

REPUBLIC OR EMPIRE

Time For Voters to Determine Which They Want.

QUESTION OF IMPERIALISM

People of the United States Face to Face With a Serious Problem—The Financial Situation—Volume of Circulating Medium Too Small—Election's Aftermath.

By WILLIS J. ABBOT.

What is to be done in Washington in the way of politics is a matter now of political discussion and a matter of very great doubt. The president has, of course, control of the situation. But what the president is going to do must be determined by the men who are back of him and with whom he joins. He has been beaten in all the vital elections in states which he thought he could control. He was beaten in Ohio, in New York and in Kentucky. Men are claiming that he won in Kentucky, but as a matter of fact he lost. The Kentucky success was not a presidential success, but a purely local victory, largely due to local interests. The Roosevelt papers are insisting that the result of the elections was an approval for the administration. Nobody knows better than Mr. Roosevelt himself that this is absolutely untrue.

Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan.

Nobody will question Mr. Roosevelt's popularity before the people. The last man to question it would be Mr. Bryan. In a somewhat extended acquaintance with both of these gentlemen I have never heard Bryan say one word of criticism of Mr. Roosevelt, nor have I had occasion to listen to one word of hostility to Mr. Bryan expressed by the president. This does not mean that they are absolutely friendly in politics. I have listened to Mr. Roosevelt when he explained to me that Mr. Bryan was not a dangerous man, but that Bryan was a wise man. What Mr. Bryan thinks of the president I do not know. When Mr. Roosevelt makes up his mind as to whether he will be once more a candidate, whether, unlike George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, he is willing to stand for a third term, there may be some things said concerning him. It is quite up to him to make this determination, and when made he must not object to what may be said.

Can It Be King Roosevelt?

Two or three days ago a lecturer in the law department of the University of Michigan, one Professor Drake, said to his class that in his judgment Mr. Roosevelt should be made king. The class laughed, thinking that he was talking satirically or at least humorously. He assured the class that he was speaking seriously. Here in Washington I have heard at least twice men who were not strongly for Mr. Roosevelt and whose politics I did not know say to me that they thought the United States needed a king and that there could be no better man for that imperial position. I am but one of many people interested in public affairs, but it seems to me that if I have had four or five men talk to me about making Mr. Roosevelt king or emperor the same suggestion must have been made to a great many hundred other people.

In 1900 the Democrats urged that the question of imperialism was going to become a very serious one. At that time the Democratic party did not fear imperialism at home, but it did fear that it would be established in our foreign territories and might ultimately come here. Today the people are face to face with the question of imperialism in the United States. It is not a matter to pass over with a laugh. When prominent men dare to stand up before college classes and assert that they would rather see a king than a president it is time for a protest. It is high time that the voters of this country should determine whether they want a republic or a monarchy, a democracy or an empire.

The Financial Situation.

The difficulties of the New York banks last week have resulted in very serious troubles for western banks. But, as a matter of fact, the difficulty arises in Washington, proceeds to New York and finally makes grave trouble in the west. I was told today by a Washington banker that he dared not give a draft on a southwestern bank. His own bank is perfectly solvent. The bank upon which his customer desired to draw is equally solvent, but he doubted whether there was currency enough in that section to enable the immediate payment of the draft. The man who asked for the draft is a man of national reputation. While not rich, he is in very comfortable circumstances. He was not asking for the money to hoard or to speculate. But he could not get any assurance that it would be paid. This shows what the present state of the currency of the United States is. Some years ago the Democratic party asked that the circulating medium should be increased by coining silver. It was not done. Today the banks of the country are urging strongly that the circulating medium should be increased by allowing them to issue bank notes based upon their assets. If this is done we will have a currency back of which is nothing except bonds and stocks such as we have found recently in New York to have but little value. Unquestionably the volume of circulation is being increased. Doubtless it should be largely increased. But when we find after another of the national banks leading huge sums of money on New York traction securities or upon the bonds of the famous or infamous company through Metropolitan company on

wonders whether that affords a fair basis for an American currency. The bankers have harked back time and again to what they called the "wildcat" currency of the old days. That currency had absolutely no basis. Everything that has been said about it was said justifiably. But if today the proposition of the great bankers of the United States that they should be allowed to issue circulating notes or currency based upon the assets of their banks shall be accepted the only difference between the old wildcat currency and this currency would lie in the coincidence of the American people in the banks which issued the notes. But when we find great banks lending money upon securities which go fast down to destruction how can we feel that in the future the notes issued by these banks will form a safe circulating medium? Why should not the government itself furnish the money which is necessary to the country? Why should it be demanded that the national banks or the trust companies, the E. R. Thomases or the E. H. Harrimans, should be given the opportunity to supply the money which is necessary for the country and for their own profit?

