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WEDNESDAY, ... AUGUST 27, 1902.

ROOSEVELT WOULD CURB 'EM.

The speech on trusts made by Mr. Roosevelt at Boston on Monday will attract widespread attention—first, because of its presidential source; next, because it is intended to be taken as a definition of the position of the administration, and is to be so used in the pending canvass, and, again, because the speaker is looked upon as a man who speaks his mind pretty freely.

Mr. Roosevelt assures us that he recognizes the evils of trusts, and says he would like to see them curbed, but he finds that the present laws are insufficient, and he suggests a national law patterned after the anti-trust law of Massachusetts. So far as the Federal anti-trust laws go, the President says they will be enforced.

Most significant of all his expressions is the one in which he assures the public that he is far from being "against property," when he asks that the question of trusts be taken up. He says he is acting in the most conservative sense and in property's interest in urging that a curb be applied to them. "I am not advocating anything very revolutionary; I am advocating action to prevent anything revolutionary," said he.

In other words, Mr. Roosevelt hears the mutterings of the people and hopes to satisfy them without estranging the trusts from his party. But his speech only holds out a distant, remote and intangible remedy. The Federal laws he suggests cannot be enacted without an amendment to the Federal Constitution; the adoption of such an amendment would require time—many years' time. With the best of intentions upon the part of both political parties, millions now living in the course of nature must be dead before any such amendment could be put into force. Years would be required to do so much as frame the amendment! It follows, therefore, that the President proposes nothing that will afford a practical and prompt remedy for the evil that is complained of by the masses; an evil which he says he recognizes—which, indeed, is not to be hidden or disguised from any healthy eyes.

That the trust problem presents a complex condition, Mr. Roosevelt truly says. There's no denying that; but we have great faith in the truth of the old saying that where there is a will there is a way. If Mr. Roosevelt and his party had the will which we think they ought to have they could pretty soon bring some of the trusts to taw and give the others a lesson they certainly would heed. This they could do without revolutionizing business; without seriously agitating the markets of the country and with the full approval of the masses of Americans.

Yes, where there's a will there's a way, and it happens here that the way is plain, smooth, well-lighted. It is to revise the tariff so that when the trusts pile upon the public back burdens too grievous to be borne, imports shall not be prohibited, practically speaking, but encouraged.

We reiterate that such a policy would not reach all the trusts directly. Some would appear to be not affected by it at all; but in the end it would be effectual for good in every direction, and we, therefore, say to the President, If you really wish to meet the issue fairly, squarely, practically don't tell us about strengthening the hand of the Federal power; don't postpone relief for years; don't dally and delude, but come out like a true broncho buster and say to your fellow Republicans that "the tariff's the thing"; that the first step to be taken in order that relief may be secured is to revise and amend it in the light of present conditions; in the light of common sense, fair dealing, and political honesty.

Yes, "where there's a will there's a way."

THE SMALL-POX.

From all accounts Wise county is suffering as no other county in Virginia has suffered in a generation by the ravages of small-pox. The disease seems to have been brought there by new-comers.

The miserably unwise and foolish policy of attempting to conceal its presence prevailed for some time, but we doubt not that the public authorities and the mine-owners are now fully alive to the demands of the occasion, and are doing all that is necessary to cure the sick and prevent further contagion.

This outbreak of small-pox is a solemn warning to all other counties where vaccination is not general and where reasonable preparation has not been made to stamp out the malady when it first appears.

For some years a mild and tractable type of small-pox has prevailed in Virginia and other Southern States, and some medical men had begun to express the hope that this ancient and inveterate enemy of mankind had lost its old-time virulence.

The fact that men, women, and children, many of whom never had been vaccinated, get well quickly—some not even having medical attention—gave some ground for that hope. But what do we see now? Why, quite another type of the disease; one as vicious as the other was mild; as unruly as the other was tractable.

The lesson of it all is that we must still continue to think of small-pox with horror, and still continue to try to ward it off by the vaccination of our whole population. Cities and towns must also be ready with hospitals, physicians, and nurses to treat it properly when it develops.

This is one of those cases, precisely, where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure—especially as the "cure" is by no means means certain.

