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FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1908.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM POSSIBILITIES—POPULAR ELECTION OF SENATORS.

For the Democratic platform to declare for the election of United States Senators by the people is not to make a new demand or ask for radical change. The question, though never so urgent as now, has since the foundation of the government been under discussion.

The reasons for the change are: That it will prevent the corruption of Legislatures; the disturbance of Legislatures by contests over the senatorship; the improper use of money to obtain a seat in the Senate; that it will compel candidates for the Senate to undergo the scrutiny of a campaign before the people and tend to selection of the men best qualified.

The Senate has in the main represented what is best and ablest in our politics, and it has also in the main been a steadying, rectifying force in legislation. All this has been due, however, more to the length of a Senator's term, his greater power and responsibility; to the fact that very able and experienced men have sought to be members, than to the mode of election. The taint and scandal that have disgraced so many of these legislative elections lend small probability to fear that the character of the Senate will suffer from the change.

In recent years corporate influences are admitted to have had a potent voice in the Senate's conclusions, and the desire for popular elections of Senators marks a determination to lessen that influence. But the desire has a deeper origin than the wish to get rid of these influences. It is part of the widespread movement of the people to secure a more direct control of government.

The Legislatures of twenty-seven States have asked for this reform; other States are committed to it by having adopted primary elections for nominating Senators.

If election by the people will remove from Legislatures a responsibility that has in so many instances proved corrupting, that has taken up so much of their time which should have been spent in transacting their usual business; and if it will not result in lowering the character of the Senate, then the people should elect.

It is essential, above all else, that the people be satisfied with their institutions; that no feeling of helplessness arise among them; and if elections by the people will yield this satisfaction, then for this reason also the people should elect.

The Democratic party, in declaring for this change, is not yielding to mere popular clamor, nor does it insist on any disturbing innovation; it is working for conservative progress.

THOSE ICE SCALES.

In April, 1907, by ordinance, there was created a City Inspector of Weights and Measures. By June of that year the market houses had been warned to give "good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over." This injunction was enforced by destroying 3,800 short measures and substituting full size galvanized iron quarts, pecks and bushels in the place of serviceable and well-worn but far from abundant wooden vessels.

Not content with this forcible improvement of the morals of marketers, the Inspector of Weights and Measures, mindful of the biblical observation that men were altogether lighter upon the weights than vanity, set forth to test the pounds used on many scales. To such good effect was this work done that 2,100 light weights were consigned to the scrap heap.

For all this work the city is duly thankful; but why does not the inspector call upon the ice wagons to come to his office and then and there have their scales tested? As it is now, the inspector goes out into the byways of Richmond, though unfortunately not in the hedges of Henrico, and pounces on the ice men unawares. Doubtless this catches some short scales. But why not get a drag net and catch all?

THE POE CENTENARY.

The hundredth anniversary of Edgar Allan Poe's birth falls on January 19th next, and it is proposed to commemorate that day with a suitable centenary celebration. Poe's place as the first American poet—indeed, in the opinion of many as the first figure in American literature—has long since been established, despite the fact that portions of intellectual New England prefer William Cullen Bryant. For the exquisite songs he sung, for the immortal flowers of genius which he left to delight and charm posterity, it is a small enough return that some sort of public recognition be given to his birthday.

The opposition to honoring the poet because of the man, which this centenary movement may occasionally meet, has always seemed to us misguided and perverse. "Poe's faults" has become a veritable catch-phrase, as though he alone, of all men who have done illustrious work in any particular field of human endeavor, was afflicted with them. To deny a tribute to the fine part of a man because he drank whiskey, or even because he was ungrateful to his foster-parents, is both crabbed and puerile; and if we are to hold back our busts and marbles till the perfect man commands them, we shall hold them a long time, indeed. No one wants to raise monuments to Poe's character, his poetry being reason enough, and the argument which declares him unfit would similarly bar, to go no further, Burns, Shelley and Byron. The qualities which make for poetry do not make for great strength of moral fibre. It is hardly to be expected that the same hand can delicately tune the lute and ruthlessly sear away the frailties of the flesh.

The Poe centenary will be commemorated because it deserves to be, and it should be commemorated in Richmond. No other city is so closely identified with the poet's life, and a celebration elsewhere would lack point. It would be a happy coincidence if the Poe Memorial Association of Richmond could make the centenary the occasion for announcing that its projected $10,000 fund was complete and the order for making the poet's monument was already placed.