The Elections.

It is worth while to consider the meaning of the recent elections. The most striking illustration of the Democratic trend in public sentiment was furnished by Cleveland. There Tom Johnson, a progressive and radical Democrat, was put up against a straight out and out Roosevelt Republican. It is fair to say that Mr. Burton is a man of ability, of standing and of absolute integrity. It would be hard to pick any man in Ohio who would have made a stronger candidate against Tom Johnson. Besides his personal characteristics, he had the support of the president, of Secretary Taft and of Secretary Garfield. He himself said that he had accepted the nomination only because of the personal request of these three eminent members of his party. Yet when the time came for the people to vote Mr. Burton was beaten by practically 10,000.

In Toledo, O., Brand Whitlock, who stands for democracy, but not for machine democracy, was elected by a swinging majority.

In New York, Tammany, the regular Democratic organization, won easily, although the Hearst organization fought its professed democracy and fused with the Republicans.

In New Jersey the normal Republican majority has been cut down to practically 6,000. It is true that the issue was a local one. Mr. Roosevelt finds some consolation in the fact that it was cut down once before. He has descended from the dignity of the presidential office to explain that this loss of power in New Jersey is in no sense attributable to him, but is simply the result of local conditions or of an off year. This may be true, but it is also true that Mr. Roosevelt is the first president who has stooped from his office to discuss the question of election returns. When Grover Cleveland was in the White House and an off election went against him he had nothing to say. Whatever may be said about Mr. Cleveland, he at least did not descend to the plane of the ordinary politician. Mr. Roosevelt is politician first and president afterward.

Much has been said about Massachusetts. The Democratic nominee, so called, was defeated. He was defeated by a split in the Democratic party. There was a fight within the party which was eminently characteristic of the politics of the state. Massachusetts Democrats always fight. Mr. Henry M. Whitney, whom the courts declared to be the regular nominee, has not been for more than twelve years an active member of the Democratic party. He has not believed in the things for which that party stood. He has been out of touch with the national organization and was out of touch with the state organization. That he has strength in Massachusetts cannot be questioned. But it is the strength that comes from money and from corporation influence. His defeat will not in the end be hurtful to the party. Perhaps the manner of it may be harmful, but that is yet to be determined. The outcry of certain so-called metropolitan newspapers to the effect that the attack upon Whitney was the reason for the loss of Massachusetts is without any sort of intelligent foundation. Massachusetts is always a Republican state.

The Paper Trust.

A few days ago a number of newspaper owners from all parts of the United States were in Washington for the purpose of urging the president to take some action against the paper trust. They brought an appeal to the president to use his influence for the destruction of the paper trust. They asked, first, an investigation into the trust itself and action by the attorney general's office for its dissolution; second, that white paper and wood pulp be put upon the free list. Both of these requests were accepted by Mr. Roosevelt. There will be in the president's message a reference to the duty on print paper and pulp. How much this may accomplish is doubtful. If wood pulp is put in the free list Canada will possibly put an export duty upon it, and Canada is the only country from which it can be imported. The really effective way of saving the newspapers of the United States from impending disaster is for active action against the trust which now controls the print paper supply of the country. It has ceased to be a secret that what the paper trust is now working for is, first, more profit for itself and, second, to take the one cent paper out of existence. The president has promised to attack the trust and has asked the attorney general to give him a report concerning it. Whether congress will reduce the tariff or not remains to be seen. Washington, D. C.

SIX NEARLY SUFFOCATE.

Prank of Office Boy Results In Close Call For

HALF A DOZEN EMPLOYEES.

During Noon Hour Enter an Air-Tight Vault, the Door of Which Is Shut and Combination Knob Sprung, Requiring Prompt Rescue.

Chicago, Nov. 23.—Six young women stenographers employed by the American Steel and Wire company had a terrifying experience as the result of a trick played on them by the office boy.