The Knoxville Sentinel [illegible] that "it's gratifying to know that [illegible] Schwab will not lose his job." Many [illegible] jests have been made in connection with the steel magnate's position, it being generally believed that he receives $1,000,000 per year. If, so, there is no danger of Mr. Schwab losing his job unless he becomes incapacitated. If the shrewd men who compose the steel trust are willing to pay this salary it may be accepted that his services are worth the money.—Charlotte (N. C.), Observer.

Our information is that poor Mr. Schwab receives only $250,000 per annum as president of the United States Steel Company. What little additional income he may have from his stocks and bonds, lands and lots, etc., we do not know.

EGYPT AND COTTON.

According to a recent cablegram from London, the British Cotton-Growing Association, with the hearty co-operation of the Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, is striving to render the British Empire independent of the United States so far as raw cotton is concerned, by paying special attention to upper Egypt, where it is asserted the association can develop a cotton belt dwarfing that of the Southern States of America.

This recalls the interesting fact that it was the Egyptian "cotton idea" that, by a chain of circumstances, led to British occupation of Egypt. Ismail Pasha, who, in 1863, succeeded to the rulership of the country, was imbued with the belief that, owing to our war between the States then in progess, the cotton-growing industry of the South would be destroyed, and Egypt would be made the great cotton-producing country of the world. He encouraged his subjects to cultivate cotton, and illustrated the faith that was in him by entering upon a gigantic system of internal improvements and piling up an enormous debt.

However, the "cotton idea" did not pan out, and in his attempts to meet the interest on the debt, he made taxes so high that the people refused to pay them, and in 1879 revolted and drove him from power. He was succeeded by Mohammed Tewfik, but the new khedive found the finances in such a tangle that he was compelled to invoke the aid of European governments to pay the country's interest obligations, and the French and the British governmens were given virtual control of the sources of revenue. The people resented that, and the result was a rebellion, headed by Arabi Pasha, the minister of war; the bombardment of Alexandria by the British, the defeat of Arabi at Tel-el-Keber, and British administration of the finances of Egypt and domination of the khedive's possessions.

PTOMAINES AND TIN CANS.

If the guests at the Old Sweet Springs were poisoned by milk which acquired its virus from standing in tin cans, why is it that no case of the same kind occurred during the twenty-five years in which milk has been kept there in the same way? And why is it that the whole population of the country is not similarly poisoned, as milk is generally kept in cans either before or after distribution? Visitors to Loudoun county have all noticed the enormous shipments of milk in tin cans from the dairies along the Southern railway to the distributing stations in Washington. The tin can theory held at the Old Sweet Springs may be correct, but if it is, there ought to be a law in every State against keeping milk for sale in tin cans, and it would be very hard to prove the necessity of any such statute—Norfolk Landmark.

The tin can theory is not tenable. It was formerly contended that articles in these cans became contaminated by the lead or zinc in the solder or soldering-fluid used in making and sealing the cans, but this is very improbable. It is now believed that the noxious effects occasionally observed, are due to the development of the poisonous substances called ptomaines. The conditions for the development of these ptomaines in milk and other foods are very obscure and are practically almost unknown. Uncleanliness of the containing vessels, or of the surroundings, which is very commonly assigned as the chief factor, does not satisfactorily account for their development. The ptomaines may develop at any time, anywhere, and under the best care, so that it may often be very unjust to attribute these mysterious poisonings to the carelessness of those in charge of the food.

Several instances of ptomaine poisoning have occurred in Richmond, but, so far as is known to us, there has been no fatal case.

MEDIATING IN COAL STRIKE.

At the solicitation of the New York Journal Cardinal Gibbons and Hon. John Wanamaker have consented to serve on a committee to mediate the great coal strike, if possible. John DeWitt Warner and Senator William E. Mason have also indicated their willingness to serve, and the Journal says that other dignitaries and men of national fame and standing have been asked to take places on the committee.

It is explained by our contemporary that the proposed committee of mediation is in no sense a tribunal; it will render no verdict for or against operators or miners; decide no questions of the right or wrong of the stupendous conflict, but will devote its energies to smoothing the complications of the situation and inducing the parties to the war to listen to the voice of peace, and possibly by mutual concessions, save the country from further disaster resulting from the suspension of the great industry.

