

# PUBLIC OPINION

## COMMENT OF LEADING NEWSPAPERS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS—SIGNS OF PROSPERITY.

Washington Star.

With a surplus approximating \$87,000,000 in the Treasury, the United States is hardly to be classed with the poor nations of the world. It is, indeed, so rich that some folks think it is suffering from its own prosperity. Spending billions on government necessities and improvements, it nevertheless is able to pile up reserves by the tens of millions and to keep all its money issues on the soundest possible basis. Its credit is so high that whenever it issues bonds the offering for those securities are many-fold in excess of the supply.

Industrially, the country is in good condition at this time. The stock market slump of March has been followed by a period of stagnation in the money centers, perhaps due in large part to the extraordinary backwardness of the season and the rumors of damage to the wheat crop. The period of extreme depression and pessimism, however, has been passed, and there has succeeded a general feeling of optimism and a strong belief in the early coming of general confidence. The stock market may not soar to speculative heights, but it exhibits a healthy tone, which is far better than the rapid fluctuations that cause the swift making and losing of fortunes.

Mills are kept busy to the limit of their possibilities turning out all sorts of products in metals, fabrics, and other necessities. Prices are good, but not excessive. The demand for construction materials indicates that the confidence in the future on the part of business men is sufficiently high to warrant their investing millions in enlargements and in new ventures. Labor conditions here and there operate to check this form of development, but there is little fear of prolonged stoppages of work in any section.

### New Immigration Law.

The new immigration law which went into effect Monday, besides adding a million dollars or so of revenues by its increase of head money, subtracts a good many from the number of "undesirables" likely to be dumped upon our shores. The excluded classes are extended to cover the imbecile, the feeble-minded, the consumptive, the physically and morally defective. The government will find

it easier than heretofore to turn back the incapables and to roll the efforts of foreign nations to unroad their paupers and perversities upon the charitable and correctional institutions of the United States. Also the immigration authorities are authorized to attempt a beneficial distribution of admitted aliens among the several States and territories desiring immigration. The operation of this task of distribution will be watched with close interest, for it is likely to prove by no means as easy as it looks. The tendency of immigrants to gather in great cities is far from being altogether accidental. The ties of kindred speech and thought are strong. Italians flock to join Italians already settled here, and the various foreign colonies receive steady accretions. A very large proportion of the immigrants have a definite destination in mind when they start for this country and land ticketed through. Some Southern and Western States will doubtless pick up help under the distribution project, but their retention of these laborers depends upon the acceptability of the employment afforded. Alien congestion in our cities is a problem which may demand many experiments before a solution is attained, and the popular but erroneous impression that every foreigner coming here is so eager for labor that he will go anywhere to secure it is likely to prove one of the embarrassments of the situation.

### In Oklahoma.

The Supreme Court of Oklahoma, having dissolved the injunction against the constitutional election, the question is squarely up to the Republicans to make their fight against the adoption of the constitution or nominate a State ticket and contend with the Democrats for political control of the new State. The people of Oklahoma have been so urgent in their demand for statehood that it seems entirely improbable that they will reject the constitution and rob themselves of self-government unless there appears some serious flaws in the instrument. They will not revolt against it simply because it was framed by a Democratic convention.

The charge is made that the Democrats have gerrymandered the State in order to make Democratic success certain. If this is true it reflects upon the integrity of Democratic leaders, and the people may even vote to adopt the constitution but reject the politicians responsible for the injustice. The administration at Washington may safely be relied upon to protect the

political rights of the citizens of the new State if the constitution is designed to rob them in any of its provisions. But the technical opposition to the instrument for political reasons will not appeal to even the rank and file of the Republican party. Statehood is of more interest now to the average citizen of Oklahoma than party success, and if the Republican leaders commit their party to a policy of obstruction only they are simply inviting disaster.

### The Democratic Problem.

The direct refusal of the Pennsylvania Democrats to endorse Mr. Bryan for the presidency is significant of the waning enthusiasm with which Democratic politicians look forward to a third Bryan campaign. With Mr. Bryan their candidate against a representative of the Roosevelt policies, what in the world could the Democrats bring forward as their paramount issue?

