

# At the National Capital

Gossip of People and Events  
Gathered in Washington

## Rapid Strides of Capital in Population



WASHINGTON.—The census taken recently by the police force of the District of Columbia indicates that the national capital is growing in population at an exceptional rate. The increase in inhabitants for the last year is reported as 9,812, which would mean a growth, if steadily maintained, of almost 100,000 for the current decade.

Of course such a rate of growth has not been maintained since 1900. According to the federal census of that year, Washington's population was 278,718. The population reported by the police in 1908 is 339,493, so that the increase in eight years has been 60,685. By 1910 Washington may be expected to gain at least 15,000 more inhabitants and its population to rise to about 355,000.

Compared with its nearest rival—Baltimore—Washington is making rapid strides forward. Baltimore percentage of growth between 1890 and 1900 was 17.1, while Washington's was 20.9. The disparity in expansion

will undoubtedly be greater in the decade from 1900 to 1910, for Baltimore's growth was checked for a year or more by the losses of the great fire of 1904, while Washington's growth has been stimulated by enormous building operations most of them conducted under the auspices of the national government.

The check to business resulting from last fall's panic will also be felt less in Washington than in perhaps any other American city. The national capital does not depend for a livelihood on manufacturers or commerce, and its workers have steady employment assured them because the government's activities are being continually extended.

In its physical aspect Washington has gained enormously in attractiveness in the last eight or ten years. It is an ideal residence city, and its charms appeal most potent to Americans with leisure enough to enjoy them. It has become the winter home of families of wealth and refinement from all parts of the union, and its quiet, order and beauty make living within its borders constant satisfaction. It still has great potentialities in the way of architectural development, and its material prosperity is secured by ever-broadening activities of the great governmental machine.

## FOUR YEARS MORE?

SHALL THE PARTY OF MONOPOLY BE KEPT IN POWER?

Time Now for the Voters to Determine to Put an End to Legalized Robbery by Tariff-Protected Trusts.

As wages are falling and meat and bread are costing more, with many people out of work, it is time to take stock and reckon how to provide for the future. The panic and present business depression have demolished the Republican theory that the tariff which protects the trusts produces prosperity. The high prices the trusts have charged for their products was one of the chief causes of the panic, and although the trusts made money other people had to pay it as long as they could, but even the game of boosting prices cannot prevail indefinitely, and the inevitable collapse came, much to the confusion of the Republican politicians. What is called business can adapt itself to almost any political conditions or laws, but it requires time to recuperate from a breakdown of confidence, and confidence cannot be restored until the business world begins to make money again and has surplus profits to invest in new undertakings. That the cost of living still remains so near the high point shows the absolute control of the trusts of most of the necessities of life. After former panics there has always been a period of low prices, which compensated for reduced wages and smaller incomes, and increased consumption, though cheaper goods set the wheels of industry again turning.

The steel trust, the beef trust, the sugar trust, the agricultural machinery trust, the coal trust, the paper trust, and many other trusts are still charging the same high prices for their products as before the panic. The railroad trust, indeed, has already determined to advance freight rates, which will naturally compel merchants to add to the price of the goods they sell, and groceries and provisions being heavy goods, will be the first to suffer. Freight on dry goods and clothing, although very high, does not add so much to their cost. Over-stocked merchants are selling better bargains in dry goods and ready-made clothing, but families with reduced incomes can hardly take advantage of it.

Monopoly and tariff protection, upon which the Republican party is standing pat, allows these things to be, and competition, which has always been relied upon to regulate prices according to supply and demand, is hardly longer among the forces to be reckoned with. If amounts to very much like suspending the force of gravitation and expecting things to keep in their right places.

Conditions are aggravated by private monopoly in conjunction with the government tariff favoritism. Cold-storage trusts and milk trusts all keep up prices. In spite of the law private car lines and refrigerator car combines still tax the consumer, and the producers and growers do not get any of the benefit.

The nomination of a president and congressmen is now taking place, and unless there is a new deal the same old pretense of "doing things" and yet standing pat will be continued for the next four years. You may adapt your circumstances to the present unsatisfactory conditions, as the business of the country undoubtedly will, but why not persist in reforms that you know you will benefit by? Are you willing to be plundered forever by the tariff-protected trusts?