RICHMOND TRAINING SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTNERS.

We have before us the catalogue, just issued, of the Kindergartners' Training School for the session of 1908-1909, commencing October 1, 1908. The small pamphlet is in attractive form, and gives the usual information as to terms, course of study, diplomas, etc. It also contains a chapter, styled: "The Kindergarten; An Organic Part of a Complete System of Education," which, after noting that Froebel's system is now universally recognized as "a practical system of pedagogy adapted alike to the symbolic period of childhood and to the conscious growth of maturer years" (Hughes), indicates the method of gifts, occupations and games used, showing that it is founded upon the philosophic truth expressed by Schiller: "Deep meaning oft lies hid in childish play."

Attention is also directed to the fact that Froebel addressed his Commentaries to mothers, and that the training for the kindergarten appeals not alone to the professional educator, but as well to the young mother and to every girl who, as a potential mother, realizes her responsibilities to the race. Special courses and lectures are provided for graduates, primary teachers and young women wishing to know something of Froebel's educational principles. A list of graduates appended shows that of a total of thirty-nine, twenty-seven are practicing their profession in various kindergartens, five are married, one has died and six are not placed. This, we believe, is the only training school (or college) for kindergartners in Virginia, and, though but recently instituted, it has been quite successful, deservedly, because of the high quality of the work accomplished. The kindergarten is growing daily in favor, and will eventually become an organic part of the public school system throughout the State, as it already is in Richmond, which will create a demand for kindergartners, to supply which a good training school is needed.

James Russell Lowell is dead. Therefore, unless the mediums interfere, he will never feel any resentment at the esteemed Washington Post, which begins a hot-weather story with an allusion to "William Wordsworth, who wrote that 'What So Rare as a Day in June?' lay."

Far be it from us to advance unwelcome insinuations. Yet stern duty compels us to point out that Jim Sherman, having accepted the Republican nomination to the vice-presidency, got desperately sick.

If the Washington Herald knows any good reasons why that muzzling ordinance in the District should not be extended to apply to Congress, now is the time for it to publish them to the voters.

"A woman has two souls," says Professor G. Stanley Hall, thus taking a heavy fall out of those who thought that woman had from eleven to twenty-nine.

Cruelly reft of his second-elective term trade-mark, Senator Jonathan Bourne may yet reach a position where he will have to take to buying $30,000 pinks.

The famous Mayor of Timpson, Tex., is in luck in one respect. His constituents cannot reasonably ask him to attend more than one Texas dollar-dinner per annum.

We are not yet convinced, however, that Don Alfonso is enough of a Democrat to rise at 3 A. M. and walk the baby.

Still, there are lots of honorary societies in America which would be willing to let John Hays Hammond bag a vice-presidency off 'em.

A great many bad accidents are sure to happen on the Glorious Fourth this year, not counting the marriage of Mme. Gould and De Sagan.

We take it for granted that the country's next and finest ex-President is entirely satisfied with recent events in Madrid.

Denver does not offer enough of a sporting chance to have been at all interesting to the late patriot, Bim the Button Man.

"A Chicago man," so the Washington Post informs us, "offers to bet $25 that there is no hell." Evidently a newcomer to Chicago.

In view of its sudden great fame, rural characters in the comic weeklies should now desist from calling it Uticky.

Cipriano Castro is still hinting for an introduction to a nice little bunch of American marines.

Rhymes for To-Day

THE NEGLECTED SECRETARIAL.

T. ROOSEVELT'S been cheered till the rafters resound
And the plaster shakes down on the floor,
His glory's leapt onward with many a bound,
And each day it's bounding some more.
He'll go down to history marked with a cross
And booked for a shining white robe:
T. Roosevelt should feel mighty pleased with the deal—
But what is there in it for Loeb?

Bill Taft's got the crown that the foregoing left—
(So far as the foregoing could)—
He's lived down the gibes that we sprung on his heft,
He's greeted as all to the good;
The recognized heir of the teeth and brass band,
The megaphone, big stick and probe:
Yes, Bill Taft should feel durned content with the deal—
But what has the future for Loeb?

The modest young man who has worked without pause,
And eke without thank-yous or fame,
Who never has drawn his fair slice of applause,
But only his large gobs of blame—
The soft, shrinking power behind the brass throne,
On the Job with the patience of Job:
I think he must feel that a pretty raw deal
Is all that is coming to Loeb.

