The Washington Times.

Published every day in the year.

FRANK A. MUNSEY

PUBLICATION OFFICE.
Tenth and D Streets.

Subscription rates to out of town points, postage prepaid:
Daily, one year, ... $3.00
Sunday, one year, ... $2.50

The Times pays postage on all copies mailed, except in the District of Columbia and to Foreign Countries.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1904.

Japanese Military Methods.

The Thoroughness, Logic, and Skill With Which Japan Plans Operations.

Not the least factor in the creation of pro-Japanese sentiment in this country and elsewhere is observation of the way in which Japan's military operations are carried on. Since the war began, stories have been coming to light from all parts of the country, showing the patience, thoroughness, and sagacity with which Japan has been preparing for war. One story is to the effect that the Japanese took pains to get descriptions of the Russian battleships which the Cramps built, some of which are now aground and helpleess. It is said that there are in possession of Japanese military authorities descriptions of these ships so minute that they know exactly what could be done with them or against them. It is also said that they purpose to raise and utilize these ships, if possible, in further naval operations, which would be a pretty bitter pill for Russia to swallow.

Japanese maps are said to show not only the general conformation of the country over which fighting is likely to take place, but the location of every bush, hut, tree, and spring. Any old soldier will understand how valuable such detailed maps will be to columns on the march.

The Japanese also have an advantage in being able to disguise themselves as Chinese, and pass for Chinese in Manchuria, a disguise which is utterly impossible, of course, for a Russian. Some of them, it is said, have disguised themselves as Chinese servants and worked for Russian military authorities, gathering thereby much valuable information. In short, there is literally nothing at which a Japanese will stop, when it is a case of personal service to his country.

The same readiness to use any means to accomplish a worthy end has been observed among Japanese students in this country. Many of these students have taken service as valets, butlers, and other domestics in New York, this being the best-paid way of earning money for their college expenses. Men who will turn their hand to anything, and are not disconcerted by any difficulty, are the men likely to gain the respect of Americans.

A Possible Reaction.

Effect of the Progress of the War on Popular Sentiment.

Nothing could seem more certain than that the sympathies of this country regarding the war in the East are, thus far, almost entirely with Japan. The plucky fight which the islanders are making for independence of Russian control naturally appeals to American love of liberty, while there is also a tendency in this country to sympathize with the "under dog" in any fight. This was shown by the sentiment freely expressed regarding the Boer war.

Action, however, is always followed by reaction, and it is entirely possible that, should the war continue for six months or longer, public sentiment in this country will apparently swing round to the opposite side, and we shall hear anti-Japanese opinions as freely as we now hear denunciations of Russia. The unthinking among our people, who take up any sort of cause as they might a new vaudeville star or a popular song, may get tired of shouting for Japan by and by and begin to admire Russia. Some of these people will take up the Russian side of the argument out of sheer perversity, and an unspoken desire to appear wiser than their neighbors. There are two sides to every conflict, and undoubtedly a good argument could be made from the Russian side of the business. No country is all bad or all good, and only a careful and thoughtful study of conditions in the Far East, and of the policy of Russia in her dealings with Oriental peoples, as well as with European powers, can enable anyone to decide which, in this particular conflict, is the side favorable to civilization in its broader aspects. It is absurd to decide such a question from mere prejudice in favor of "the white man," "the Christian," as against "the yellow heathen," and yet that is just what a good many Americans will do.

This reaction against Japan, however, will not be half as significant as it appears, if it takes place. The strong pro-Japanese sentiment in this country has existed for many years. It will be remembered that this country took an active part in the opening of Japan to the world's commerce, and that ever since that time American traders and teachers have been active there. The sentiment of the average American toward the Japanese is not at all the same as toward the Chinese, and there is little reason why it should be, for they are about as unlike as the English and the French. Japan has about as much Mongolian blood in her as England has Norman. For the rest, she is Malay and a mixture of other races, fused together, during her long seclusion from the world, into a character intensely patriotic, capable of boundless devotion to an ideal, brave, vigorous, and enterprising. These qualities are known to many Americans through personal contact with Japanese students, travelers, and servants, and the race has made a good impression on this country in all these characters. It will take more than a gust of reactionary feeling to destroy this impression in the great intelligent American middle class. It is doubtful whether even the cleverness of subsidized writers—and we may as well face the fact that Russian money will be used in this country to that end—will have much effect on so well grounded a conviction.

