology on New York's bad habits there'll be nothing doing.

New One for T. R.

From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

Hall Caine has called some one a hoddy doddy, a term inadvertently omitted, we believe, from the special message.

AT THE HOTELS.

"Roosevelt is the only man since Lincoln who has had the moral courage to stand up and declare fight on the people that helped to elect him to office, but into whose business methods, in so far as they deal with the general public, corruption has been one of the main points."

In these words did Frederick H. Brown, of Springfield, Mass., who represents the Rand-McNally people, and is here attending the congress of educators, size up the character of the President of the United States. Mr. Brown is at the Riggs House.

"Although the country is at present experiencing hard times in some sections, due to Roosevelt's demand for honest business methods, and his bringing to justice of all sorts of corporations, the people should rejoice in the fact that the future is brighter than it ever was before. Business hereafter will be conducted on an honest basis, and a man is more liable to get his money's worth when he invests in railroad or life insurance bonds and securities.

"It seems as if the general feeling in Massachusetts, with regard to the Presidential candidacy, favors Taft. It is really hard to tell, though, as everything does not appear to be in harmony so far as Republican politics in Massachusetts are concerned.

"Of course, Roosevelt is the most popular man of them all, but I don't think he would accept another term. He would have arrayed against him the most powerful financial and commercial interests and all the employes in their pay. These Wall street people and railroad interests and life-insurance concerns, and all others against whom Roosevelt has instituted proceedings for cleaner business methods, would spend millions to defeat Roosevelt, and it is a deplorable fact that money talks in our American elections.

"Personally, I don't exactly subscribe to the idea of a third term. The history of our country is against a third term, and all precedents preclude it. Roosevelt, if re-elected, however, would not be serving his third term, as he has been elected as President only once, as everybody knows.

"Bryan, of course, will have the entire vote of the Democratic party. I think he has grown much in strength and general esteem. He has learned in the past years, and the general public place more confidence in him."

Monsieur Andre Tardieu, of Paris, who has just finished a course of lectures at Harvard, and is now on a tour of this country, is at the Shoreham. M. Tardieu is attached to the diplomatic service of the French republic, having served in that capacity with great distinction in Berlin and St. Petersburg, and speaks the German and Russian languages fluently. M. Tardieu does not speak English, and prefers to carry on conversation either in his own native French, or German or Russian. He does not look like a Frenchman, although being a simon-pure Gaul. He has blue eyes, blond hair, blond mustache, and a fair complexion, and fresh red cheeks. M. Tardieu is also the foreign and diplomatic editor of Le Temps, the great Parisian newspaper, and it is his desire to study our American politicians and statesmen at close range.

Speaking of President Roosevelt, M. Tardieu, who paid a visit to Ambassador Jusserand yesterday afternoon, said:

"President Roosevelt's attitude toward France and everything French is not only extremely proper, but friendly and cordial, and the French people deeply appreciate his sentiments. He is looked upon in my country as a great statesman."

Referring to the war talk between the United States and Japan, M. Tardieu ridiculed the idea, and said he never for one moment thought that there would be war between the two countries, there not being sufficient causes to warrant hostilities.

"I don't think any political significance should be attached to the visit of the German Emperor's two sons to Paris, of which I have read in the newspapers. They simply were on their way back from the funeral of the King of Portugal in Lisbon, and, traveling through France, they simply stopped in Paris. Don't you think there would be other channels to dispose of diplomatic or political questions than by the visit of the two princes?"

The student life at Harvard evidently made a deep impression on the French scholar and diplomat. He drew comparisons between the student life at Harvard and that of the Sorbonne in Paris. He said that the Sorbonne student was absolutely free with regard to where he elected to reside, while the dormitory system and other housing facilities at Harvard impose a certain restraint.

"The chapter houses, fraternities, and similar organizations are features peculiar to American university life," said M. Tardieu, and he was inclined to think that in some respects it might work harm and retard studies. On the other hand, M. Tardieu was of the opinion that university societies produced a spirit of "solidarity."

"This is my eighth visit to the United States," said Martin W. Foerstner, of Berlin, Germany, who is at the La Normandie, last night.

"I spent my younger years in the United States, where I became imbued with the spirit of American business enterprise and hustle. I could not stay away from this country any more than I could do without air. In fact, it means air to me and renewed life, this biannual trip to the United States. I have been instrumental in more young men of Berlin making a trip to America to learn American business methods than any other single man, with the possible exception of Imperial Privy Councilor Goldberger, who was in the United States some years ago, and wrote a book on the unlimited possibilities of this country. The book attracted the greatest attention in Germany, especially on the part of the young business men. Everybody wants to learn the secrets of American business success and enterprise, and the best way to find out is to go to the fountain head. It's a great country."

"It's all Roosevelt out our way," said L. L. Patrick, president of the First National Bank of Goldfield, Nev., at the New Willard yesterday. "The sentiment in Nevada is for Roosevelt, and if his nomination is brought about, he will be elected. If some one else be nominated, it is safe to say Nevada will go Democratic. Bryan, of course, will get the nomination, and he will carry Nevada unless Roosevelt runs; then Bryan would have no show.

"Taft will have the support of the Republican party in Nevada, but I don't think the delegates to the national convention will be instructed for him.

"Labor conditions in the mining camps are again normal, so far as I know. I have been away from home for quite a while. There are still some troops out there, and their presence acts as a sort of restraining force, although there have not been any attempts at disturbing the peace or breaking the law in any shape or form."

Where the Heathen Rage.

From the Boston Globe.

One does not need the statement of a foreign missionary association to realize that the heathen outnumber the rest of mankind. Ride on the street cars.

Fate's Little Irony.

From the Florida Times-Union.

It would be the irony of fate for the negro vote to defeat Roosevelt and his policies, and that's what they threaten to do.