

Washington, Nov. 7, 1901.

The election returns are the chief topic of interest in Washington to-day and everyone is discussing the effect of Tuesday's results on the more important elections of the next two years. The fact that, with all the Republicans, a large number of Democrats and the usual disgruntled element against him, Mr. Edward M. Shepard received over 5,000 more votes than did Van Wyck in the last election, has resulted in considerable discussion of Mr. Shepard as a likely Democratic candidate for the governorship next year and a potential candidate for the presidential in 1904.

Mr. Shepard has back of him a remarkably clean record and the most careful scrutiny of his opponents in the campaign just ended failed to reveal the most trivial action which could be made the ground for criticism. The fusionists confined their selves to pointing out what they held to be inconsistency on Mr. Shepard's part in accepting the nomination from Tammany and Mr. Shepard replied that he proposed, as a mayor, to give the city an honest, clean government and that he considered that the importance of victory to his party far outweighed to narrower view which held that the party ought to be sacrificed in order to obtain fancied improvements in the municipal administration from the hands of men who had never been put to any test. At this writing Mr. Shepard, after having withdrawn the heat and fire of a most bitter campaign, stands stronger with his friends and with his enemies than when he entered the fight and there is little doubt but that he could, in a campaign where Democratic and Republican lines were clearly drawn, carry Greater New York by a very handsome majority.

Much satisfaction is felt in Democratic quarters at the results in Maryland which insure the return of Arthur P. Gorman to the Senate. He is a capable and experienced man and one who has the interests of his party at heart. He will prove a valuable addition to the Democratic side of the Senate and to the leaders of his party which will respect his advice on all important issues. The returns from Pennsylvania show greatly reduced Republican majorities; but the Republican machine, with Matt Quay at its head, proved too strong to be overthrown by the advocates of honest government. However the results of this year's fight should be regarded as encouraging and a continuance of the ring to power will insure a still greater repudiation the next time the anti-corruptionists array themselves against it.

An evidence of the existence of the big degree of brotherly love which exists in the War and Navy Department was given yesterday morning when the General Commanding the Army, Miles, and the Admiral of the Navy, Dewey, both absent themselves from the wedding of Adjutant General Corbin and Miss Edythe Paton. Both had received invitations but they sent regrets. Another conspicuous absence was Lt. Colonel Heistand, who it will be remembered, is slated to the late President. Presumably that little henry affair will account for it, as I understand that Colonel Heistand was not invited, but the disclosures of the Senate's investigating committee were hardly such as to warrant so direct a snub.

The secrecy of Washington news which now exists and will until Congress convenes is resulting in the sending out, by some of the Washington correspondents, of the most extraordinary canards. The latest is the report that the President is going to appoint a Democrat to the Cabinet. President Roosevelt is original and determined in his ideas and methods but he would as soon think of appointing a Comanche Indian to the Cabinet and the appointment would be about as appropriate. The Cabinet acts as a board of advisors and it is almost needless to say that no Democrat of any standing would be willing to place himself in a position where his loyalty to his chief would be constantly at variance with his loyalty to his party. The position would be altogether too delicate and equivocal.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt, accompanied by Secretary Cortelyou, Assistant Secretary Loeb and Pinkney, the White House steward, left Washington for New York on a special train on Monday. Mrs. Roosevelt remained in New York, the guest of the President's aunt, while the President proceeded to Oyster Bay and cast his ballot. Mr. Loeb and Pinkney cast their ballots at the same place and Secretary Cortelyou voted at Hempstead, L. I.

I am told at the Navy Department that the announcement that Admiral Crownsfield, or Captain Crownsfield as he soon will be, will be given command of the European station has brought a hornet's nest about Secretary Loeb's ears and that he is being charged with protests from people all over the country who are admirers of Admiral Schley and would, therefore, object to anything in the nature of a promotion for Crownsfield. The Secretary is at a loss to know what to do in the matter and he is equally lost to consult the President. There is no precedent for the Secretary of the Navy's explaining to private citizens the reasons for the promotions that he sees fit to make but, on the other hand, to ignore a protest from so widespread a source certainly seems like bad politics. William Dudley Foulke, the recent appointed Civil Service Commission

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tioner, has gone to work on the question of pensions, or some substitute therefore, for superannuated clerks in the government service. He has, he believes, looked into the matter carefully and has reached the conclusion that the only practical solution of the question is the employment of the services of some bonded endowment company. He is opposed to the government's assuming any such burden on the one hand and on the other he objects to the idea of deducting, for investment in a pension fund, a percentage of the salaries. He says that every facility should be given the employe to invest a portion of his earnings in an endowment fund but that he hardly considers it the province of the government to compel its employes to do so. Recent advices from the Philippines report the adoption of the most drastic laws in regard to treason and some vigorous protests from our Philippine subjects who denounce the laws as more severe than those with which they had to contend under the Spanish regime. Of course provision for the severe punishment of treason, rewards to informers and violations of individual liberty are inseparable from the colonial policy and must be accepted as inevitable.

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