Germany in Brazil.

Unreasonable Alarm Felt by People Who Observe Her Operations There.

An alarmist advocate of the Monroe Doctrine finds his mind troubled by the presence and activity of the Germans in Brazil. He points out the fact that their commerce with that country is yearly increasing, as is the number of German settlers, and thinks that this points to some sort of design of dominion on the part of Germany.

There is, however, no real cause for apprehension. In the first place, the Germans in Brazil are only about three per cent of a population of some fourteen millions, and that is not a percentage likely to be very dangerous to American interests. The truth is that German activity in South America is of a piece with German activity in the Orient, and while neither need cause uneasiness to our State Department, there is some reason why American merchants and manufacturers should feel bothered on the subject.

Senator Beveridge has said that Germany is the one European power which has a definite policy in the East, and that is true. German merchants have been pushing their trade in every corner of the world, for several years, with the same painstaking thoroughness with which the German mind attends to music, science, or philosophy, and the results are beginning to be felt by other countries. The object, however, is not primarily political, but commercial, though politics and trade are always more or less mixed.

England, which used to monopolize Oriental trade, has lost much of her prestige owing to the fact that so much social convention was mixed up with her commerce. In old days it was not "well seen" for any great English house to concern itself with anything but tea and silk. While England was trading in tea and silk, Germany slipped in and began to buy and sell tea and silk and baking powder and canned goods, and everything else which was or could be profitably made in Germany. It does not take a Solomon to see the result.

What Germany has done in the Orient she can do, and probably will do, in South America. The charge is made by our consuls in that continent that American trade has suffered tremendously through carelessness. America sends to the "black and tan republics" only such goods as are unprofitable to sell at home, or goods of which there is an overproduction; and the "black and tan" merchants, not being altogether fools, pay no attention to the Monroe Doctrine so far as trade is concerned, or to the traditional friendship of their big and careless sister republic, but buy their goods where they get them best and cheapest.

Is It Poe?

Or Is It a Hoax on the "Fortnightly Review" and the Contributor?

Alfred Russell Wallace, in the "Fortnightly Review," publishes what he calls "an unpublished poem by Edgar Allan Poe," which he says his elder brother, John Wallace, who died in California, sent to him in 1894. Mr. Wallace's brother said the lines were "left by a wanderer at a wayside house in lieu of cash for board and lodging," time and place not specified. Mr. Wallace's theory is that when Poe revisited the South in 1849 he took long rambles around the country, and left this "latest product of his muse" with his host at some inn or farmhouse. The host subsequently emigrated to California and took the souvenir with him, and there Mr. Russell's brother found it. This interesting theory, and the poem, are discussed at some length, and with characteristic flippancy, by the "New York Sun," which never had any reverence for anything, and dismisses the poem with comments likely to wound Mr. Russell's heart. The poem begins:

Leonainie, angels named her, and they took the light
Of the laughing stars and framed her in a smile of white.

Now, there is another chapter in this Poe mystery which Mr. Wallace evidently never heard, and which the "Sun" either does not know or has forgotten. It might be supposed that Col. John A. Joyce would have claimed the authorship, but he never has, and that is not the other chapter. About the time that Mr. Wallace says his brother found this poem kicking about in California, a story went the rounds of the newspapers to the effect that James Whitcomb Riley, when young and foolish, conceived the idea of writing a poem in the style of Poe to hoax the public. He wrote this one and sent it to a local paper signed "E. A. P." To his unholy delight the editor printed it with a surmise that it was Poe's, and Poe enthusiasts all over the country began to discuss the matter. If this story is true, and Mr. Riley happens to see the article in the "Fortnightly Review," he will probably chuckle some more over it. But it will be of no use to ask him whether he wrote it or not. James Whitcomb Riley is not the man to spoil a joke. However, readers of poetry ought to be able to determine for themselves whether the peom is in the style of Poe or Riley. To our mind it has all the earmarks of Indiana.