H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

A Split Vote.

"Who do you think will win, Taft or Bryan?"

"I dunno. The Bill vote consolidated would elected either of 'em, but I s'pose they'll hafter fight it out."—Pittsburg Post.

Run by Politicians.

"We business women," declared she, "demand a voice in the management of this country's affairs."

"I wish you luck," responded he. "But that's more than we business men have ever been able to get."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Overwhelmed.

"Taking an early vacation as I did, I was the only man at the summer resort."

"Got lots of attention from the women, I s'pose?"

"Couldn't have gotten more if I had been a convicted murderer."—Washington Herald.

Misusage of Words.

"What are you doing?"

"Grafting trees at $2.50 per day."

"That ain't grafting. That's working."—Washington Herald.

The Little Things.

"I believe in making the little things count," remarked the kindergarten teacher, as she called up the class in arithmetic.—Philadelphia Record.

A Bungling Amateur.

"Bridget, wasn't that policeman making love to you in the kitchen last night?"

"He thot he was, mum."—Life.

JOLLYING RICHMOND.

A TEXAS gentleman has just married a beautiful girl in Richmond. The real creme de la creme of Richmond's femininity invariably select Texas husbands when they have an opportunity.—Houston Post.

* * *

A Richmond man absconded just before the time set for his marriage to a Richmond widow. No Houston widow would have permitted her prey to get away so easily.—Allentown Call.

* * *

Richmond has a real, live count in its midst. My, but aren't those little pop-eyed blondes all a-flutter!—Washington Herald.

* * *

The stegomyia fasciata has made its appearance in Richmond, but it is a hill-billy breed and not the patrician insect that feeds on the rich blood of Houston.—Houston Post.

* * *

"Without intending to incite an insurrection in Washington, Houston, Richmond, Cleveland, Milwaukee and other less favored places," says the Atlanta Georgian, "we rise to remark that fried chicken can be had here in great piles for almost nothing." Which, we presume, is just about what it is worth.—Washington Post.

* * *

There are more members of the Coolest-Flat-in-Town Club residing in Humid Harlem than there are total inhabitants of Roasting Richmond, Warmish Washington, Torrid Toledo and hotoldhouston.—New York Mail.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

One ounce of eggs will produce 39,000 silk worms.

The squirrel slaughter of Russia amounts to 25,000,000 a year.

A laboratory for the teaching of electric science has been established in Manila by the Jesuit Fathers.

Because of the lichens which grow abundantly on the stone-paved streets in Madeira, making them slippery, it is possible to use sleighs the year round.

A clock once owned by John Wesley and presented by him to the John Street Methodist Church in New York City, is still doing good service in the church.

The town of Granite, Okla., has asked that the penitentiary be located there on the ground that there are enough quarries nearby to keep convicts employed 10,000 years.

In the Wenatchee Valley, in the State of Washington, orchard land is worth from $1,500 to $2,000 an acre. The orchards are irrigated and the trees bear every year.

A party of musicians sailed from New York recently as part of the government's plan to furnish wholesome amusement for the thousands of men at work on the Panama Canal.

Senator Boies Penrose, of Pennsylvania, forty-eight years of age, who is looked upon by some as a "ring politician," is a Harvard graduate and honor man in his class and the author of several law textbooks.

England's oldest preacher in active service, Rev. Thomas Lord, of Horncastle, is 109 years of age. Mr. Lord still preaches every Sunday. He was a grown man when George IV. was King. On his recent birthday King Edward sent his congratulations.

Henry W. Grady, son of Georgia's lamented statesman and journalist, Henry W. Grady, has entered politics by commencing his candidacy for the Legislature from Fulton county. Mr. Grady has no platform, and declares that he will make no pledges for the purpose of catching votes.

Since the nomination of Secretary Taft the newspapers of the country have been discovering villages and hamlets bearing the name of the presidential candidate. According to the Chicago Tribune's dispatches, there are eleven places in this country bearing the name of Taft, besides any number of Taftsville, Taftons, Taftvales and Taftdales.

The new kingdom of Norway has sent to this country one of the prettiest women Washington has seen for some time. She is Mme. Gude, wife of the new minister from that kingdom. Like King Haakon, the Norwegian King, Mme. Gude is a Dane by birth, but she speaks a number of languages besides her own and Norwegian, among them English.