There are thirty young women employed in the order department, transferring invoices on the typewriter. During the noon hour they play games until the return of their superior. Six of them conceived a variation of the program and adjourned to a cavernous filing vault to sing. They left the door partly closed.

Just when the chorus was rolling forth in reverberating volume little Willie Osterfeldt, the office boy, slipped up to the vault, banged the door shut and gave the combination knob a whirl. The song of the imprisoned sextette died away in a shriek while six pairs of feminine hands, beat on the door. The other young women stenographers sprang to the rescue and Willie hastily decamped.

The vault is air tight and none of the girls knew the combination. In fact, it is known only to Pratt, head of the filing department, and he was at lunch. One cool headed young woman, however, found the janitor and rushed him to the spot with a pickax and a crowbar. A noise was soon made in the vault wall through which the prisoners received air. They said they had nearly suffocated.

Mr. Pratt soon returned and released the girls. The office boy was discharged. One of the girls had to be sent home in a carriage.

PEONAGE MATTER.

Lady Assistant Attorney General Investigating.

New Orleans, Nov. 23.—An outline of plans for stamping out peonage in the south was given out by Mrs. Mary Grace Quackenbos, the only woman who is special assistant to the attorney general of the United States. Mrs. Quackenbos was recently assigned to investigate peonage in southern states.

"One thing which I am compelled to fight against," said Mrs. Quackenbos, "is the fact that few persons yet realize my motive and purpose. With proper support I believe I can completely wipe out peonage in the south within the next year."

Mrs. Quackenbos' prediction is based partly on the belief that peonage is not at all general. In her opinion immigration into the south will not suffer material setbacks from the exposure of this oppression on foreign labor. She says charges of oppression in the south recently made in foreign countries were almost wholly due to letters which immigrants have written home, and a government investigation by removing the cause for such letters will benefit immigration.

Mrs. Quackenbos has gone to Jackson, Miss., to prosecute a peonage charge there against O. B. Crittendon, a planter. When this case is settled her investigation will begin in Louisiana.

RIOT AT JOLIET.

Brought About by an Attempted Wage Reduction of Quarriesmen.

Joliet, Ill., Nov. 23.—A riot occurred as the result of a strike following an attempted wage reduction among stone quarriesmen. Strikers and men wishing work clashed in a bloody fight. Revolvers were used, but most of the shots were fired in the air to intimidate. Stones were thrown and a number of men on both sides hit, but no serious injuries are reported. The riot occurred in the vicinity of the Western Stone company's quarries at Southeast Joliet. The wage scale of 20 cents per hour for ten hours, it was announced, would be reduced to 17 1/2 cents per hour for nine hours. In consequence the men in the various quarries have been on strike since last Monday. Friday men from the quarries at Lemont went to Joliet to take the pieces of some strikers and this precipitated the clash.

DOZEN INJURED.

Two of the Maimed So Badly Hurt They May Not Survive.

Sandusky, O., Nov. 23.—In a head-on collision between an interurban Lake Shore electric railway motor and city car a dozen men were injured, five so seriously they were taken to a hospital. Two may die. The police arrested Motorman Baldwin and Conductor Landis of the interurban car and attempted to arrest William James, conductor of the city car, but James, although injured, escaped.

Four Hundred Laid Off.

Albany, Nov. 23.—About 400 men employed in the shops of the New York Central and Hudson River railroad have been laid off. This is about one-fourth the force.

More Gold Engaged.

New York, Nov. 23.—Lazarus Freres engaged \$2,000,000 gold and Goldman, Sachs & Co. \$500,000. Total up to noon Friday was \$76,200,000.

McGuire's Private Secretary.

Cathart, Nov. 23.—Earl Croxon has been appointed by Congressman McGuire as his private secretary.

BUILDING A HOUSE.

Many Women Are a Match For the Guileful Contractor.

"I don't want to put up any more houses for women," said a successful builder. "The idea that women may not be safely trusted to look out for their own interests under such circumstances is a mistake. Many women are much smarter than men even if they can't call a piece of timber by its right name."