We hope the Journal's scheme will prove a success, but we are not optimistic respecting it. How our contemporary can expect success when the owners and operators have taken and adhered to the position that there is nothing to mediate or arbitrate is not clear. Every day it begins to look more and more as if the barons are going to defy public sentiment, and ignore right and justice and the necessities of the people until they are forced by some process of law to resume mining.

From a series of tables called "Progress of the United States in Its Material Industries," which has been issued as a part of the Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance for June, the Philadelphia Ledger gives the following facts and figures: The area of the United States was about 827,000 square miles in 1800. It was increased to 2,000,000 square miles by the Louisiana purchase and to 3,000,000 square miles by the annexation of Texas. The area is now given as 3,025,000 square miles, and the population is a fraction over twenty-five to the square mile. The wealth of the country, which is said to be the "true valuation of real and personal property," is nearly $1,000,000,000,000. This amounts to $1,235 per head of population. It was only $307 per head in 1850, the first year of the record; $513 in 1860, and $779 in 1870. Since then it has increased about $200 each decade. The net debt of the country, less cash in the Treasury, was less than $2 per head in 1860, but the civil war sent it up to $60 per head, and since then it has been reduced until now it amounts to less than $15 per head.

Minister Wu and his wife take naturally to the rolling-chair fad at Atlantic City, it is said. They are China rollers.

The new Maine will be remembered for the speed records it has broken.

Bishop Potter is reported as somewhat ill at the home of his fiance, Mrs. Clark, in Cooperstown, N. Y. It is hardly necessary to add that he is receiving the best of nursing.

Great Britain is ahead of us in the matter of a parcels post service, at least. But then it hasn't our enterprising express companies.

Why Water-Takers Should Rebel.

Daggers Springs, Va., August 23, 1902.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I read in your issue of the 23d an article headed, "Water-Takers Rebel." I was born and raised to early manhood five miles below the junction of the Jackson and Cowpasture rivers which form the James. I moved to the West about fifty years ago; have returned here many times to visit my old home, for recreation, among which is fishing in the beautiful river. I came this year for the same purpose, but how sadly changed is everything.

I see you attribute the condition of the river to Albemarle mud. It is not mud, and all the settling basins in the world would not clarify it. It is chemicals from the pulp mills and tanneries. The Cowpasture is perfectly clear and at its junction with the Jackson the contrast would convince any one that it is not mud. The water in Jackson looks like soap suds.

Major Shirley, who lives a short distance below the junction, told me he had to stop watering his horses in the river as it was slowly killing them. There has been no rain on the upper river since I have been here, to muddy the rivers. I made a trip to Lynchburg, and found the people there complaining as you do, and, strange to state, they attribute it to mud. It is astounding that the people of Virginia allow their beautiful river to be polluted by a few selfish creatures, who care nothing for the lives and health of their fellows. For sanitary reasons, to say nothing about the destruction of your game fish, it should be abated.

J. T. ALLEN, M. D.

We Richmonders know muddy water when we see it. We have had fifty years' experience with it. Before the war efforts had been made to filter the water at the Old Reservoir; the object being to rid it of the mud. Our city has employed the best of experts—non-residents—impartial men—who having made patient and protracted investigation have reported that James river water is chemically pure. Acting upon that advice the City Council has decided to build a settling basin.—Editor of the Dispatch.

Current Comment.

Wonder if the President ordered General Miles to the Philippines in order to relieve that Grand Army of the Republic embarrassing situation?

Why should harsh things be said about the West Virginian who built a town in order that he might run a saloon? From the advertisements in the Manila papers, it appears that some such object was in view when the United States bought the Philippines.—Norfolk Landmark.

Decidedly that is the appearance.

We know that it wouldn't do to encourage any sort of immorality, but whenever we hear of the arrest of a green-goods swindler we can't resist the feeling that it is a pity to stop him in his work of duping the fellows who are trying to get hold of counterfeit money with which to rob other folk.—Norfolk Ledger.

