

DISPATCHES from Kansas say there were heavy rains throughout the corn belt of Kansas the night of the 15th inst.

A LATER interview with Champ Clark has him to say he is a candidate for the senate on condition that Senator Vest does not desire re-election.

WM. J. BRYAN has been invited to attend the G. A. R. encampment at Chicago from August 27 to September 5, and has announced his intention to be there.

HON. JOHN W. BOOTH of Washington, Franklin county, has been appointed circuit judge by Gov. Stephens to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge Hirzell.

TERRIBLE down-pours attended with cloud-bursts are reported from Galveston, Texas, and vicinity July 16. A cloud-burst destroyed the town of Coleman and 15 people were killed.

COL. LISCUM, killed last Friday at the battle of Tien Tsin, was a gallant officer and acquitted himself with great bravery in the battle of San Juan Hill and others in the Cuban war.

ADDED to the disappointment of gold seekers in finding the precious metal in large quantities at Cape Nome, they are now suffering a scourge of measles, typhoid fever and small-pox.

THE president will be handicapped in calling an extra session, of congress from the fact there is no place for the members to sit. Both halls in the capital are torn up for repairs and in charge of a corps of mechanics, who will require at least four months to complete their work.

GOVERNOR STEPHENS has commuted the death sentence of Robert Cushenbury, who killed the town marshal of Cameron two years ago, to imprisonment for life. This action was recommended by the trial judge on the grounds of doubt as to whether Cushenbury was the man who killed the marshal.

THE Star says there is a movement in Kansas City among Germans, who sympathize with the Boers, to throw 500 votes to the Democratic ticket in that city, that were formerly counted for the Republicans and to offset this movement there is a threat on the part of Republicans to revive native Americanism in this country. We presume, however, that no one will be seriously alarmed by that sort of a threat.

THE extent of the craze for office is shown in the case of the vacancy occasioned in a circuit judgeship by the death of Judge Hirzell of St. Louis county. Several applications were made to the governor for appointment to fill the vacancy before the funeral rites of the dead justice were observed. Out of respect to his memory, Governor Stephens withheld the appointment of his successor until after Judge Hirzell was buried.

THE situation in China has become so serious that an extra session of congress is one of the things likely to occur in the near future. There is reason to believe that 8,000 or 10,000 more troops will be hurried to China as speedily as possible. All the available war vessels are preparing to enter Chinese waters at an early day. It may be the president and Mark Hanna will consider themselves adequate to the task of managing our affairs in China, but grave situations like the present used to move presidents to convene congress on a come quick order.

As a reason for young men supporting the Democratic ticket, Richard Croaker, the Tammany boss, says the chances of young men for advancement in life is becoming less and less and that a continuation of the policy of the Republican party would cut off all chances and make things hopeless for them in a business way. The reason is plain. If a young man starts out in business now on his own account he has to compete in trade controlled by trusts, and few or none of them have nerve or long enough purse to undertake that sort of a business with hopes of success.

A CALLAWAY county man is the father of nine Democratic voters, every one of whom will vote the straight ticket in November.

WHILE playing with a loaded musket in Serbia on last Monday James Ewing, aged nine years, shot and killed Gernie Jones, aged seven years.

GOV. STEPHENS has appointed W. R. Baskett of Monroe county supervisor of building and loan associations, vice Henry L. Gray, deceased.

IN some way it has leaked out that census enumerators for Missouri will report an aggregate population this year of 3,375,000, a gain of 42 per cent.

NOT all the divorce cases in the country are tried in Missouri courts. In the courts of Topeka, Kas., 84 divorces have been granted since last January.

THE punishment ordered to be inflicted upon criminals by order of the courts that try them for their rascality is frequently done in such a way as not to be much punishment after all. It is said that Captain Carter, who stole millions from the government during the Spanish war, and who was sentenced for five years, has been taken out of prison and put in the hospital and given the freedom of the grounds.

SINCE the beginning of the present year the Sugar trust has increased the price of sugar three times, the last rise being 1 3/4 cents per pound. The fellows who belong to the trusts are the kind who are benefitted by McKinley's prosperity. When McKinley took his seat retailers were selling sugar at five cents per pound, or giving 20 pounds for \$1. Now they are selling it at 12 pounds for a \$1, and are all the time looking for another rise.

EX-LIEUT. GOV. CHARLES V. ESKRIDGE of Emporia, Kansas, committed suicide last Sunday morning by shooting himself twice with a pistol. He was a native of Virginia, was reared in Ohio, moved to Kansas in 1855 and took an active part in the early troubles of that state. He was several times a member of the state legislature, but for years had been editor and proprietor of the Emporia Republican. Deceased was a great sufferer from cancer of the liver and sought relief by taking his own life.