A writer in the "New York Times" explains the much-praised presence of Russian warships in our harbor during the war of the sixties by stating that Russia wanted to get her ships where England could not bottle them up, namely, into the harbor of a neutral nation. Another lovely myth destroyed!

The hardships of the fire were not really felt by some Baltimore people until the authorities took to cutting off the beer supply.

There are rumblings of war in the Balkans, but Bulgaria is respectfully informed that there are no headlines to spare just now.

Thus far the old tradition that battles are Sunday affairs seems to have been fairly well preserved.

The average managing editor is now engaged in deciding whether any particularly delectable piece of war news is a scoop or a fake.

A French opera on a Scotch theme was sung in German the other night in New York and the company had all the accents that were heard at the Tower of Babel.

Representative Shafroth has won much glory in the last two or three days, but the unsentimental may suspect that he is something like the man who gives up his seat to a lady when he is getting off at the next corner, anyway.

The little "Post" bear seems inclined to condole with its big Russian cousin.

Baltimore is beginning to resent having excursions arrive every day to see the sights. If she were less sensitive, she might make those excursionists so comfortable that they would help rebuild the city.

There is a report that three Russian torpedo boats have been sunk by mistake. If Russia could only turn her mistakes around and point them at the enemy, there might be great destruction.

The ice bridge over Niagara is attracting a great deal of attention, but, thank heaven, nobody can plaster it over with advertising.

It is said to have been Admiral Stark's birthday—that day on which the Japanese made their attack. There are not many admirals who have had a birthday present of disappearing guns.

It is now in order for Russia to explain why she allowed Japanese refugees to be so badly abused that Uncle Sam had to interfere.

Japan says she is very much obliged, but she doesn't need any help at present, thank you.

Consumers are warned not to leave the gas burning low in their bedrooms at night, lest it should be blown out; but it is natural for the consumer to long to see the gas low some of the time.

It is a pity that none of those military experts can be engaged by the contending powers; if they could, we might see great sights.

The women who suffered from the attacks of a man who pinched feminine passers-by on Brooklyn Bridge have refused to let their names be used against him. If they had not been so sensitive he would have been pinched himself.

E. Benjamin Andrews is making frantic efforts to get into the limelight again, but there is too much against him.

THE PERSONAL SIDE

RESEMBLES LONDON.

In the opinion of Prince Henri de Bearn, the newly appointed attache of the French embassy, who has just arrived here, Washington, in its landscape effects, greatly resembles that part of London near Chatham Square.

"It is the first time I have been to America," said Prince Henri today, "and I can safely say that it is a most attractive country. Washington itself I find to be a most interesting place, and the many parks and trees, with the long vistas, makes it a very pretty city, indeed. The style of buildings and the parks, I think, greatly resembles the vicinity of London near Chatham Square."

Prince Henri is a young man of about twenty-five, and is of a distinguished French family.

PENDEL AT GRAND RAPIDS.

Thomas Pendel, the venerable White House messenger, who has been on duty at the Executive Mansion since 1864, and who escorted President Lincoln to his carriage the night of the assassination, has just returned from Grand Rapids, where he was invited by Representative William Alden Smith to take part in the Lincoln's Birthday observances.

Mr. Pendel, who is thought by some to resemble Lincoln, was given a great reception at Grand Rapids. He was presented by Representative Smith, chairman of the evening. Fully 4,000 people had gathered, brimful of enthusiasm for Lincoln and Pendel and Roosevelt and Sternburg and Emperor William.

When Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Pendel as one who had been more closely in touch with Lincoln than almost any man now living, there was a burst of applause that shook the roof and made the walls tremble. Colonel Pendel simply arose and bowed his acknowledgments twice, and then sat down again. He was not on the program for a speech, but he was shown the most distinguished honor by the mayor and other leading citizens of Grand Rapids.

THE CRANK BUTTON.

Desks of officials high in authority at the Government departments contain a series of push buttons that will bring anything from a glass of water to a troop of cavalry. In addition to the handsome ivory push buttons the public sees on the tops of desks there are mysterious buttons which may be touched with the knee or the toe.

