

EDITORIAL

CURRENT EVENTS: THE DRIFT OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

The Progressive Farmer goes to press too early to give an outline of Judge Parker's letter of acceptance—and this bids fair to be the chief topic of discussion for some days to come. Judge Parker has heretofore been entirely too mild-mannered and soft-spoken in his public utterances to arouse enthusiasm, and it is to be hoped that he will put a little Rooseveltian strenuousness into his letter of acceptance. There was great interest in the Democratic State Convention of New York which met in Saratoga last Wednesday, but party dissensions prevented the nomination of a strong candidate likely to appeal to the independent vote. Mr. Fairbanks published his letter of acceptance Monday, but it contained nothing sensational: he is too strict a party man and too cold and calm in temperament for that. In the Far East there was continued inactivity of the war forces. The coronation of Peter Karageorgevitch as King of Servia was the chief event of the week in Europe.

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New York Politics.

In the Empire State neither party seems to have named its best man for Governor. Higgins, the Republican nominee, is scored by the New York Sun, of his own party, which said of him the day before his nomination:

"Mr. Frank Wayland Higgins has neither the character nor the ability to qualify him for the governorship of the State of New York. If we were living in the millennium Mr. Higgins might do for Governor, if everybody else was busy. But this is not the millennium, and perhaps Mr. Higgins will serve as well as any one as a figurehead to point the way to overwhelming and deserved disaster."

The nomination of Higgins did open up a fine opportunity for the Democrats, but it looks as if they failed to improve it. Either Edward M. Shepard or Wm. T. Jerome—strong, clean, brave men—would have made an excellent candidate, but the factions quarrelled, and Judge D. Cady Herrick is to oppose Higgins for the Governorship. The New York Evening Post, for which a large portion of the independent vote looks for counsel, has this to say of Herrick:

"The Evening Post cannot advise anybody to vote for D. Cady Herrick. His ability we do not question. On the bench, so far as we know, he has been an impartial judge. But are we to attack Odellism with a candidate adept in all the disreputable arts of Democratic politics in Albany County? Are we to preach judicial propriety while nominating a man who has been a local party boss though a judge? * * * No; earnestly desiring as it does the success of the Democratic national ticket, the Evening Post has its own character and consistency to sustain, and will not support Herrick for Governor. In passing by Jerome and Shepard to nominate him, the Democratic Convention deliberately threw away its great opportunity."

Judge Parker has done himself credit by sending a letter to the handbook committee urging that there be "no word in it that reflects upon the personal honor and integrity of President Roosevelt." Thoughtful American citizens will echo Judge Parker's protest against a campaign of personalities—and it is to be hoped that editors and cartoonist in both parties will take it to heart.

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An Anti-Lynching Crusade.

It is very evident that the South is fast coming to a realization of the danger she suffers from allowing irresponsible mobs to punish criminals for any offence whatever. Without any general concerted movement, the newspapers have recent-

ly reported from day to day a series of events which indicate that mob murder will not much longer be tolerated by Southern public sentiment. Two weeks ago we noted that the Statesboro, Ga., Methodist Church had passed resolutions looking to the expulsion of any members who participated in the recent burning at that place, and that in Danville, Va., seven white men had been fined and sent to jail for attempting to lynch a negro a few weeks ago. In last week's paper we recorded the fact that the grand jury in Huntsville, Ala., had indicted ten citizens of that place for alleged participation in a lynching, and that Governor Terrell had ordered a court martial of the officers who failed to make proper resistance to the mob which recently disgraced Statesboro. The last seven days have brought out no less encouraging indications of the South's determination to uphold the majesty of the law. A reward of \$250 has been offered for the arrest and conviction of any member of a mob which hanged a negro in Franklin Co., Ga., a few days ago. The Huntsville grand jury indicted sixteen more persons for engaging in a lynching bee—two of these being even now in jail—and recommended the impeachment of officers who tamely surrendered to the mob. And over in Talbotton, Ga., a citizens mass-meeting was held last week which strongly condemned the recent action of a mob in that community, and resolved to prosecute those who participated.

These are straws which show which way the wind blows. The South has come to see that the basis of all law and order is the right of the government to fix penalties and punish criminals for every offence. Anything else looks to the destruction of public safety. We cannot encourage a hundred men to disregard law without encouraging the individual to disregard law; we cannot encourage law breaking to gratify vengeance without encouraging law-breaking to gratify hate or greed or lust.