Reputed Father of Bad Child.

Eugene Pringle, who conducted the mass-meeting at which the Republican party was formed, "under the oak," in Jackson, Mich., in 1854, died the other day. He lived to see the party divested of the principles and policies which it espoused at its birth and upheld for years and pass under an entirely new regime.

Twenty years after the new party was formed Mr. Pringle left it because interests which had only selfish ends to serve had secured control of it. He saw in the Democratic party the hope of the people for better things, and from that time on he acted with it.

There is hardly a vestige left of the Republican party of Pringle and his associates of 1854. It was then proudly called the party of patriotism and progress. Now it is the party of plutocracy and plunder.—Buffalo Times.

STATE PRESS

Gallant, Anyhow.

It will not do to argue that the law recognizes no distinction of sex in crime, and that murder committed by a woman deserves the same penalty that would be imposed in the case of a man. That is true in the abstract, but when the time comes to apply this inexorable principle in a concrete case, it will be found that there is almost universal abhorrence to the execution of a woman. Basing our belief upon a recognition of this powerful public sentiment, we predict that Mrs. Farmer will never go to the death chair. If the law were administered by women we suspect that the sentenced would be executed, but since men are charged with this responsibility, the innate repulsion of the thought of executing a woman will manifest itself in a demand for commutation of the sentence.—Danville Bee.

Hard on Some Lawyers.

Refuse to employ the lawyer who fails to practice according to the established ethics of his profession, and you will benefit both yourself and the legal profession. Look askance at that lawyer who solicits your business, or who has agents abroad in the land to lure you to his office. When you go there, after their solicitation or at their suggestion, plausibly offered, you will generally live to rue the advice you received, both from the solicitor and the lawyer.—Fredericksburg Star.

Pays Paul, at Least.

The best news the Star has had the pleasure of laying before its readers in a long while was that contained in the issue of yesterday to the effect that $848,000 will be immediately expended for the purpose of repairing and remodeling the battleship Iowa and the cruiser San Francisco. Both of these vessels are now at the navy-yard in this city, and this money will be spent among the skilled mechanics and the supply houses of this city and Norfolk.—Portsmouth Star.

A Dangerous Power.

The injunction is inherently right. It is the ounce of prevention that is worth a pound of cure. But it is a dangerous power for any man to possess and exercise, and there is no doubt that it has been abused, that it has been used at times in the interest of the strong against the weak, that it has been used to regulate the conduct of men without due process of law. That is why there is an outcry against it and a demand that it shall be exercised only when other processes are inadequate for protection and never for oppression.—Newport News Times-Herald.

No Room for Change.

It is well to bear in mind that the Democratic party is not going to be induced to modify in the least its position upon the race question with the hope of winning the support of Northern negro voters. Its record is immutable in this respect, its achievements on this score are among the best and most brilliant in its history. They have redounded to the preservation of Southern society and to the lasting benefit of the Southern people.—Lynchburg News.

Delusive Generalities.

Altogether, the Republican platform is an ingenious conglomeration of glittering promises, the insincerity of which is so apparent as to make them ridiculous. The Democrats have their opportunity this year, if ever. They need advocate no radical legislation, but only such urgent, proper and conservative measures as are demanded by the people.—Danville Register.

A Shrewd Prophet.

Mr. Lewis Nixon, a native of Virginia and former leader of Tammany Hall, says that Mr. Taft as a candidate will grow weaker every day until election, and that the Democrats should have no difficulty in carrying the country. Mr. Nixon is a pretty shrewd politician, and it is hoped his prophecy may prove correct.—Alexandria Gazette.

Shades of Tecumseh.

Sherman? That name is familiar in the South, a name that is altogether unsavory; and while we have heard no disclaimer of relationship with the gentleman who employed the "steam-roller" process during the Civil War in subjugating the South, the very name will cost the Republican ticket many votes, especially down in Georgia.—Roanoke Times.

No Great Snakes.

The hour of opportunity has now arrived for the Democratic party if it but have the courage and wisdom to take advantage of it. The Republican party has put forth a presidential ticket with a faulty head and a feeble tail.—Charlottesville Progress.

Pegasus in Politics.

One of the most depressing developments of the presidential campaign now beginning in the early appearance of a spavined and wind-broken Pegasus of such sorry breed as almost to warrant the extermination of the Parnassian strain of horseflesh.