Buttons are arranged in scales, according to the needs of the official. The latest device is a buzzer placed in the office of a prominent official at the State Department which indicates to another official that a troublesome caller is on hand. At the sound of the buzzer an urgent business call is sent to the annoyed official and he leaves the caller, who cannot be dismissed in a more abrupt manner.

A short time ago a well-known Washington woman called on Mr. Hills, the chief clerk at the Treasury Department. After shaking hands with Mr. Hills she stood chatting before his desk. Suddenly she was surrounded by men, and upon looking around saw a man with a rifle standing at the door. All the men were eyeing her in a mysterious manner.

Mr. Hills began to laugh, and motioned the men to leave the room. When they had gone Mr. Hills remarked:

"Somebody must have pushed the crank button."

EVENING SERVICE FOR MORNING.

One of Senator Depew's stories is about a young man, a native of Peekskill, who just after being ordained, returned thither in order that he might take charge of the morning service in the Episcopal Church. The young clergyman was exceedingly nervous, and got through the service with difficulty. After the service he said to one of the deacons:

"I was pretty nervous, yet I flatter myself that I managed to pull through without a mistake."

"Well, I'll admit that you did first rate," replied the deacon. "In fact, I'll say that the service couldn't have been better done; but," he added dryly, "this is the first time I've ever known the evening service to be given in the morning!"

McKINLEY AND HANNA.

"The last time I ever saw President McKinley was one afternoon when I was called over to the White House to consult with him," said Commissioner John W. Yerkes, of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. "Senator Hanna was there, and we all went into the little room near the library. The first thing McKinley said was, 'Mark, give me a cigar; yours are always better than mine.'

"No man will ever know the amount of work Senator Hanna did in the campaign of 1896. The attention he gave to details was something marvelous. In the campaign of 1900 he utilized the services of experienced men who had been trained under him in the campaign of 1896, and consequently was not compelled to give the work the same minute attention.

"I believe two men have never come so completely into public favor in this country as Lincoln and Hanna. Both did so in a remarkably short period of time. In 1857 Lincoln was almost unknown. Between then and 1865 he attained a marvelous hold on the affections of the people. And between 1896 and 1904 the same was true of Senator Hanna."

HANNA'S CAMPAIGN METHODS.

"Senator Hanna applied the same methods to the conduct of the campaign of 1896 that he did to his business," said Assistant Secretary Armstrong, of the Treasury Department.

"I was in Chicago at that time, and was 'doing' both the Republican and the Democratic headquarters for my New York newspapers. The difference between the systems employed at the two headquarters was conspicuous. At the Democratic headquarters everything seemed to be generalities. At the Republican headquarters Senator Hanna had his finger on every school district and precinct in the country. He was just as well satisfied that McKinley was to be the next President on the night before election as he was after the returns came in. As closely as anything is possible in politics, it had been figured out at Republican headquarters just what the vote of the country would be.

"It seemed astonishing that when any question came up as to the vote of any particular locality, a clerk was able to go to a pigeonhole and pull down a file showing through an actual canvass just what the vote of that locality would be. It is the first time that the actual methods of business were applied on any such scale to national politics. To me the conduct of that campaign is the best tribute I know to the marvelous executive ability and grasp of affairs which Mr. Hanna possessed."

IN THE CIRCLE OF SOCIETY

Last Hours of Social Season Full of Merriment in Washington.

Gay Assemblage at the Ridgely Ball on Eve of Gloomy Lent.

With the exception of Good Friday, this is the dullest day socially in the year. Sackcloth and ashes are supposed to be the order of the day, and are fitting symbols for Ash Wednesday, which will be observed, more or less, by all religious people.

Yesterday, however, it was different, the Mardi Gras, or Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday, or Fat Tuesday, as it is called in various places, was fittingly observed by the young people of Washington. At the dance which William Barrett Ridgely gave last evening at Rauscher's in honor of his debutante daughter, Miss Katharine Cullom Ridgely, merriment reigned supreme.

Fun Over Confetti.

After supper, which was served at midnight, bags of confetti were distributed among the guests, who engaged in a merry war that lasted until the contents of the packages were distributed upon the floor.