Certainly the victims of the green-goods men are entitled to no sympathy, and should be punished as severely as those who dupe them.

There is a statement going the rounds of the Republican press to the effect that the farmers of the country make a larger percentage of income on the amount invested than does the steel trust, and the Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette is not miles from the truth when it characterizes the statement as a "campaign lie."

The Lancaster (Pa.) Examiner says "it is the public's right to have sufficient coal mined and transported to market to keep the homes of the country comfortable and its industries going. The time for urging the adoption of heroic measures may not have arrived, but the time for considering them has."

And considering them seriously.

Young King Alfonso's announcement that he would rather marry a millionairess than a poor princess may be evidence of insanity, but the world is full of such insane young fellows, roving around loose.

"The Republican party may not be able to discriminate between the malevolent trust and the beneficial combination; but the people, the victims of the former can, and they will not cease to look to the Democratic party for relief from the tyranny of unfair exactions and unjust monopoly of the necessities of life.—Buffalo (N. Y.) Times.

And the pregnant question is, What are the Democrats going to do about it?

September Cradle Song.

(Alice E. Allen in Good Housekeeping.)

In the garden over there,
Nod the sweet peas frail and fair.
No one tucks them into bed,
Lower droops each sleepy head.
Mother folds thy blanket white,
While she whispers: "Dear, good night."

Tenderly the little breeze
Stirs the tired leaves on the trees;
Oh, her song is sweet and low,
Rocking, rocking to and fro.
Mother rocks thy cradle deep,
"Close thy dark eyes, dear, and sleep."

Silvery shadows on the hill
Hush the world to slumber still;
Softly tolls the twilight bell,
Bright stars twinkle, "All is well."
Mother prays as fades the light;
"Angels keep thee, dear; good night."

Two Sorts.

(Philadelphia Press.)

"Yes, I decided to get married because I have enough money to live comfortably now."

"I suppose you heard your friend, Forchen-Hunt, was married, too?"

"Yes; but he's hardly in the same boat with me."

"Not quite. He got married because he didn't have enough money to live comfortably."

With Socrates.

(Life.)

"Pop, don't you wish you were me?"

"Why?"

"Well, mamma whips me when she gets mad, but she talks to you."

Sherlock Holmes in New York.

(Chicago Record-Herald.)

"Will you marry me?" he said, suddenly looking up from the paper he had been studying.

"Wh—why," she replied, "how you startled me. What caused you to ask me such an important question so suddenly?"

"I've been looking over the tax list."

"I can't see what the tax list has to do with our love."

"Your father's name isn't on it. He must be very rich."

Viewed It Significantly.

(Chicago Tribune.)

"Wasn't it a terrifying experience," asked his friend, "when you lost your foothold and went sliding down the mountainside?"

"It was exciting, but extremely interesting," said the college professor, "I could not help noticing, all the way down, with what absolute accuracy I was following along the line of least resistance."

Busily Occupied.

(Detroit Free Press.)

"Has Cholly any occupation—does he condescend to work for money?"

"Oh, yes! He's courting Miss Millyons."

THE TRUSTS.

Who is Responsible for the Need of Srenthening the Federal Arm?

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

President Roosevelt in his address at Boston, on Monday, confined himself to the sole topic of the restriction of the power and domination of the trusts. He declared, in effect, that the States were not competent, separately, to restrain their omnivorous greed and usurpations; and that the iron arm of the general government could alone deal the desired blow.

In order to do this, however, there must, in his opinion, be an amendment to the Constitution conferring special powers upon Congress for this purpose. It is necessary, he said, to "confer greater power upon the national administration."

Well, now, admitting that he is right in this postulate, who is responsible for the state of things which makes it necessary to confer greater powers upon the Federal Government, and to that extent abridge the sovereignty that rightfully resides in the States? Why, manifestly the Republican party, of which Mr. Roosevelt is at this time the head and exponent. The two pillars and supports of the Republican party are the revenue tariff and the stupendous strides in foreign conquests, and territorial acquisition, which we, for conciseness, denominate imperialism. The tariff is the life blood of the great majority of the mammoth trusts, the insatiate corporations and combines. How are we to suppress these dread enemies to our Republican institutions that require for their correction a greater consolidation of power in the "national administration?" By the restoration of the Democratic party, and the Jeffersonian theory of politics, to the control of the government and the national administration.