THE Bosworth Sentinel mentions the fact that there is \$75,000,000 surplus in the United States treasury, and then says by way of emphasis: "This alone ought to be good for another term for the party that saved the money." If it had been saved by economical administration of the affairs of the government, it was nothing more than the party should have done, but when we remember it was saved by a war tax wrung from the people in time of peace, we think the party that saved it ought to be turned out of office as speedily as possible.

GOVERNMENT contractors are always ready to whoop up a war. They get rich on it, it matters not how disastrous it is to other people. They made a mint of money out of the Spanish war, and are no doubt watching the progress of events in China with a sleepless vigil, and are hoping that a first-class war will grow out of our entanglements there. A writer in the Appeal of Reason says in the Spanish war the government paid St. Louis contractors \$1.50 for cavalry bridle bits, buying them by the hundred dozen, while a dealer bought of the same stock at 20 cents each. Is that the kind of administration that should be kept in power?

ATTORNEY-GENERAL CROW, on behalf of a minority of the stockholders in the Southern Electric Street railroad, has brought suit in the St. Louis circuit court to annul the purchase of the Southern Electric Street railway by the St. Louis Transit company. If the case wins it will break up the entire deal by which the St. Louis Transit company was organized. The street railway trust of St. Louis, a creature of the last general assembly, has been tried and found to be promotive of strikes to the detriment of the business interests of St. Louis. The constitutionality of the law will be looked into in the trial of the cause now before the circuit court.

REPORTS from Arizona say stock are dying of thirst in the drouth-stricken portions of the territory. Wells are dry and there is no water in the rivers.

THEY have a strange law in Oregon. Every man who drinks is obliged to take out a license for which he pays \$5 a year. Unless he has the license he cannot be served at any bar in the state.

IT is said that as soon as the South African war is over that 10,000 of the Boers, chiefly naturalized citizens of the Transvaal, will emigrate to the United States, and that Irish-Americans are arranging for this movement.

IN the competitive examination, held at Jefferson City last week, Pelham D. Glassford of Carthage and Carr Waller of New Bloomfield, Callaway county were appointed to cadetships, and George Osborn and W. W. H. Findley of Kansas City alternates.

MANY complaints have been made of late of the failure of Democratic campaign literature to reach its destination, and the post-office authorities say they cannot account for it. In separate covers Democratic committees have informed parties of the transmission of documents that were never received.

GOOD words concerning the hospitality of the people of Kansas City, and the royal way in which the delegates to the national Democratic convention were entertained, are still coming from all over the union. No doubt what was seen and heard in Kansas City, both as to the extent and enterprise of the city and cleverness of the people was a great surprise to many of the visitors. Providence, it is said, always helps those who help themselves, the truth of which was verified in the sending of the cool weather while the convention was going on, and that did much to please the people on that occasion.

POLITICIANS ought to have the courage of their convictions, and to this end ought to be willing to meet their opponents on the "stump" and in the presence of the people, face to face, with each other discuss the questions at issue between their respective parties. Many political stump speakers say things before a credulous audience they would not dare say if they knew there was some one present capable of calling them to account for all the things they say amiss. Champ Clark, one of Missouri's congressmen, and Mr. Doliver, a Republican congressman from Iowa, had the temerity to meet each other in joint discussion at Ottawa, Kansas, on the 17th inst, for the purpose of discussing "imperialism." They are both men fully competent to present the respective sides of this vexed question, each one having the endorsement of his party. Both are well known in congress, where they have made brilliant records.

A SHORT while back very discouraging reports came from the Dakotas and Minnesota concerning the wheat crop in those states. It was announced by seemingly good authority that there could not be, under the most favorable conditions, more than a half crop, and with out early rains there would be a total failure. At the same time Kansas and Oklahoma were boasting the largest wheat yield ever known, while the prospect for corn was immense. But later reports say there has been rain in the Dakotas and Minnesota, and while there is not a full yield of wheat there will not be much of a shortage in those states. Later reports came from Kansas and Nebraska of the prevalence of a drouth; that with rain at an early day there would only be a half crop of corn, and without an early rain the crop would be a total failure. With these discouraging reports coming from the Dakotas and Minnesota, there came a rise in wheat of 23 cents per bushel. Unfavorable reports concerning the corn crop caused a rise in the price of that cereal also. Now rains are being reported and a prospect of an average crop of both corn and wheat, hence the price of both are on the decline. We would like to know how much of the reporting of the condition of crops is due to the greed of speculators who make reports certain to inure to their respective benefits.