Miss Ridgely, who, with her father, welcomed her friends in the small ballroom, was charming in a gown of white satin and lace, and made an exceedingly gracious hostess.

In the larger room, which, like the other apartments, was festooned with green and decorated with spring blossoms, the Marine Band Orchestra was stationed and furnished the music for dancing, which began at 10 o'clock and continued until 3 this morning.

Another pleasant event last evening was the Mardi Gras dance at the Shoreham, which Mr. Devine gave in honor of the guests at the hotel.

Receptions Are Many At Coming of Lent

The "homeless dogs" will again be of interest to the social world. Mrs. John B. Henderson and Miss Alice Barney both have loaned their homes for entertainments to be given by the society interested in stray dogs. Miss Anna Vernon Dorsey has been engaged to give several entertainments, one of which will be a portrayal of gay life in London from 1800 to 1830.

Mrs. Fred Dennett, 1706 S Street, will be at home the remaining Fridays in February.

Mrs. Siegfried Fantl, of Savannah, Ga., who is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Max Cohen, of 1715 N Street, will be at home Wednesday afternoons throughout February.

Mrs. George W. Wood, 2904 P Street, Georgetown, will be at home the first and second Thursdays in April.

Mrs. H. M. Schooley, of 1305 Columbia Road, will be at home Tuesdays, March 8 and 22, but not on other Tuesdays this season.

JAMES HARWOOD GRAVES WEDS SUE MATTHEWS

Pretty Wedding in St. Andrew's Church, at Which Bishop of Pennsylvania Officiates.

An interesting event of last evening was the marriage of Miss Sue Matthews, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Baynham Matthews, and James Harwood Graves. The ceremony took place in St. Andrew's Church. The marriage service was read by the Bishop of Central Pennsylvania, the Right Rev. Ethelbert Talbott, assisted the Rev. John Woods Elliott, of Baltimore.

The sanctuary was banked with palms, and the altar and chancel were elaborately decorated with Bride roses and Annunciation lilies.

The bride, escorted by her father and attended by Misses Louise Howard Randolph and the groomsmen, William B. W. Matthews, jr., brother of the bride, Frank Sprigg Perry, William B. Todd, and F. C. S. Hunter, who led the way, met the groom and his best man, Emory Graves, of New York, at the chancel steps, where the betrothal service was read by Dr. Elliott. They afterward passed into the chancel, where, in front of the altar, Bishop Talbott read the marriage office.

Gown of the Bride.

The bride looked unusually well in her trailing bridal robe of white silk crepe, trimmed with rare old lace. The tulle veil was caught with pearl ornaments, family heirlooms, and she carried a cluster of lilies of the valley.

The maid of honor wore a becoming gown of pale yellow gauze trimmed with panne velvet and carried white roses.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" pealed forth in loud acclaim and the bride and groom led the way from the altar for the bridal procession.

A reception followed at the home of the bride's parents, 1463 Kenesaw Avenue, to which only the attendants and intimate friends were invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Graves left town last evening for a wedding trip. They will make their home in Washington, where Mr. Graves is employed in the Department of Justice as appointment clerk.

Miss Helen Leston and Sebastian Aman were married yesterday at St. Patrick's Church. The Rev. Dr. D. J. Stafford, pastor of the church, celebrated the marriage.

James J. Crowley served as best man.

Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Aman left town for a trip through the South. They will be at home after March 1, at 316 Ninth Street northwest.

Miss Pansy Bloomer, who has been traveling in California with her mother, has returned to the city and is stopping for the present with relatives in Georgetown.

Miss Grace Thyson is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Philip Lang, of Baltimore, where she has been the recipient of much attention.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Gradin and family left town yesterday for Pasadena, Cal.

Chinese New Year Celebrated by a Dinner at the Embassy.

Numerous Parties Mark the Passing of Gay Shrove Tuesday.

New Year, according to the Chinese calendar, was celebrated at the Chinese legation last evening. The minister was absent from the city on Monday, the official date, and the celebration of the event was, consequently, postponed until last evening, when Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng entertained the members of his staff at a typical Chinese dinner.

Mrs. Wallach gave a handsomely appointed dinner last evening at her home in I Street.