Our government is, year by year, under the dominance of the Republican party, departing from the conception of the fathers and founders, and merging, more and more, into a nation, an empire, after the fashion of the European powers. What else can be expected when we adopt European models and methods? First we annex the Sandwich Islands, upon the pretext that it would be dangerous to allow any European nation to possess and hold them. Then we go 10,000 miles out into the South Pacific to acquire the Philippine archipelago, and, as a sequence, we are eagerly waiting for the opportunity to receive our slice when China shall be apportioned among the great powers. In our wide vision of foreign acquisitions we outstrip the conquests of Cortez, and go beyond the dream of Alexander. And all this goes on silently and unrebuked under our very eyes. Facilis decensus Averni. And all history attests that the facility and insidiousness of the Avernian descent is in nothing so notable as in the steady and almost imperceptible gravitation of republics into empires. Rome was in very fact an empire for long years before she laid aside the semblance of a republic. M.

THE OLD SWEET POISONING CASE.

A Card from Dr. Ennion G. Williams.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Dear Sir,—I have noticed an editorial comment in the Norfolk Landmark, of August 26th, in regard to the poisoning cases at the Old Sweet Springs. They do not mention my name, but I have been misquoted in several papers as stating that the poisoning was due to the tin vessels in which the milk was kept. It might be of interest to the public to know that I did not consider the sickness due to any metallic poison, but to the ptomaine (tyrotoxicon), which develops in improperly handled milk.

While the immediate cause of the sickness was due to gross carelessness in handling the milk, and keeping it in dirty pails, I believe that the general condition and management of the kitchen, dairy, and also the sanitary arrangements of the place, were a serious menace to health and were deserving of the severest condemnation. However, steps were immediately taken to relieve these conditions.

Such an occurrence, with even more serious results is liable to take place wherever these conditions exist, and this case should be taken as a warning to hotel managers and the general public, especially at summer resorts, where the accommodations for providing for guests are not always adequate to the service demanded.

In regard to the use of tin pails in the handling of milk, I do not consider them, when properly cleansed, as harmful.

Yours very truly,

ENNION G. WILLIAMS, M. D.

THE COMING APPLE CONGRESS.

Latest Chapter of the Story That Began in Eden.

(St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)

In St. Louis, on November 18th and 19th next, the first congress of the American applegrowers will be held. A preliminary organization was made in this city this week, and the permanent basis of action will be completed at the congress. Orchardists generally will welcome and take an active interest in this enlightened movement. The object of the congress, as defined at the first meeting, is to discuss cultural methods, obtain prompt and authentic statistics on the extent and condition of the crop, and secure expert methods of progress. American apple-growing, as far as the producers are concerned, has become a highly important industry in haphazard fashion. Growers have acted individually, each judging for himself of the conditions that fix prices. The organization has been on the side of buyers and jobbers. Back of this consideration are the improved methods gradually adopted in orchards. In horticulture and all branches of farming there are no trade secrets touching productiveness. The grower of fruits and grain gladly tells his neighbor of any discovery or process that increases the quantity or quality of the yield. But those engaged in these industries should organize more extensively for the protection of their just interests and a constant interchange of advancing knowledge.

American apples have gained a world-wide fame on their unquestionably unequalled merits. From pioneer days this fruit has had a warm place in the American heart. Around the log cabins of the first settlers sprang up little apple orchards, a thing of health, comfort, beauty, and cherished home associations. But orchardists now utilize hundreds of acres and follow up the business on a large commercial scale. They cultivate and feed their trees, spray them to destroy insect pests, and give the greatest care to selecting the best varieties and the best systems of packing and getting their product to market in perfect condition. They have found by experience that they need mutual aid in ascertaining the true value of their crop and in exchanging the latest cultural facts. Properly speaking, there can be no "glut" of apples when there are nearly 80,000,000 people at home craving them, and all Europe is ready to buy them at good prices. What is called a "glut," is merely imperfect distribution.