### St. Louis Wants a Rest.

The business men of St. Louis have organized the National Prosperity association and their motto, "Give us a rest and sunshine," indicates they are Republicans tired of Teddy. These prosperity boomers will find that prosperity is not to be had by saying it is here, though that may encourage some of the members to try and overcome that tired feeling, the result of Republican policies. Those who look behind the scenes and see somewhat how the political game is played are not calling for a rest, but, like the Democratic members of congress, are trying to stir a do-nothing congress to activity. For over ten long years the trusts have had a rest from competition and a Republican warrant to plunder the people through the tariff an average of over 50 per cent. Honest men should therefore, instead of crying for a rest, pitch in and fight for their rights—equal rights to all and special privileges to none. Prosperity for the trusts and combines has had a long lease, and it is either foolish or criminal to delude the people into taking a rest until the tariff that protects the trusts is revised. It will require the most active efforts of a good majority of the people working overtime until after election to curb the trusts and corporations whose depredations have given those St. Louis boomers that tired feeling.

### The Call of the Green.

"Talk about the call of the wild!" exclaimed a young woman teacher. "What calls me is the call of the green. I live in a boarding house all winter and never mind it, but when spring comes and I see the new grass in the parks, the buds on the trees, the fresh asparagus and green peas and all the lovely fresh vegetables in market, and then go into the same dinner exactly as we had every Monday or Tuesday night during the winter, it makes me sick. I saw some poor Ital-

## GRAFT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Exorbitant Salaries Paid to Officials in the Islands.

The Inter-Island News of Zamboanga, Mindanao, publishes a statement from the Manila Review of Trade and Price Currents, from which we learn that, in the Philippines, official salaries are nearly twice as high as they are in the United States. In the Philippines the secretary of the interior, secretary of the treasury, secretary of public commerce and superintendent of public instruction receive \$15,000 apiece, while in this country the secretaries of the interior, the treasury and commerce and labor get \$8,000 apiece and the commissioner of education \$3,500.

The writer of the article referred to adds: "But the worst feature of the situation is that fully double the number of public servants needed are employed. This, together with the exorbitant salaries paid, show what might be accomplished in the way of public improvements if the revenues of the islands were economically expended. While the business men of Manila do not favor any reduction of revenue, they do favor a substantial cut in the exorbitant salaries of officials and other sources of leakage which will enable the government to borrow at least one hundred million of dollars, gold, with which to build highways, railways and other necessary public improvements. This would open up these islands from end to end and increase production a hundredfold. Recognizing this fact, the business men of the Philippines are willing to pay every cent they can stand for this purpose, but they are tired of wearing themselves to their withers paying exorbitant salaries to public officials who know little and care less about the commercial interests of the archipelago.

"They see the civil government here expending practically \$5,000,000, local currency, on what is known as the Benguet road—and for what purpose? Solely for the benefit of a few public officials who may take a junket over it once or twice during the course of a year. If this official boulevard incidentally opened up an acre of productive territory, the business men would applaud the action of the government. But it does not. Absolutely no material benefit whatever will or ever can accrue from its construction. This amount of money expended upon highways in any direction from Manila would have opened up a vast and productive territory teeming with population."

### Republican Extravagance.

As long as the boom in business continued there was not much notice taken of the extravagant appropriations by congress, but now the boom has busted and Republican prosperity has vanished, and the receipts of the government are running at the rate of \$60,000,000 behind the outlay, one would think it was time to economize. But the present congress is more extravagant than ever and seems determined to leave the national cupboard bare for the incoming Democrats, as the Republicans did under similar circumstances in 1884, when President Cleveland was first elected. The fact is the Republican managers are good business spenders, like gamblers, but what is now needed and what the country must come to is careful spenders, who while providing all revenue necessary for the government will not waste the substance of the people.

### A Possible New Issue.

It is reported that a number of foreign diplomats have been invited to attend the Republican national convention at Chicago, June 17, and that they have accepted the invitation. This is a new departure in American politics. Most of the diplomats are monarchists—representatives of European or Asiatic kings. Their influence at a convention of Republicans would be distinctly evil. The president, as the head of his party, should forbid their attendance, and no doubt would do so, if he were not himself a monarchist at heart. There will be no imperialistic ambassadors at the Denver convention. That convention may see fit to condemn the presence of such ambassadors at Chicago; and that may raise a new issue in our politics.

### What Standpatting Costs.

Every month's delay in placing wood pulp on the free list, the Chicago Journal points out, increases the difficulties in adjusting the sources of wood pulp supply. It continues: "While yet these new barriers are being raised, our tariff 'standpatting' calmly ignore the pressing demand from all sections of the United States for the removal of wood pulp duties. They are not unaware of Canada's readiness to take advantage of present delay. The more rapidly our own forests are depleted the more profit does Canada expect from her coming bargain to supply our deficiencies. This is but one instance of what American consumers must pay in order that their tariff overlords may build up great private fortunes."

lans carrying home a mass of dandelion greens the other day, and I positively envied them. Of course I can have flowers in my room, and fruit, but it's not easy to make a salad without more of a housekeeping equipment than a girl has in a hall bedroom. I'm getting so I can't bear to pass a green grocer's shop."