Among the guests were the Belgian minister, Baron Moncheur, Representative and Mrs. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. John O'Donnell, Mr. and Mrs. Henry May, Miss Boardman, and Miss Emily Wallach.

Mrs. Morgan Hill gave a small dinner for young people last evening, when her guests were Miss Durand, daughter of the British ambassador; Miss Ames, sister of Representative Ames, Miss Rose Douglas Wallach, Miss Irene King, Miss Newberry, Miss Morgan-Hill, Mr. Dering, of the British embassy; Mr. Wauters, counselor of the Belgian legation; Count Hoyos, and Mr. Rubdio Zichy, of the Austrian embassy; Captain Glidden, Mr. Cresson, and Jerome Bonaparte.

The French ambassador and Mme. Jusserand entertained, informally, at luncheon yesterday, and at dinner last evening. The guest of honor was Baron Gevers, the Netherlands minister, who will leave Washington shortly for his new post in Rome.

The German ambassador and Baroness von Sternburg entertained at a dinner of twenty covers last evening at the embassy.

George Langdon gave a box party at the Columbia Theater last night, which was followed by a supper at the New Willard. His guests included Mr. and Mrs. George W. Strong, Miss Leeper, and Arthur Stanley Rice.

Misunderstanding Stops "Candida" Performance

The performances of Bernard Shaw's play "Candida," which was to have been given at the Lafayette Theater next Friday evening, has been postponed because of a misunderstanding by Arnold Daly of the date. Mr. Daly has been giving special performances of the play in New York, and was to have brought his company to Washington for a single performance next Friday in aid of the Firemen's Fund and the Citizens' Relief Association of Baltimore and Washington.

Another date will be selected and announcement will be made later. It is to be through the generosity of Mrs. Clifford Barney that Washington Theatergoers will have an opportunity to see this widely discussed play.

Semi-Monthly Meeting Of Unique Euchre Club

The Unique Euchre Club held its semi-monthly meeting on Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. Schelpp, 1378 F Street northeast. After playing the usual number of games the first prizes were awarded to Mrs. May Boyce and Dr. L. D. Walter; second prizes to Mrs. F. Schelpp and A. Boyce, and the consolation to Miss E. Demont and S. Lawrence.

The members present were Mr. and Mrs. R. Dittoe, Mr. and Mrs. Boyce, Mr. and Mrs. F. Schelpp, Mrs. Benard, Miss A. Osten, Miss E. Demont, Dr. L. D. Walter, S. Lawrence, and F. Lemasson. The tally cards were in the shape of a heart, tied with the colors of the club, green and white.

Comings and Goings Of the Social Element

Vicomte Charles de Chambrun, third secretary of the French embassy, will sail on February 25 for France, where he will remain for six months or more. Vicomte de Chambrun, who came to Washington in the early summer, is one of the most popular young men in diplomatic circles.

Miss Viola Mae Britt and her aunt, Miss Frazier, who went to New Orleans to attend the Mardi Gras festival, will visit in Houma, La., where they will be the guests of Mrs. Kleiner.

Mrs. Walter Hleston, of this city, who is now at Palm Beach, was a guest at a valentine breakfast which Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Cragin gave on Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Cragin will give another breakfast on Saturday to celebrate the birthday of Joseph Jefferson, who will be seventy-five years old.

Mrs. Nelson A. Miles, who has been ill for several weeks past, is reported as much improved.

HAVE WIPED OUT DEBT ON COLLEGE OF HISTORY

Bright Financial Condition Shown by American University.

The board of trustees of the American University held its semi-annual meeting yesterday at the offices of the university. Dr. D. H. Carroll presided. The report of the treasurer was gratifying to all present, as it showed the university to be in good financial condition. In the report it was announced that the debt of $60,000 on the college of history, which existed at the time of the completion of that college, had been wiped out. Furthermore, $20,000 of the funds in hand has been loaned out at 5 per cent, making a difference of [illegible] in the financial situation. Thomas [illegible] of Chicago has given $10,000 to the university, which has been accepted [illegible]

[illegible] respect was paid to the memory of the late Judge William M. [illegible] and favorable action was taken [illegible] to the dedication of [illegible] extension through the grounds of Massachusetts [illegible] other streets.