SAM JONES AND TRUSTS. Rev. Sam P. Jones is out in an article printed in the Baltimore Manufacturers' Record in which he announces himself as being in favor of trusts and expansion.

Well, this is not surprising that a crank like Sam Jones should favor almost any principle or dogma, whether hurtful or beneficial to the human race. Sam would create the impression that a combination of brains in the pate of one man like he has was the cheaper way to proclaim the gospel.

He says: "One preacher is preaching to 5,000, while 20 preachers around him consider 75 a full house and 100 a perfect jam. One physician makes \$10,000 a year and 40 little doctors in the neighborhood are not making their grub."

That is about the way Sam preaches. He does not preach except under contract by which he is assured \$100 a day and up. He creates a great sensation from the pulpit, or rostrum, as the case may be, gets the money and goes on his way rejoicing, whether souls are saved or not. He preaches for the money, and so does the man who takes stock in combinations of capital to manufacture goods or establish department stores.

Sam seems to think that because there are whales in the sea that eat up the little fishes, that the plutocrat, who is a whale in financial circles, ought to be allowed to prey upon and break up the manufacturer or dealer of smaller capital.

We have no doubt that the article written by Sam and furnished the Baltimore Manufacturers' Record for publication was like his sermons, a source of revenue to him, and that is the secret of his late effort to make himself conspicuous. We need not be surprised to hear of Sam P. Jones taking the stump down in Georgia to propogate Mark Hanna's idea of trusts, and if such should be the case we may rest assured he will get a share of the fund contributed by the trusts to secure the success of Mark Hanna's ticket.

TRYING TO DODGE IMPERIALISM. A few months ago the Hanna-McKinley organs were loud in their boasting about the way in which the Republican party had forever removed the menace of free silver by passing the gold standard bill, and they especially pointed with pride to the circumstance that there being a majority in the senate for the next six years would obviate all danger of the restoration of bimetalism, even if a Democratic president and house should be elected.

Since the Democratic national convention adopted its platform and nominated a ticket, however, these organs have all of a sudden begun to set up the howl which they vociferated incessantly four years ago over the deluge of bankruptcy that is imminent in case the Democrats win the election and put into practice their monetary theories.

They deny that imperialism is the paramount issue—in fact they say there is no such thing as imperialism—nothing but a mild and gentle species of "expansion."

Following the cue of their pharisaic or hypocrite cant, these organs and the Hanna orators that echo them assure the voters that the seizure by force and fraud of the Philippines and the perpetuation of our rule over those islands by the argument of the bullet and bayonet, exemplify that we "have conferred the inestimable blessings of liberty and emancipation upon 10,000,000 human beings."

The Republicans are trying to get away from their party record. They are endeavoring to escape the consequences of their own acts in violating the Declaration of Independence—in repudiating the principles at the core of our free institutions that "all just governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed."

They cannot. Their wriggling and shifting will be vain. They will be held to the rack.

The Democratic party has made it plain in this platform that it considers the preservation of the vital principle of free government as paramount to

economic questions arising under the constitution. The Republicans must stand up for imperialism and justify it before the voters or go down in defeat.—Kansas City Times.

CHINA.

The situation in China is no better, and, if anything, grows worse all the while.

In a battle at Tien-Tsin last Friday in which 20,000 Chinese troops and 7,000 of the allies were engaged the allies were badly worsted. The Americans lost heavily. According to the report of the Associated press one-fourth of the troops engaged were either killed or wounded. Among the killed is Colonel Liscum, commander of the Ninth U. S. regiment, recently sent from Manila to China.

News from Peking, the capital of the Chinese empire, is still very meager, and while there has been no reliable confirmation of the report that the foreigners there have all been murdered, the report is generally believed by the allies that such is the case. If it should prove to be true, that defenseless and harmless foreigners, Europeans and Americans, have been ruthlessly murdered, it will be a long time before the Chinese can atone for this most atrocious of crimes. It will take much of their blood and all of their treasure and territory to assuage the righteous indignation of the civilized world.

But it is, in this Chinese question as in every other, there are two sides to it. From the Chinaman's standpoint he believes he is right. Europeans and Americans, at best, look upon the Chinese people as being heathens and barbarians, but they have a religion and a civilization that they are satisfied with, and they want no other kind forced upon them.