"Women nearly always begin by saying that they know nothing at all about house building and that they trust to your honor to do the right thing by them. Before you have the cellar cemented you learn that what a woman says and what she means are not always quite the same. In the first place, she hasn't any real confidence in either your honesty or ability. She is prying about all the time to watch that you don't cheat her or spoil the precious house. She will deliberately measure the outline of a window, gauge the capacity of a skeleton closet, inspect the contents of the mortar box and test the quality of the lumber to verify your statements. One of the first things she does is to commit the plans to memory, and she spends all her spare time going about to places where other houses are being erected acquiring information in regard to building. Usually you couldn't fool her if you wanted to, and there are very few contractors who are mean enough or smart enough to get ahead of women who employ them. Even the plumber, had as is his reputation for industrial probity, would hesitate to take advantage of his woman employer, especially if he had reason to think her well informed in the matter."

Ah, Pity the Poor Builder!

"You know that it is almost impossible to make the completed structure agree in every small detail with the original plans. Well, I once had a woman bring suit against me because owing to some oversight of my employees a two paned window had been inserted where the plans called for a four paned one. I explained that this oversight was really a loss to me, as the two large panes had cost me more than four smaller ones would have done. She replied that the reason she objected was because it would cost her more to replace the large panes than



WATCHING THE BUILDING.

the small panes should they ever be broken! She won her suit and damages. She claimed the latter on the score of the delay the suit had caused her in taking possession of her new home.

Where the Contractor Loses.

"Another woman for whom I put up a dwelling asked me after I had begun it to make some slight changes in the kitchen. When the building was completed she refused to pay for it because it did not in every particular agree with the plans. I reminded her that she had asked me to make those alterations, but she would not or could not remember. She threatened me with a suit, and as I knew by experience that she would probably win if I made peace by letting her have the house for \$500 less than the contract price.

You see, when a woman makes an appeal to the courts the builder has little chance. The judge will say:

"The poor woman didn't understand. You can't expect a woman to know anything about building." And the jury will come in with a chivalrous verdict for the fair plaintiff. The sympathy of the entire courtroom is with the lady, and after the judge has made a few scathing remarks you are glad to sneak out of court, even at the expense of several hundred dollars.

A Hopeful Sign.

"It is quite possible that the builder's unfortunate experiences have prejudiced him against women in general. There is another side of the question, however—the absolute indifference of many house builders to a woman's preferences and suggestions, even when she is his employer. Women know better than the average man what is desirable and convenient in the planning of a dwelling, and their sharpened intelligence in dealing with contractor and workmen is a hopeful sign. Experience will teach them fairness and consideration in dealing with employees."

ETHEL DEANE.

About Women.

When Brains Are Antagonistic to Clothes—The Elastic Feminine Conscience—The Misery of Not Being One-self at All Times.

"Why," remarked Mrs. Cynthia, "should a woman's brains be antagonistic to her clothes?"

"Meaning the short haired variety?" put in the bachelor.

"Meaning the shabby, dowdy kind," she returned. "There's Mrs. Brightly. She writes for the magazines. Well, you ought to see her at the breakfast table. She's a perfect sight. Little Mrs. Fluffy, on the other hand, whose brain resembles that of a sparrow, makes a picture of herself in a crisp muslin trimmed with pink ribbon and simpers bewitchingly over the coffee cup at her adoring husband. She doesn't have to utter epigrams, but just to sit still and have him look at her. Mrs. Brightly, on the other hand, might be a silver tongued orator and the man sitting opposite her would never notice anything but the spots on her kimono and her curl papers.

"Why, there were two girls I knew," she went on, "both married. The first was a college graduate, a very clever girl. Her people gave her a pretty trousseau, and everything started out well. After her baby was born she went all to pieces as far as dress was concerned, wore sloppy blouses and twisted ribbons around her neck instead of wearing collars. The other girl was of the stay at home kind. She made nearly all of her modest trousseau. After she became a mother she was quite ill for a long time, but her first act on becoming well enough to be on her feet again was to fix over and have new clothes made, which gave her a more attractive appearance than ever. Today she has three children, and you would take her for a



SHE WAS A SIGHT AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE.

girl, while the brainy woman with only one child to take care of is slipshod in dress, manner and appearance. "I wonder why," she concluded. And the bachelor echoed, "Why?"

A Matter of Conscience.

Women are adepts at juggling with their consciences. They do just as bad things as men, but tell them to their faces that they do and there will be trouble. They always have some delicate diplomatic way of refraining from calling a spade a spade.