MR. BABCOCK'S FIGHT IN HOME PRIMARIES

Signs of Victory for Wisconsin Representative Against the Machinations of Gov. La Follette.

The long and bitter fight among the Republicans of the Third district of Wisconsin is rapidly drawing to a close, and as it does so the indications become stronger that Representative Babcock, chairman of the District Committee in the House, will come out of the "scrap" victorious.

When the contest began in earnest last summer, and after it had progressed for several months, even Mr. Babcock's warmest friends admitted that his prospects were anything but bright. He determined not to be downed, however, or at least if he must be that it would only be after a good, stiff fight, and accordingly he put into the fight the same sort of energy which has enabled him to carry on to success the several Congressional campaigns which have resulted in returning a majority of Republicans to the House.

The first round in the final combat which is to decide whether Mr. Babcock or another Republican is to represent the Third Wisconsin district has been fought, and first blood has been drawn by Mr. Babcock. There are seven counties in Mr. Babcock's district, and in one of them—Iowa county—the primaries have been held for the election of delegates to the Congressional convention which will take place in the first part of next month. At the outset the opposition to Mr. Babcock was strong, but the reports which have come to Washington indicate conclusively that he has routed his opponents in Iowa county and succeeded in electing a majority of the delegates to the district convention.

Handicapped at Start.

Mr. Babcock started out handicapped by the bitter antagonism of the State machine, of which Governor La Follette is the head. The governor has a grievance against Mr. Babcock, because the latter does not subscribe to all of his socialistic policies and sentiments. Governor La Follette has a strong following in the Third district, and determined to "get Babcock's political scalp."

La Follette's plan was to have a candidate against Mr. Babcock in each of the several counties of the district, except the one in which Mr. Babcock lives, and to have each elect delegates from his own county, and then combine upon some one in the convention. Six candidates, each from a different county, did announce themselves, and Mr. Babcock found that, instead of fighting one rival for the nomination, he was obliged to combat six, whose purpose was to unite at the proper time. The entire strength of the State organization in the Third district has been for several months and is still being used to prevent the renomination of Mr. Babcock. The State administration has even gone so far as to issue a pamphlet for circulation among the voters attacking Mr. Babcock's record as chairman of the District Committee, and holding him responsible, among other things, for the large amount of money paid to the railroads in connection with the work of erecting a new Union Station and the elimination of grade crossings.

Record Is Different.

The record, however, shows, as is well known to the people of Washington, that Mr. Babcock, as well as a majority of the District Committee, fought to cut down the allowance to the railroads by $1,000,000, but with the Senate and a majority of the House against them were unable to do so. The State administration has apparently willfully distorted the facts in the case for the purpose of prejudicing the Republican voters against their member of Congress. Numerous other misrepresentations have been made by the State machine against the chairman of the District Committee in connection with his discharge of his duties in that position.

Many of Mr. Babcock's friends in the House, remembering the efforts he has put forth as chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee to procure the election of a Republican House, have from time to time volunteered to go into the Third Wisconsin district and assist Mr. Babcock in his campaign for renomination. He has declined, however, to accept such offers on the ground that the fight was a local matter, and that any outside interference might tend to prejudice the people against him. He expressed confidence that in the end he would be able to win out single handed.

Has Fought Alone.

Mr. Babcock has directed his campaign since the opening of the present Congress in November, from Washington, although he has had a perfect organization at home working in his interests. The District Committee room has, for the past three months, had the appearance of a campaign headquarters, and there have been evidences of the greatest activity. Mr. Babcock has devoted all the time he could possibly spare from his routine duties to personally supervising the campaign, and has found it necessary to employ additional clerks in order to keep up the work.

From present indications the efforts he has put forth are beginning to tell in his favor, although it has been an uphill fight, and the victory is not yet won as there are five other counties besides his own in which delegates are to be chosen. By reason of the fact that Iowa county has gone for Babcock, however, his friends believe that the opposition in the remaining counties will crumble, and be far less effective than it would have been if Iowa county had gone against the Congressman.