

O. P. VANDIVER, EDITOR AND PROP.

KEYTESVILLE, MISSOURI

SOME of those tobacco fellows in Kentucky are showing yellow streaks.

So far winter has been regarded as a failure by the man who lives to shovel snow.

THE Republican senators are getting a pitchfork ready for the Taft boom when it sails.

SENATOR TILLMAN seems to have resigned first place to that new cut up from Arkansas.

SPEAKER CANNON hates to see anybody monkeying with the buzz-saw named the tariff.

MACON, GA., prohibition on Locker clubs is respectfully referred to Savannah for solution.

GOV. HUGHES' attitude somehow reminds one of the mastery silence of Alton B. Parker in 1904.

MONEY is again getting so plentiful that a man can carry a piece around in his pocket for luck.

SAN FRANCISCO now considers itself purged, but the scent of the graters will cling to it for a while.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN goes to Washington every now and then to see if his country is being run right.

DEFI to anti-nature fakirs G. O. P. elephant watching anxiously to see which way the cat jumps.

No use trying to laugh the grip germ out of existence. He can't take a joke, and won't admit that he is one.

GOLDEN days for the preachers. No more whiskey devils to fight, yet churches are beginning to raise salaries.

AN archaeologist has dug up a new verse of the new testament. Something more for the theologians to fuss over.

THE president is credited with having cracked a joke the other day, but we suppose he took himself too seriously.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, the new senator from Florida, is only 31, but so far as anybody can see he has more sense than age.

It is astonishing how poor some of the prosperous looking stage favorites are when they strike the bankruptcy courts.

THE Taft boom has put out more not-yet-but-soon promises than any of them so far launched.

THERE is no certainty that we shall get much of anything from the present congress free garden seeds.

THE mother-in-law joke reaches the climax in the case of the Delaware man who has just married his'n.

HAS any one from the South stopped you yet to say that this here prohibition business is getting serious, by gum?

THE problem of what to do with ex-presidents is not half so pressing as that of what to do with the would-be presidents.

THE new congressional building in Washington will make some of the backwoods members walk as if they were treading on eggs.

GIRLS who want to take advantage of their leap year privilege should not let up on the man as long as he doesn't actually run.

THE question, "What is a Democrat?" is not bothering the Michigan authorities half as much as the more recent one, "What is a sausage?"

COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY RIDGELEY says that panics are inevitable. President Cleveland was not given the benefit of this amiable phisosophy.

"THE mantle of Moses has fallen on Hoke Smith," says an admiring Georgia contemporary. You don't say so! It must have given him an awful jolt!

IF Rev. Dr. MacArthur of New York keeps on no doubt he will discover that George Washington was once locked in the village pillory for beating his wife.

WELL, if Quent in Roosevelt has a sweetheart, that's his business, isn't it? Remember how it was in your own case, in your gladsome, gleesome, juvenile days.

THE story of that Missouri man who enlisted in the army because he was out of work and next day fell heir to a fortune has not started a rush on the recruiting stations as yet.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT says that Secretary Taft will win the Republican nomination on the first ballot. Would it not be safer to say that he is sure of that federal brigade?

AN English surgeon thinks the stomach of a normal animal may be transferred to a human being. Some people, however, would never be satisfied with anything less than an ostrich's.

GOV. GUILD of Massachusetts declined to attend the dinner given in honor of Secretary Taft. It is evident that the governor is not yet ready to climb aboard any political handwagons.

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FOR TORPID LIVER.
A torpid liver deranges the whole system, and produces
SICK HEADACHE,
Dyspepsia, Costiveness, Rheumatism, Sallow Skin and Piles.
There is no better remedy for these common diseases than DR. TUTT'S LIVER PILLS, as a trial will prove.
Take No Substitute.

THE thing we hate the most about this season of the year is the fellow who is always coming in with a lot of statistics to prove that 1907 was or wasn't something more or less than 1906.

MARK TWAIN is said to have over \$50,000 tied up in a trust company as a result of the late stringency, and it is doubtful if even the leading humorist of the country can see the joke in the situation.