Here's a case that will illustrate my point:

A highly religious woman had a husband who was running for office. She knew that a certain workman would not vote unless he was paid for it, and it was a case where every vote counted. So she said to her husband: "Don't buy his vote, of course. That is horrible. But give him this two dollar bill as a little present for himself, and be sure when you give it to him that you say, 'This is just a little gift for you,' as if she didn't know and the man didn't know, and—oh, what's the use?"

That's just a woman's conscience—and the way it works!

Nothing Equal to Dignity.

Blessed be the woman who cannot be overawed!

I don't mean the bold type, but she whose quiet dignity and justified good opinion of herself make her feel free from awkwardness in any gathering. She is never betrayed into self-consciousness by any turn in the conversation, and the little annoyances that ruffle most women do not distress her. She rises absolutely superior to them all.

There is no slavery more galling than that which forces us to conceal our real thoughts through motives of policy or from fear. And there is nothing more humiliating than to feel awkward in the presence of people who are only superior to us because we think them so.

I would like to say to every woman: "Speak your mind like a free woman, regardless of consequences, and hold up your head high, with a proper respect for your own dignity, no matter where you may be."

MAUD ROBINSON.

From Her Viewpoint.

A Society Woman's High Flown Fad—The Woman's Club Invading the Tropics. Japanese Criticism of the American Kimono.

Automobiling used to be a fashionable sport, but now it is ballooning. One has to have courage as well as money to be a balloonist in the present stage of the development of the art. Mrs. Max Fleischmann, the well known society leader of Cincinnati, is one of the most intrepid of aeronauts. While abroad both Mr. and Mrs. Fleischmann became interested in ballooning.



MRS. MAX FLEISCHMANN.

looning and when they returned to this country provided themselves with a well built airship, in which they made frequent ascents with success. Mrs. Fleischmann's latest air voyage was a trip of 157 miles between North Adams, Mass., and Meriden, N. H. She was accompanied by her husband and a friend. Mr. and Mrs. Fleischmann were among the most enthusiastic visitors to the recent aeronautic congress at St. Louis. It is said that Mrs. Fleischmann's Christmas gift to her husband will be a balloon costing \$2,200.

Clubs in the Canal Zone.

Miss Helen Varick Boswell has returned from Panama, to which she went at the request of the secretary of war to see if she could not infuse some brightness into the social atmosphere of the canal zone by organizing women's clubs. The women in Panama are not so busy as their northern sisters. Most of the aliens have left their children at home in schools, and house-keeping duties are very light. In each town exists a wrong feeling of enmity between those who do manual labor and those who do not, although in some cases the former get more money than the latter. Most of the women were unacquainted with their neighbors, and their dissatisfied attitude was communicating itself to their husbands. Mrs. Boswell organized a series of clubs along practical lines, such as gardening clubs, devoted to improving the appearance of the town; musical clubs, which will take an interest in providing concerts and entertainments for the public, and many other useful organizations. She left the women of the canal country as enthusiastic in regard to her as are all who know her. Miss Boswell organized the women's Republican clubs and is a member of the well known department of the Civic Federation as well as many other feminine organizations. She is a southerner, although she now lives in the north, dividing her time between Washington and New York.

A Clever Japanese.

In the land of the chrysanthemum, with its traditions of gentle voices, light-tripping women, with aureoles of curly hair twisted by jeweled diggers, the reactionary doctrines of the new woman were gradually making their way, and soon sweet Phil Shiro and her kind will exist no more. European dress, European ideas and European education are gradually eliminating the chrysanthemum maid. One of the newest of Japan's new women is the charming Miss Hanako, who is now touring this country with her company of Japanese players. Horace Greeley's granddaughter, Miss Nancy Greeley Smith, has been interviewing this new woman of the orient in regard to the new woman of America. One of the most startling disclosures made by Miss Hanako, at least startling from the feminine standpoint, is that the occident has been wearing the kimono wrong. "Traced over from left to right is the proper way to adjust it. From right to left is the way the American fadists have been fastening it. Miss Hanako also suggests that in Japan the sleeve of the kimono is cut to indicate the wearer's age. The older a woman gets the smaller are her sleeves.

MARCIA WILLIS CAMPBELL.