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The Russo-Japanese Struggle.

In the Far East last week brought no important developments. It is reported that the Russians have ignored flags of truce, and the hate of the Japanese is said to be so bitter that a general massacre of the Russians is feared in case Port Arthur should fall. Prince Radizvil says that among the heaps of dead about Port Arthur he "saw two soldiers, one a Russian and the other a Japanese, lying locked in a death embrace. The teeth of the Japanese were sunk in the Russian's throat, while the Russian had forced two of his fingers into the eye-sockets of his antagonist." This illustrates the savage ferocity of the opposing forces.

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Minor News Notes.

A great meeting of cotton mill men—manufacturers of hard or weaving yarns—is now in session in Charlotte. The call sets forth that a "deplorable condition of affairs now prevails among the manufacturers engaged in the manufacture of weaving or hard cotton yarns, caused largely by the disparity now existing between the price of yarn and the cost of the raw material, and the only apparent possible way to bring about a change of existing conditions is for a general conference of all spinners interested." Important action will undoubtedly be taken at this meeting.

Prince Herbert Bismark, who died last week, was the son of the Iron Chancellor, and the great German hoped to make this son his successor. Son and father quit the Emperor's service together at the time of Bismarck's dismissal.

Governor Montague, of Virginia, has formally announced his candidacy for the United States Senate as the successor of Senator Martin. As Martin is seeking re-election, this means a lively contest in the Old Dominion. Governor Montague is one of the ablest and most popular Governors Virginia has had, and Senator Martin is one of the most skilful political managers in the country.

SEEN AND HEARD IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Editor returned Friday from a four days' trip into South Carolina, whither he went for the purpose of purchasing the Greenville Cotton Plant, as explained in the "Announcement" elsewhere in this number. And while in this announcement we have referred to our "expansion," it should be understood that this is not imperialism but merely "benevolent assimilation." It is our aim to extend very greatly our circulation in Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia as well, and we hope our present readers in these States will assist us in this effort.

PALMETTO FARMERS PROSPEROUS.

The farmers in South Carolina, except the rice planters, are in better condition than at any time for twenty years. The advance in cotton prices has brought about an almost marvelous improvement, and better methods of farming are also coming into use. The rice farmers, however, are not prospering at this time. The large areas in Texas and Georgia recently planted to rice under the direction of great syndicates has resulted in lowering the price, and the middleman also figures in the matter absorbing a lion's share of the profits. Hon. E. J. Watson the efficient Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration, is now endeavoring to bring about more modern methods of growing and handling the crop, giving especial attention to co-operation in cleaning and marketing.

Cotton everywhere is opening earlier and more rapidly than the writer has ever known before. The United States Government report, printed in last week's Progressive Farmer, and showing 390,414 bales ginned to September 10th this year against only 17,587 bales ginned to same date last year, is explained when one takes any extended trip through the Cotton Belt. In upper South Carolina there will be little of the crop to gather after October 10th. Farmers and crop correspondents should emphasize this matter of early opening, for the bulls are certain to use the present heavy receipts as an argument that there is an enormous crop.

IMPROVING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

South Carolina is making most creditable progress in public education. Fifty years ago one of her Governors declared in a famous message that if the State had to choose between supporting higher colleges or the public schools, she should choose the higher colleges. "Better one sun than a million stars," he declared. But the people have now come to see the fallacy of his argument. Intellectual wealth, like material wealth, must be widely diffused if a State is to prosper. Even as a State is stronger with a hundred thousand independent middle-class home owners than with a great body of paupers and a few multi-millionaires, so as Thomas Jefferson declared: "Were it necessary to give up either the primary or the university, I would rather abandon the latter because it is safer to have a whole people respectably enlightened, than a few in a high degree of science and many in ignorance. This last is the most dangerous state in which a nation can be. All the nations and governments of Europe are proofs of it."

The average length of school term, we believe, is now a little longer in South Carolina than in North Carolina. The State tax is three mills, and hundreds of school districts supplement this by local taxes not exceeding four mills. In many communities, too, the people—seeing that it is fitting that the rising generation which is to be strengthened and enriched by the schools, should share the expense of improving them—are issuing bonds to build better houses and to equip them better.

The most popular educational innovation of recent years has been the rural school library law, copied from the North Carolina statute, and adopted by the General Assembly last winter. Five