"A LECTURER in St. Louis said he was surprised at President Roosevelt," according to the Cleveland Leader. That must have been a long time ago, however. Nobody is ever surprised these days.

THE Milwaukee Sentinel calls the attention to a report of the president's recent hunt in Virginia, which reads, "The president shot a turkey and a rabbit, one of them on the wing." Well, but which one?

"LESLIE M. SHAW of Iowa is always warmly welcomed when he comes to Iowa for a visit," says the Sioux City Journal. How about Leslie M. Shaw of New York when he comes to Iowa for delegates?

THE sheriff in a certain Georgia county has a stock of whiskey on his hands by right of levy, but the court has enjoined him from selling it. This must seem just like getting money from home to the sheriff.

AS the bank reports come in evidence accumulates that the chief part of the country's money is being hoarded in the banks west of the Alleghanies. This seems to us to be a rather discreditable business on their part.

ABOUT 3,000 unemployed men marched to the mayor's office in Seattle, Wash., Monday to ask for work. Most of them lumbermen driven to the city by the closing down of mills and camps. More Republican prosperity.

THE charitable organizations on the Pacific coast report that many native Americans are in need of assistance, but that the Japanese peoples. The Japanese save what the Americans waste. It is the story of the ant and the grasshopper over again.

THE prayer of the chaplain of the Oklahoma legislature that Mr. Bryan might be elected president reminds one of the prayer of the chaplain of the Missouri legislature that Grover Cleveland might hunt ducks forever on waters of oblivion. Let us have peace.

RIGHT under the nose of Uncle Sam at the national capitol the Prohibitionists declare there are 200 speak-oasies, which, if true, shows how impossible is real prohibition. But that does not exonerate the Republican officials which allow such evasions of the license law.

IN San Francisco it appears to be no crime for a political boss to extort money from French restaurant-keepers and "divy up" with the mayor. On the west coast robbing a Frenchman seems to be regarded as almost a meritorious an action as clubbing a Jap.

By grapevine we have it that Col. George Bailey of the Houston Post will soon treat himself to a trip to wonderful Washington. Bailey deserves something good to eat, and a planked Potomac shad will be nothing more than a fitting reward. Also the French castle shall be notified.

ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL HITCHCOCK, who has been engineering the Cortelyou boom, has been forced by the administration to climb onto the Taft band wagon. In spite of professions of civil service reform the power of public plunder is bound to be predominant with Republicans.

WE now know just what has caused the panic and its resulting business depression. Why, of course, it was the fear of tariff revision, at least, that is what the American Economist declares. But as that publication is the organ of the tariff protected trusts it is possible it may be mistaken.

CONGRESSMAN COOK of Colorado attacks President Roosevelt and his land policy in a letter sent to the president, congress and the supreme court. Although a Republican, George Washington Cook must be a very undesirable citizen, for he declares Teddy to be impulsive and dictatorial, and inferentially puts Taft in the same boat.

WHAT a strange political congeries compose the Roosevelt-Taft following in Ohio. Boss Cox is shouting for Taft just as "Coxey old boy," shouted for Hanna and McKinley 10 years ago. Yet the Roosevelt policies are supposed to be the opposite of what Hanna practiced, but the same old machine seems to be oiled by the same old lubricant-public plunder.

THE friends of President Roosevelt do not seem ready to defend his treatment of Admiral Brownson. Even the men who have no personal friendship for the rear-admiral are criticising the president for writing such an abusive letter when the provocation was so slight. Quite aside from the merits of the controversy, whether a medical officer should command a hospital ship, Admiral Brownson should not have been made to endure such savage vituperation from the president who, because he is commander-in-chief of the navy, could not be answered.

THE figures given out from the White house that Taft is certain of 521 votes in the Republican convention, with more to come, may be found, after all, to be colored by the enthusiastic statisticians of the "tennis cabinet." It would be rather extraordinary for a Republican convention to nominate a candidate for president against the protest of New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois and other important states. The nomination of Taft can only be brought about by the votes controlled by the federal officials in the South and West, and such an endorsement of "my policies" and "my candidate" would hardly be a recommendation to independent voters and civil service reformers in the doubtful states. The Republican factional fight thus seems to be drifting in favor of the Democrats if they can get together on a candidate upon whom the Bryan and anti-Bryan factions can agree.