### Being True to Ourselves.

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## Former Blacksmith a Power in Congress



BEFORE Jim Tawney got into politics up in Minnesota he was a blacksmith. He was so rough that they had to throw him down to put him into a boiled shirt, some of his warmest admirers say.

That blacksmith training proved mighty good experience for him, and, applying blacksmith methods to his congressional career, he has forged to the front so rapidly that they do say down here in Washington that if Speaker Cannon doesn't look out some day he will get run over, because Jim Tawney is coming with wonderful strides.

Tawney is the man who would be picked out at a glance as the real ward politician of the house. He is just the kind of a man the voter always finds ready to tell him how to vote at the primary; the type of man who always leads the revolt in a cut-

and-dried convention—in short, the practical politician who gets out the vote.

Tawney, when he came to congress, wasn't welcomed within the big tent. He had to wait around on the outside. Then the blacksmith got busy. He just walked off the reservation, taking enough insurgent Republicans with him to spill the beans for the big five. And so it came to pass that the big fellows reckoned with Tawney, and now he is chairman of the most important committee in the house—appropriations. Hon. Jim is a fighter from Fightersville. But he is that kind of a fighter who knows when to fight and when to let the other fellow do the fighting.

Only once has Tawney been whipped. That once came from Congressman Goebel of Cincinnati, when he got the mail carriers' pay increased, in spite of Tawney and Chairman Overstreet. The whipping didn't tickle Tawney. So, when the fight to hold down the appropriation on the agricultural bill came up Tawney quit guarding the treasury and let Scott of Kansas tackle the job. Tawney went to his committee room. The farmers wiped up the floor with Scott.

## War Department Seeking a Legal Drink



THE war department is looking for a beverage to take the place of beer and whisky at army posts. The beverage must not be of the class of drinks prohibited by the antiprohibition law.

The federal courts have never passed upon the question of the percentage of alcohol which will render a beverage an intoxicant. The state courts also have been chary of deciding the question. In certain cases the authorities have spoken, however.

Thus, in Rhode Island, it has been held that where beer contained 2.59 per cent. of alcohol no evidence was necessary to show it was intoxicating. In Texas, a tonic containing from 3 1/4 to 4 per cent. of alcohol has been held to be intoxicating liquor. By

the laws of Massachusetts it is held that a beverage containing more than one per cent. of alcohol at 60 Fahrenheit is intoxicating.

The law in regard to the nonsale of intoxicants in post exchanges, must, of course, be followed in good faith by the army. In the absence of any federal decision as to the question at issue, the authorities must fall back on the decision of the state courts. These vary materially, and, therefore, the department may seek the solution in a practical way by ascertaining the view taken in prohibition states as to the sale of any given drink.

Where post exchanges are situated in a prohibition state it is considered entirely safe to prohibit the sale in such exchanges of preparations not allowed to be sold under the prohibition laws of the state. Where such exchanges are situated in nonprohibition states it would be safe to ascertain whether any specific drink is allowed sold in any prohibition state and let the exchange be guided accordingly.

## Senators Knox and Crane Real Chummy



UNITED States senators often become good friends, but somehow they are not prone to becoming real chummy with one another. Exceptions occur from time to time to prove the rule. One of these exceptions applies to Senator Philander C. Knox of Pennsylvania and Senator W. Murray Crane of Massachusetts. If the afternoon wanes without their meeting, one is likely to start out to see where the other is and to learn what has happened.

Often the Knox automobile and the Crane automobile exchange honks in the morning. Not infrequently the senators ride to the capitol in the same car. When the luncheon hour comes, Senator Crane may descend to the committee on rules, perhaps herald his advent by turning on the lights in the vestibule, and then lead his

crony off to the senate restaurant.

The fondness that Senators Crane and Knox evince for eating together is reminiscent of the fondness that former Senator Edmunds of Vermont and the late Senator Allen G. Thurman of Ohio used to have for drinking together. That was in the earlier days, when drinking at the capitol was not frowned upon.

All the oldsters in political Washington are fond of recalling that story, how the two senators kept a black bottle in the room of the committee on judiciary. They were certain to adjourn there twice or thrice every afternoon that the senate held a long session. It was at first a marvel why the two men seemed to have the same thought at the same moment, and began to make tracks simultaneously from different parts of the senate chamber—one being a Democrat and the other a Republican—toward that committee room.

It turned out that they had prearranged signals. The "Old Roman's" signal was to pull out that famous red bandanna handkerchief and to blow his nose with clarion loudness.

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