The apple, like the most virile races, has an affinity for moderately Nortnern latitudes. It is a peculiarly delightful fruit in its almost infinite variety of distinct flavors. It is a great keeper, still in the market when strawberries come and early kinds begin to redden on the boughs in June It is healthful, nutritious, and refreshing. Artists love to paint it in contrasted colors, and a dish of apples on the table vies with flowers as a centerpiece. It is the standard fruit of all seasons and all classes. Missouri is reported by the last census to have more growing apple trees than any other State. But the adjacent States are not far behind, and it is truly said that the West has become the national apple bin. The new association is an excellent idea, and St. Louis will take cordial interest in the first congress of apple-growers to assemble here in November.

COCKROACH NOT ALL BAD.

Government Reports Points Out That This Insect is the Enemy of the Bed Bug.

(New York Sun.)

That class of insects which the ancients called lucifuga, and whose branches are known to every American flat dweller under the common name of cockroaches, has been subjected to the attentive eye of the Federal Government and the gratifying information is contained in a recent report of C. L. Marlatt, first assistant entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, that the cockroaches have two good points. One of them is that the insects are scavengers, and at times are of service in eating up and removing dead animal matter. Of their other good point Mr. Marlatt says:

"One other redeeming trait has been recorded of them—namely, that they will prey on that other grievous pest of houses which are not subjected to careful supervision, the bed-bug. Their habits in this direction have been recorded several times. One writer in a narrative of a voyage (Foster's Voyage, vol. 1. p. [illegible]), makes the following statement in this connection:

"'Cockroaches, those nuisances to ships, are plentiful at St. Helena, and yet, bad as they are, they are more endurable than bugs. Previous to our arrival here in the Chanticleer, we had suffered great inconvenience from the latter, but the cockroaches no sooner made their appearance than the bugs entirely disappeared. The fact is that the cockroach preys upon them and leaves no sign or vestige of where they have been. So that it is a most valuable insect.'"

Some cockroaches are stronger and more venturesome, than those of the Harlem flats. Here is what Herbert H. Smith, collector and naturalist, says of the roaches of the tropics:

Cockroaches are so common in Brailian country houses that nobody pays any attention to them. They have an unpleasant way of getting into provision boxes, and they deface, books, shoes, and sometimes clothing. Where wallpaper is used they soon eat it off in unsightly patches, no doubt seeking the paste beneath.

But at Corumba, on the upper Paraguay I came across the cockroach in a new role. In the house where we were staying there were nearly a dozen children, and every one of them had their eyelashes more or less eaten off by cockroaches—a large, brown species, one of the commonest kind throughout Brazil. The eyelashes were bitten off irregularly, in some places quite close to the lid. Like most Brazilians, these children had very long, black eyelashes, and their appearance thus defaced was old enough The trouble was confined to children I suppose, because they are heavy sleepers and do not disturb the insects at work. My wife and I sometimes brushed cockroaches from our faces at night, but thought nothing more of the matter. The roaches also bit off bits of the toe-nails. Brazilians very properly encourage the large spiders, because they tend to rid the house of other insect pests.

What New Yorkers know as the Croton bug is the most wary of all the family. It is a pest in Germany and the popular names for it illustrate the sectional and racial prejudices of the empire. In North Germany these roaches are known as "Schwaben," a term which applies to the inhabitants of South Germany, and the latter section retaliates by calling them "Preussen," after the North Germans. In East Germany they are called "Russen," and in West Germany "Franzosen," the two latter appellations indicating a certain national antipathy to rival countries as well as a fanciful idea as to origin. Still other names are "Spanier," dating from the time of Charles V, and "Dane," from Denmark.

The department recommends fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas to exterminate the roaches and has issued a circular telling how to do it.

TO INVESTIGATE L. & N. MERGER.

Kentucky State Commission Asked to Do So by Gov. Beckham.

FRANKFORT, KY., August 26.—The State Railroad Commission will be called together early next week to investigate the proposed merger of the Louisville and Nashville and Southern railway by the Morgan interests. This action will be taken at the suggestion of Governor Beckham, who addressed a letter to the commission to-day calling attention to the persistent rumors of the merger.