This degenerate brute emerged upon the scene at the Chicago convention immediately following the first rise of the curtain, his rider singing a Taft campaign song that well-nigh amounted to murder in the first degree. Later, he entered bearing a bard who perpetrated a Sherman ditty for which no human law provides a punishment sufficiently awful to fit the crime. Finally, a veritable Wild Ass of Olympus, he bore into the arena a Mad Mullah of Minstrelsy chanting a Taft and Sherman combination roundelay that must surely take rank as the unpardonable sin against the sweet Muse of Song. Thirty prostrations, falsely charged to the day's heat, followed the last appearance of this beast in the Coliseum.

And the Denver convention, exploiting Mr. Bryan, always provocative of the most acute outbreaks of campaign doggerel, is still to be heard from. Help! Help!—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Real Land of the Free.

It is certainly true that in America a man is bound to the will of his neighbors to a far greater extent than in Europe. The community may dictate that he shall not smoke cigarettes. And there is the vast, unescapable body of moral and social convention, the dogmatic agreement of one's neighbors as to what one shall wear and eat and how one shall spend his time; there are the tyrannical standards of aesthetic taste, of religious and economic thought, and the automatic regulation by public opinion, of nearly all of the niceties of life.

Americans who go gadding to Europe may never have formulated this difference in personal freedom; but they feel it. In Germany there may be political tyranny, but the atmosphere is to the average American full of mental ozone. In America he thinks he is free; but in Germany he feels the freedom. It is so in France, Italy and elsewhere. Even in England there is probably more toleration than in America. And so the American, struggling to "express himself," feels the call of Europe as strongly as he feels "the call of the wild."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Vicious California Blackbirds.

Thousands of savage blackbirds infest the city of Los Angeles, and in some of the suburbs they are so bold and vicious that dogs are kept on the jump avoiding them, men on bicycles are sometimes chased for blocks and pedestrians pecked on the heads if they happen under trees where there are nests. The birds usually fight in pairs. If a man with a very white hat comes along, they swoop down, beat it with their wings and claw at it with the rage of wounded eagles. Frequently they aim their sharp beaks at the victim's eyes and he has difficulty in defending himself. The painful yelping of cornered canines attracts flocks of the birds, and then the fur flies.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Pulpit in Railway Station.

Travelers who enter Shrewsbury by the Abbey Foregate Station can scarcely fail to observe one of the most remarkable features to be seen at any railway station in the world. This is a pulpit. It stands prominently above the coal wagons and miscellaneous goods trucks of the station yard, an ancient stone structure, to which access is gained by an equally ancient flight of stone steps. This pulpit is the only remaining fragment of the domestic building of the once great and powerful Abbey of Shrewsbury. In the olden days it stood in the monks' refectory, and was used for preaching from and for reading the lessons while the monks ate their frugal meals.—Tit-Bits.

Voice of the People

More Illumination from Mr. Cannon.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The Times-Dispatch, in its issues of June 14th, writes an editorial calling for compensation for the drunkard-makers, because their business is destroyed and their property rendered less valuable by prohibition. It actually advances the opinion that "in view of the large property interests involved in America, it is not too much to say that utter destruction of the liquor interest without recourse will not be the ultimate attitude of even prohibition communities."

This is a very remarkable statement to appear in the columns of a well-posted newspaper. This question of compensation is no new question. It has been discussed fully, and has been carried through the highest courts of our land, and been passed upon by the Supreme Court over twenty years ago.

When the State of Kansas adopted its prohibitory law, the State was sued by one of the drunkard-makers on the ground that it had destroyed property of a citizen without compensation. The United States Supreme Court decided that there was no ground for compensation, and declared:

"Nor can it be said that government interferes with or impairs any one's constitutional rights of liberty or of property when it determines that the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks for general or individual use, as a beverage, are or may become hurtful to society, and constitute therefore a business, in which no one may lawfully engage."—Mugler vs. Kansas, 124 U. S., 625.

The property interests which seem so important to the editor of The Times-Dispatch have been steadily increased with full knowledge of the law upon this subject. The drunkard-makers knew the decision of the Supreme Court if The Times-Dispatch does not, and they know when they invest their money that the Supreme Court has said, "If the right to sell liquor were one of the inherent rights of personal liberty, such, for instance, as the right of the family to sell his corn, wheat or potatoes, the Legislature could neither burden nor abridge it by imposing a special tax or requiring a special license. * * * If it were harmless and not inimical to the good of society, it could not be subjected to special burden, restriction or regulation." "There is no inherent right in a citizen to sell intoxicating liquor. It is not the privilege of a citizen of a State or of the United States."