IT is certain that the most important matter to be enacted into law by the present session of congress will be what is called an "emergency financial measure." At the present time the currency of the country now consists substantially of gold, silver and bank notes backed by government bonds. When a national bank buys a lump of government bonds, say \$100,000, it can de-

Greeting for 1908

I hope that 1908 may be the happiest as well as the most prosperous year of your life, and that your dealings with me may be pleasant as in the past. I will do my part to make such conditions possible.

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posit those bonds with the treasury department, and the treasury then issues and turns over to that bank \$100,000. Now it is proposed to accept other than government bonds, as a basis for bank circulation, such as state and municipal bonds. The fact is still other securities ought to be accepted, such valuable securities as Standard Oil, Pennsylvania railroad, New York Central, Louisville & Nashville stock and others of like quality ought to be accepted at half their market value as a basis of collateral security for circulation. The bill now receiving the thought of congress will charge seven and probably eight per cent interest to those banks using such circulation, but not when government bonds are given. It is the idea to make the interest so heavy as to cause the retirement of this kind of currency as soon as the financial stringency is over. The proposed rate is entirely too high, it ought not to be over six per cent, for that is a high rate for large sums of money but it is well known that "Wall street" does not want to make the currency too elastic for it has a grip on the throat of the finances of this country that is not easy to throw off, and it does not want too much money in the country.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

The government has loaned the national banks over \$260,000,000 without interest, and not only \$230,000,000 as the Commoner has it. The official statement for January 7 shows the amount on that day to be \$255,565,470.98. The banks having been called upon to repay nearly \$10,000,000 during the past few weeks to enable the treasury to pay running expenses. November 26 the banks held but \$228,657,025.57 of government money, but for the fiasco of the attempt to issue bonds and certificates that amount would have been increased to much more than \$260,000,000. The Commoner should not attempt to educate the people on the financial affairs of the government until it has ascertained the facts.

RUMORS OF WAR.

There seems to be a determination in some quarters to try and involve the United States and Japan to the verge of war. Everything that is done by either country that can be distorted into war-like preparations is grossly exaggerated, so that the jingoes of either country may be kept in a constant state of excitement. The administration has been the chief culprit by ordering the fleet of battle-ships to the Pacific ocean, for it is hardly possible to believe that this extraordinary

move was for the domestic political purpose of turning public opinion of the Pacific coast states toward the perpetuation of the presidential policies and the selection of delegates to the Republican convention, who will vote with the administration. Though it is natural to ask, if that move was not for partisan political effect, what was the object, if not to excite Japan?

As the difficulty about Japanese immigration to the United States can undoubtedly be arranged through the usual diplomatic channels, and the open door in Manchuria is merely a matter of trade with which we have to deal with China and not Japan, there can be no good reason why both countries can not maintain the most amicable relation with each other. Both Japan and the United States would lose and neither could possibly gain by a clash of arms. The cost of modern war is enormous, and Japan, at least, would be impoverished after prolonged campaigns. For one thing is certain that the people of the United States would fight to the bitter end and no peace at any price party would dare to raise its head while such a contest was in progress. The original question in dispute of the admission of Japanese to the public schools in San Francisco, as elsewhere, is entirely a matter of home rule that must be left to the people of each state to solve. The question of the admission of emigrants to the United States of any nationality is for congress to determine, and the federal government to execute such laws as the national legislature may deem best for all the people. War is a calamity that no sensible people resort to unless compelled to defend themselves. But if attacked "lay on, Mac Duff, and damned be he who first cries, hold enough."

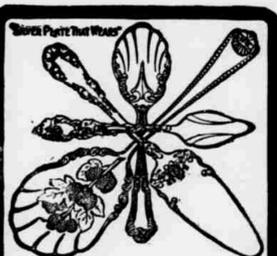
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