The Governor asks that the investigation be made in order that he may take steps to forstall the merger, if the commissioners shall find that one is proposed. Section 81 of the Kentucky Constitution prohibits parallel or competing lines of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, or common carriers from combining their capital stock. This section has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the State, and under its provisions John Young Brown prevented the merger of the Louisville and Nashville and the old Chesapeake, Ohio and Southwestern roads a few years ago.

CAPWAIGN IS BEGUN

PRESIDENTIAL SPUR WILL BRING OUT MANY REPUBLICANS.

CHAIRMAN ELLYSON TALKS.

Conferences Held in City and County—Urges Registration of Every Available Democratic Vote—State Committee to Meet Soon.

The campaign for Congress has been begun by the State Chairman and the Democratic State Committee, and will be pushed with vigor from now until November. All the ten candidates have been nominated except in the Third District, which in two weeks more will have chosen its nominee. Then the campaign against the Republican nominees will be aggressively pressed:

Nothing can be done yet in the way of arranging dates for speakers, for it is not known positively in what districts the Republicans will make their fight. It is certain that their candidate in the Fifth will endeavor to make a contest, but Mr. Swanson has demonstrated his ability to win when the conditions were far less favorable. His opponent, Mr. B. A. Davis, of Franklin, has not great strength outside of the county.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPUR.

In the Tenth the Republicans have once decided not to nominate, but since the President's criticism of that course there is a disposition to reconsider. In the Second there is much talk of a nomination, and Messrs. C. H. Causey, of Nansemond, and Hugh Gordon Miller, of Norfolk, have been most prominently mentioned. Of late Mr. Fred Read, postmaster of Newport News has been urged to run, but has not announced his determination to do so. In the Seventh District there is also an effort to induce the leaders to make the hopeless fight, but even the spur of presidential censure seems incapable of screwing their courage to the sticking point. In the Third District there is a bare possibility of a Republican nomination, but it is admitted he would stand no chance of election. In the Fourth and Sixth districts there will be no opposition to Messrs. Southall and Glass and they will have a walkover. In the Ninth Mr. Robert W. Blair has been frequently spoken of as likely to run for the Republicans, but the rank and file are taking no interest in the campaign, and Mr. Rhea will have no formidable opposition. Mr. Jones, as usual, is unopposed in the First District. In the Eighth District Mr. Rixey will have a walkaway race.

STATE CHAIRMAN BUSY.

State Chairman J. Taylor Ellyson, when seen by a Dispatch reporter, said of the campaign: "For the past two weeks I have been very busy conferring and corresponding with the State Central Committee, and the Executive Committee, and with the chairman of the County and City Democratic committees, preparatory to the campaign. The actual active stump canvass has not been begun yet, and cannot be until the intentions of the Republicans in the matter of making nominations are known. It now seems possible that they will have one or more candidates in the field, but until they decide in what districts they will nominate the campaign can not be made.

REGISTRATION MOST IMPORTANT.

"I consider the registration of every available Democratic vote the most important thing that can be done yet, and I am looking at that, with the co-operation of the State committees and the local committee chairman. Unless the Democratic vote can be registered it will be useless to make a campaign. That is the matter of most pressing importance at this time, in my opinion. Registration has been begun in a few places, but will not begin generally and actively until September. The committees and the local party organization will spare no effort to get the full party strength registered.

"A meeting of the State Central Committee will be called soon, but at what date has not yet been decided upon. As soon as the Republicans have determined what they propose to do the campaign in the contested districts will be inaugurated and pressed until the day of election."

COMMISSIONERS OF AGRICULTURE.

Their Annual Convention Meets—Commissioner Koiner Speaks.

NASHVILLE, TENN., August 26.—The Cotton States Association of Commissioners of Agriculture began its fourth annual convention here to-day. The following States are represented: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

B. C. White and W. A. Orton are also in attendance, representing the United States Department of Agriculture. President S. L. Patterson, of North Carolina, presided.

Governor McMillin, on behalf of the State, welcomed the association. In the course of his remarks he said:

"We want a more diversified agriculture. We don't want our people dependent on any one crop. We have been too long dependent on one or two crops. I want to see the time when forty acres will be sufficient to employ thirty or forty men. Urge it in season and out of season. We have raised enough to enrich a dozen empires.