They have lived and multiplied under the religion and civilization they have had for thousands of years. They made but little progress until they established commercial intercourse with the more progressive nations of the world. A few years ago they had a war with Japan which resulted disastrously to China, and for that reason the powers now engaged in war with China thought it would be an easy matter to bring her to terms, such as they might demand. In this a serious mistake has been made. Since their trouble with Japan it seems the Chinese have been studying the science of war, and from what has been developed in their recent engagements with the combined powers, it seems they have been very apt scholars. They fight with skill and desperation, and have modern guns, and always having the advantage in numbers, a war with them may be, and most likely will be, prolonged for years, at a tremendous cost of treasure and blood. We still think the proper thing for our government to have done was to have made an effort to get our people away from there on as favorable and peaceable terms as possible, without going to war, as now seems inevitable, with the odds against us.

J. M. KERNS, whose home is at South Bend, Ind., visited Mr. Bryan at his home in Lincoln, Neb., last week, and while there related that at a traveling men's banquet recently there were 351 salesmen from the house he represented. A vote was taken for president, when 347 voted for Bryan and four for McKinley. We have no doubt that is about the ratio of the present feeling of traveling men on the presidential question, but whether they will stand the pressure and threat of dismissal from the service of their employes that may come to them later on remains to be seen.

THE terrors of the war in China are shown in the fact that Admiral Seymour of the British Marines shot his wounded men at their request, they preferring death to the tortures inflicted by the Chinese soldiery. When the admiral, in his retreat, found that he was no longer able to care for his wounded men, he asked, with tears running down his cheeks: "Which do you prefer, to be left to the mercies of the Chinese or to be shot by your own comrades?" They answered: "We prefer death to torture. Shoot us now that we may die like men."

A POPULAR CONGRESSMAN.

Well done faithful servant. The following clippings from our exchanges show the estimation in which Judge Rucker is held by the press and constituency of the Second congressional district, we gladly reproduce them:

One of the most faithful and never-tiring workers for his friends that we ever saw is our congressman, Judge Rucker. If there was a single Second district Democrat in Kansas City who failed to get into the convention hall, it was because the judge failed to see him. So busy was the judge looking after his constituents and devising ways to get them tickets of admission, that he himself failed to attend a single session of the convention. Who can help from loving or admiring such a man?—Huntsville Herald.

The man who probably secured admission for more people than anyone in the Second district was Congressman Rucker. The judge knows nearly every Democrat in the district personally and of course, was flooded with applications for tickets. The executive committee failed to provide congressmen with tickets and the Chariton statesman was left to hustle for himself just like other people. But hustling is Rucker's long suit and he got down to it in earnest the minute he hit the city. He was on the ground early and stayed late and the doorkeepers said that he worked more men through the lines than anyone at the convention.—Moberly Democrat.

Congressman W. W. Rucker has returned from Washington, D. C., and is at his home in Keytesville for the summer. During the campaign he will visit every county in the Second district and make a number of speeches.

Judge Rucker is faithfully serving the people in congress and is a hard working member. He is constantly looking after the interests of his constituents. Every request made of him receives prompt and careful attention. He is in fact, as well as in name, a representative of the people and the people of the Second district have in Judge Rucker an able, earnest and faithful public servant at Washington.

No request goes to him unheeded. The claim of the humblest citizen receives the same consideration at his hands as those in higher stations of life and prominence in their communities. He is a plain man of the people and it is always a pleasure to him to serve the people. During his first year in congress he has been very successful in securing the allowance of just pensions and other meritorious claims of the people of his district. His private secretary, E. C. Tieman, will remain in Washington during the summer and look after the interests of citizens who desire any information or have any business with the departments.

Letters addressed to Hon. W. W. Rucker, Washington, D. C., during the congressman's absence from the capital will receive the prompt attention of his private secretary.—Chillicothe Constitution.

"CONSISTENCY is a jewel," is an old saying, but it is a jewel seldom found in politics, or rather among politicians. Ever since and before the trouble occasioned by the street car strike in St. Louis, Republican papers have been accusing the last legislature of passing a bill creating a trust in St. Louis in authorizing the consolidation of the street railways of that city, and we are not going to say the charge is untrue, but since Attorney-General Crow has brought suit to dissolve that trust, these same papers are jumping on him with both feet, and say he is aiming to get up a little campaign thunder—this and nothing more. The fact is, Gen. Crow was opposed to the measure, and went so far as to advise Gov. Stephens not to sign the bill. Now that the attorney-general and everybody else, for that matter, sees that a trust has been formed in the consolidation of the street railways of St. Louis, and the said trust is an illegal organization and is working mischief in the state, it becomes the attorney-general's duty to suppress it, provided it can be done, and instead of abusing him for it all law-abiding people ought to commend him for having the courage of his convictions, and doubtless everybody will commend him except such persons as are favorable to trusts.