Many other quotations of similar import could be made from the decisions of the highest tribunals of this country. Are these decisions unknown to the editor of The Times-Dispatch? Does he think that these decisions give any doubtful, equivocal note? Have any prohibition committees up to the present time suggested any compensation for the drunkard-maker? When a judge refuses seventy-five saloon-keepers of Richmond a license, does anybody propose compensation? The Supreme Court declares that "a greater amount of crime and misery is attributed to the use of ardent spirits obtained at these retail liquor saloons than to any other sources." Why is not the editor of The Times-Dispatch concerned that compensation be given the families that are brought to poverty, to the wives and children whose husbands and fathers are made to be brutal drunkards by these drunkard-makers. It is an amazing thing that so many of the daily papers of Virginia are so much concerned about the financial interests of the drunkard-makers. The full page advertisements which the liquor men buy in their columns do not tend to impress the people of the State that the said papers are entirely unselfish in their policy. Speaker Byrd, of Winchester, set the papers of the State a noble example, when after Winchester, had voted "dry," he closed the columns of his paper to all liquor advertisements.

JAMES CANNON, JR.

Blackstone, Va., June 22, 1908.

L'Envoi.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

[From the Richmond Dispatch of January 2, 1889.]

Fearless to plan and bold to execute,
Intrepid, upright, bold and resolute,
The nation's friend, the people's advocate,
Knowing no North nor South, section nor State;
Self-poised—his guiding star the right—
He questioned not the "Watchman of the Night,"
But blazed his way—truth his unerring guide—
And fell at last, still on the people's side!

When history comes his epitaph to write,
His name will glow with an immortal light;
The modern Curtius, yielding up his life
To heal the wounds of fratricidal strife:
O Mother Earth, accept the sacrifice
And close the gaping chasm as its price!

W. W. SCOTT.

Gordonsville, Va.

Campaign Song.

Oh, I seem to see the coming of a wonderful array
From the rising of the morning to the waning of the day,
Where the mighty North is teeming and the Southern sun is gleaming
And the millions are a-marching to the music of the fray!

Cho.—And the starry flag is flyin'
For Bryan! Bryan! Bryan!
But the regiments of graft
Are at work for Billy Taft.

Oh, I seem to see the rising of the freemen of the soil,
And I hear the mighty marching of the gallant sons of toil;
And there comes a darker dooming as the day of wrath is looming
For the myrmidons who fatten on monopoly and spoil.

For 'tis liberty that's flyin'
With the solid ranks of Bryan;
But the greasy men of graft
Are at work for Billy Taft.

Oh, I seem to see the dawning and the glory of a day
When the robbers of the people shall forever fade away;
No longer shall they batten and no longer shall they fatten,
For Bryan is a-coming and the rascals flee away.

Yes, the people are a-cryin'
For the mighty name of Bryan;
But the men who get the graft
Are at work for Billy Taft.

B. C. M.

SLAUGHTER.

Timely Plea for Sane Observance of the Fourth.

As the result of the conventional, noisy, powder-consuming method which people of this country have chosen for generations past to celebrate the beginning of an independent national career, there have been not less than 786 cases of tetanus recorded during the last five years, in 52 per cent. of which the victims have died. Lest this year's record be worse than last year's, the Marine Hospital Service has sent forth a public health bulletin to warn how to deal with wounds caused by explosives. This is an admirable proceeding, but remedial and not preventative. It is not doctors or parents who need to be told what to do after the gun has gone off, the noise been made and the victim injured, so much as it is parents and youths who need to be converted, before Fourth of July, to a saner conception of what the day calls for. Establish in the minds of American parents and youth a notion of patriotism that expresses itself in ways other than powder-burning and noise-making, and the problem will be solved without any need of health bulletins, surgeons, anaesthetics and cauterizations.—Boston Herald.

The NORTH SHORE
RESORT REGION
of NEW ENGLAND

For little ones and grown-ups the playground of perfect pleasure. Delight on all sides, no matter what form you prefer.