Both President Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan are loose constructionists. Both believe in the extension of federal powers of government. The difference is that Mr. Roosevelt stops short of socialism, while Mr. Bryan has lost the support of the conservative men of his party by his railroad ownership propaganda. Mr. Bryan frequently complains that the Republican administration has stolen his thunder. In other words, if he is made the candidate against a Roosevelt Republican the only ground on which he can appeal for votes will be that, while praising the present administration for the big things it has done, he thinks it might have gone further. Such a plea cannot be made very effective with any class of thinkers. So, in view of the turn affairs have taken in the Republican party, it looks as if Mr. Bryan could not possibly be elected president in 1908. Since it has become evident that the Republicans will not name a reactionary, Democratic managers are convinced that his candidacy could not be successful, and their hard problem is to find a man who would stand a better chance.

## Fairmont Men On Program

### SUPERINTENDENTS FAUST, McBEE AND ROSIER AT EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

On Friday morning the fifth annual educational conference opened in Morgantown with a large and enthusiastic crowd of educators and other interested people present. The presiding officer is President Purinton, of the University and S. P. Hatian, of Powhatan college, is secretary.

The first speaker was J. F. March, principal of the Harrisville schools, who discussed at some length the county high school. He indulged in some reminiscence of the time when there were no county high schools, and he is a young man yet. The district high school was discussed by Principal O. O. Crawford of Fayette county, Principal L. F. Stewart, of Wood county, Principal Frank J. Tracy, of Taylor county, Professor Jasper Newton Deahl and Dr. Sheldon.

T. C. Johnson, of the University delivered a paper on the Agricultural High School. He suggests that agriculture be introduced in the high school. In this he was opposed by Dr. Charles A. McMurry, who insists that the high school must confine its attention to general educational work, and leave the technical work to the college. He insists that the course is impractical to top-heavy, which opinion will find many supporters.

### Bidding for Notoriety.

Chicago Daily News. Col. Harvey feels that he would be quite a personage if he could induce President Roosevelt to take some notice of him.

The most liberal offer that was ever of this paper to-day. Read it. Let us hear from you at once. We want two thousand more readers in Marion county and think this will get them.

thrustfully as did Prof. Rosier, of Fairmont.

At night there was a short discussion and then Mr. McMurry delivered one of his excellent lectures.

Among the many educators and school men arriving in town yesterday was Superintendent Miller, of Charleston.

### Plague-Swept India.

New York Sun. During the first three and a half years of 1907 the deaths from the plague in India totalled 494,000, the heaviest monthly mortality yet reported during the epidemic. This would appear to show that the present year will exhibit a record number of deaths.

The plague records for the ten years, October, 1896, to December, 1906, show that there was a large annual increase from 1901 to 1904, the deaths numbering 274,000 in 1901, 577,000 in 1902, 557,000 in 1903 and 1,022,000 in 1904, the worst year in ten years.

There was a small decrease in 1905, the deaths falling to 951,000, and a large decrease in 1906, when there were only 332,000. The total deaths for the whole ten years numbered 4,411,212. The improvement which was shown in the two years 1905 and 1906 has not, unfortunately, been maintained.

From the first appearance of the disease up to the year 1901 the mortality was greatest in the Bombay presidency, but from 1902 onward, with one exception, the worst area has been the Punjab, and in 1905 the deaths in the latter province alone numbered 364,625.

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 Their lyric notes repeat.  
 Till morning drips with melody  
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 Where bees from primly buttercups  
 Ambrosial nectars draw—  
 O ho, but let's go loitering!  
 O hey, for Lighthouse Lane!

Where the ways stretch cool and shady  
 To lure the laggard feet,  
 And little winds leap laughingly  
 Down ranks of rippling wheat;  
 Where wild blossoms peck the butterfly  
 With gusts of rosy rain—  
 O ho, but let's go loitering!  
 O hey, for Lighthouse Lane!  
 —Hilton R. Green in Lippincott's.

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It is because we have added our entire weekly subscription list to these two issues. The Weekly West Virginian is the oldest paper published in Marion county; was established in 1868, and has a big list of as loyal supporters as any paper published in West Virginia. The merchant who uses these two issues not only gets the benefit of the best local medium, but reaches a class of people out of town who have not heretofore been appealed to for trade through the columns of the daily paper. This plan of giving our weekly subscribers two papers a week for the price of one has proved to be very popular and our liberal offer is bringing in numbers of new subscribers daily. YOU GET YOUR AD IN TWO PAPERS ON THESE DATES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE.

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