"We have made New England. They have fattened by skimming the cream from our products. I want to see the time when our smoke-houses will not be brought from Chicago and our cotton factories from New England."

OIL IN THE SOUTH.

Referring to the discovery of oil in Louisiana and Texas, he said it was not only the greatest oil field in the world, but would prove the greatest factor in developing the South. With oil, salt, and sulphur, the greatest sugar and rice fields in the world, and splendid crops of all other products, what more can be expected of this territory?

Governor McMillin urged that worn, wasted, or washed lands be put in timber.

G. W. Koiner, of Virginia, responded for the association.

Secretary Kilgore made a statement as to the question of uniform fertilizer guarantees and laws, saying some slight changes might have been made in the Georgia law, but, aside from the preparation of the bill published in the proceedings, the committee had nothing to report.

WATTS' SLAYER CONVICTED.

George W. Jones Gets a Sentenc of Three Years in Prison.

TAZEWELL, VA., August [illegible]—(Special.)—The new trial of George [illegible] Jones, indicted for killing ex-Marshal [illegible]hn G. Watts, began last Wednesday in the County Court. The prosecution was represented by Messrs. Chapman & Gillespie, Judge S. C. Graham, and Mr. E. L. Greever, the Commonwealth's-Attorney being absent.

The case was hotly contested from start to finish. Able arguments were made by counsel on both sides, and the case submitted to the jury yesterday evening.

This morning the jury returned a verdict of voluntary manslaughter, fixing the punishment of George W. Jones at three years in the State prison.

The defence was represented by H. C. Alderson, Senator J. N. Harman, V. L. Sexton, and Hon. J. C. Wysor.

The case against John Jones, jointly indicted for the same offence, was continued to the next term of the court, bail being granted him in the sum of $2,000. The case has excited much interest throughout all this section of the State, on account of the prominence of the deceased, he being connected by marriage and otherwise with the most prominent people of this section.

BAER TALKS WITH MORGAN.

Conference Presumably on Subject of the Coal Strike.

NEW YORK, August 26.—President George F. Baer, of the Philadelphia and Reading railroad, was in conference with J. Pierpont Morgan to-day, presumably to discuss the coal strike. Mr. Steele, of the firm of J. P. Morgan and Company, and Mr. Stotesbury, the Philadelphia partner of Mr. Morgan's firm, were present at the conference.

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FAYERWEATHER WILL CASE.

Decison Confirming Colleges in Possession of Fund Granted Them.

NEW YORK, August 26.—A decision was handed down by Judge Lacombe, in the United States Circuit Court to-day, deciding, so far as that tribunal is concerned, the noted Fayerweather will case. Judge Lacombe's decision confirms the decision of the State Court of Appeals of July, 1897, which admitted the will of the late Daniel B. Fayerweather, the millionaire leather merchant, to probate. Under the terms of the will the greater portion of the estate, estimated at $6,200,000, was divided between various colleges and universities mentioned in the will. Judge Lacombe's decision dismissed an action brought by Emma Fayerweather and Mary Wachter, nieces of Lucy Fayerweather, widow of the dead merchant, to contest the will, and leaves the colleges and universities in the undisputed possession and enjoyment of the money granted them. The decision, however, does not mean that the case will end, as an appeal will be taken at once to the United States Supreme Court of Washington.

DOUGLAS RIGHTED WRONG.

Married Girl He Had Betrayed at Lillington Yesterday—Wilcox's Appeal Heard.

RALEIGH, N. C., Aug. 26.—(Special.)—Paul Douglas, a young man, who is accused of outraging a woman in Harnett county and later was captured at Charleston, was brought back upon the governor's requisition and married the girl in the court-house at Lillington to-day.

This is the case in which the governor said Douglas must marry the girl or go to the penitentiary.

In the argument in the Wilcox case in the supreme court to-day, Wilcox's attorneys took a bold stand, that there was no evidence to show that Nellie Cropsey was murdered, and secondly, that if she was murdered there was no evidence showing that Wilcox murdered her.