VITALITY IN THE VERY AIR

Golf, tennis, sailing, surf-bathing, unequalled hotels and cottages, and—

How about Accessibility? On and after June 22nd the famous "Bar Harbor Express" will leave Grand Central Station, New York City, at 8.00 P. M. daily, except Sunday.

Send 2-cent stamp to-day for booklet "All Along North Shore" to C. M. BURT, G. P. A., Boston, Mass.

"Getting the Nomination."

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

With the Republican convention just behind and the Democratic convention just before them, the American people are greatly exercised at this time about the whos, whys and hows of "getting the nomination." So far as national politics is concerned, one might search the Constitution and the laws forever and never find one word to authorize a political convention, or to give power to a convention's mandate. Yet a vast number of the voters of the United States place the action of the convention above their own convictions and vote for the nominee regardless of personal preferences. And the members of the electoral college—none has ever disobeyed the command of his party convention.

Political party nominations are necessary to the career of the American statesman. No man is so great that he can enter public life without the aid of a nomination to help him to office, or the capacity to control nominations to help others to office. The infrequent successes of independent candidates for minor offices mark the exception which but proves the rule. Therefore, it is apparent that the whole fabric of our political institutions rests upon the political party nomination. The voters can choose no better man for President than is nominated by the parties. The so-called independent voters can never select a man to serve in the White House. That section of the public may induce a party to take its choice by bartering a promise of the "independent" vote, but under ordinary circumstances it must take what the parties give it; the greater of two goods, or the lesser of two evils.

Just at this time it is interesting to mark the progress of the nominating machinery of the American political parties. In the beginning there was the caucus, then came the delegated convention, and now the direct primary election bids fair to carry the machinery to its most democratic extremity. There is great talk of conventions that are boss-ridden and the like. There has been such talk before; ever since conventions were held, in fact. The greater volume of complaint now is but the evidence of the increasing purpose of the people to take the power of nominating into their own hands.

Leaving aside the hosts of municipal, county, State and congressional offices, for which nominations are already made by direct primaries in many States, it is interesting to apply the theory of the direct primary to the nomination for the presidency, the most important function exercised by political party.

The framers of the Constitution did not believe the people possessed sufficient wisdom and judgment to select the Chief Executive of the Federal government. They battled long over the proposition of leaving that selection to the National Legislature, or of intrusting it to the several State Legislatures. In the end, they left it to electors to be appointed by the various States—not by the people of the States—in such manner as each State Legislature might direct.

The Constitution was null and void from the very beginning, so far as the spirit of this provision was concerned. The people had every confidence in their ability to select a President, and they were very careful to choose as electors only those persons who would reflect the popular will. Thus the electoral college came to be merely an empty form, so far as the constitutional function of choosing a President is concerned. It is very far from being an empty form in that it provides a system which gives the smaller States more power in proportion to their population than would obtain in a direct vote; and thus makes the selection of a minority President possible.

The fathers declined the proposition to vest the power of selecting a President in the hands of Congress out of consideration for the integrity of the tri-partite system of government they were establishing, in which the checks and balances of and between the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Departments were so nicely adjusted. But Congress soon perceived that the electoral college was amenable to the popular will. Therefore, it set about to captain and command that will, thus virtually giving Congress the power to name the President.

Political parties appeared in Congress before lines were drawn among the people. The congressional caucus was the result. From 1788 until 1800 the Presidents were named by informal party caucuses of members of Congress. The attacks on "King Caucus" were begun in the public press as early as 1800, although the first formally convoked nominating caucus was not held until 1804. From that time until 1824, "King Caucus" ruled supreme, and the Presidents were, in fact, chosen by the members of Congress.

If that method of selecting party candidates for President had prevailed, it is a safe bet that the list of Presidents from Monroe's time until now would not contain a single name which it now bears. Congress has always looked at things from a point of view quite different from that of the voter. It does not require great mental agility to imagine that the present Republican members of Congress would not choose Mr. Taft, or that the Democrats in Congress might prefer another than Mr. Bryan. Certain it is that no congressional caucus would have nominated Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln or Andrew Jackson.

It was the certainty that a caucus would not nominate Jackson that led to the establishment of the convention system by the overthrow of "King Caucus." In 1822 the Tennessee Legislature by an informal vote placed the name of Andrew Jackson in nomination for President. This established a precedent, and two years later, the Legislatures of various States by solemn and formal legislative enactment, placed the names of their favorites in nomination for the chief magistracy.

When Jackson did become President he recognized the power of the political use of the patronage of the office. He used this power to build up a machine, to establish the convention system and to inaugurate present day political party methods. Every President since his day has used the power of patronage for political purposes, to an extent varying with the personal characteristics of the man in office and the necessities of the occasion.

Jackson forced the nomination of his Cabinet minister, Martin Van Buren, as his successor. He used the Federal officeholders to get the nomination for Van Buren. Mr. Roosevelt may have used the officeholders for a like purpose, and the "allies" may have cursed bitterly, but they said the same things and breathed the same curses which were heard when Jackson was in the White House.

The difference nowadays is the increasing importance of the primary. A direct primary for presidential nominations has not been suggested seriously as yet. But many States are already deciding the question of instructions to delegates by a primary. Mr. Taft defeated Mr. Roosevelt in the California Republican plebiscite this spring. Mr. Bryan was given instructions by Wisconsin and Alabama by a popular party vote.

Complaints that delegates to conventions are not left to do their will and to follow their judgment, but are driven under the whip by the control of the party leader, are often heard. Just at this time Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan are called the "bosses" of the two great parties. Yet a glance at the past will show that no party leader can control delegates at a national convention to go against the will of the masses of the party. A leader often can compel the delegates to go against their own will if he has the masses on his side.

What did the power of the administration amount to in the convention to nominate a candidate to succeed Arthur? It was used, but all in vain. Mr. Cleveland, like Mr. Roosevelt, had very pronounced ideas about the civil service and "pernicious activity" in politics; but they did not prevent the power of the Cleveland officeholders from being used in conventions. What did it amount to in Chicago in 1896 after Mr. Bryan brought in the cross of gold and the crown of thorns?

There was a time when the national conventions met without any one's being able to forecast the outcome. There would be a dozen candidates to start with, and frequently a dark horse would win. It was exciting, it was interesting, but it was not always for the best. The delegates had much more freedom than they have in these latter days, it is true, but the very nature of a convention prevents true deliberation. Delegates left unhampered by instructions are apt to be swayed by the most artificial devices; they are very unlikely to consider the genuine needs of the party and country.

After awhile the people began to object to the introduction of so many dark horses. Instructions to delegations became more frequently the expression of the opinion of the party in a State as to the relative merits of the leading aspirants; less frequently a compliment for a favorite son and a basis for trading and "dark horsing." The primary election has given the voters control of the nominations for smaller offices, and they are reaching out to control the greatest of them all. This is the reason the national conventions have become but ratification meetings which formally register the will of the party.

The tendency toward vesting more power in the primary means a great change in American politics. Until this time the greatest interest has been in taking sides with some aspirant and aiding him to work the machinery in the direction of "getting the nomination." If the present tendencies are carried out, the interest in the future will be changed to the business of taking sides with some idea and aiding in the work of "making the nomination."

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To-morrow—Making the Nomination.

Women With Two Souls.

At last science has thrown a great light upon that deepest of mysteries—the way of a woman. After solving most of the other riddles of life, the crowning victory of psychotherapeutics is the discovery that women have two souls, perhaps more. We have the word of President G. Stanley Hall, of Clark University, that there isn't a bit of doubt about it, and it is upon this hypothesis that he accounts for the "fickleness" of woman and "her erratic methods of jumping at conclusions, and her intuition."

Wisely President Hall observes: "Woman is much more susceptible than man. There is good reason for this. We know that she has two or more souls. She may love and hate at the same time and the same person. She may say and think that she is sick or well when the reverse is really true. It simply means that one soul is in the ascendancy. These two souls may be absolute strangers to each other, but they certainly exist. We have proved it beyond the shadow of a doubt."—Kansas City Journal.

Automobile Fatalities.

Automobile fatalities are increasing alarmingly this year. The record shows that seventy-five persons have been killed and 413 seriously injured since the first of January last.

If this rate shall be kept up the total record of the year will exceed that of last year, whereas, with the increased experience in running and caring for the machines and the greater degree of perfection in their construction, the number of fatalities should have been diminished.

That this is not the case shows that ordinary care in not exercised. It is difficult to guard against breakdowns, but breakdowns are infrequent. It is not the fault of the machines, but of their drivers, that so many accidents occur. The automobile is comparatively as safe as any other vehicle when not managed ignorantly or recklessly. It is the speed mania and love of excitement which are mainly responsible for automobile accidents.—Chicago Tribune.

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