

fallen back upon the postal deficit, attributing that to the enormous second-class mail. But it is in fact more than probable that the second-class mail, directly and indirectly, pays for itself. What really causes the deficit is the extravagant payments that are made by the department to railroads for mail transportation. This leakage has been exposed again and again, and now it is accounted for. The Chicago Tribune explains how the railroads are protected. They supplied campaign funds galore to Mr. Hanna, and at Mr. Hanna's dictation the late sacrosanct administration did the rest. Note the startling testimony of the Tribune, turned "state's evidence," in an editorial published in its issue of the 13th:

We distinctly charge that after the election of 1896 Mr. Samuel Shallenberger was appointed second assistant postmaster general, in whose office all matters relating to the railway mail service are attended to, in pursuance of a bargain or understanding with the Pennsylvania railroad. Mr. Shallenberger at that time was an attorney for the Pennsylvania railroad. The company had made a subscription—possibly the largest in the United States—to the campaign fund. What could be more natural than that the attorney of the railroad should be appointed to superintend the railway mail service immediately after the election. Still, it was a second-class bargain, and in any other country would have disgraced everybody connected with it. Shallenberger is still in office.

No further explanation of the "economical" crusade against second-class mail matter as a cover for extravagant payments to railroads is necessary. The Chicago Tribune has let the cat out of the bag.

The Bucklin or Australasian tax amendment to the Colorado constitution (p. 11, and vol. iv., p. 810), which has already had many vicissitudes, is now subjected to another attack designed to prevent a formal expression of the popular will in its favor. As our readers know, this amendment, adopted by the legislature over a year ago, and to be voted upon by the people of Colorado next November, would allow any county in which a majority of the voters so decide, to draw its local revenues whol-

ly from land value taxation. It would not put this system of taxation in force; it would merely allow the people of the respective counties to put it in force or not as they choose. It is, therefore, simply a home rule amendment, a county referendum on taxation. But there are diligent efforts on the part of the land grant railroads and the other speculative interests of the state to prevent the submission of the amendment to the people. The latest form these efforts have taken is an application to the supreme court of the state for a writ restraining the secretary of state from printing any constitutional amendments upon the ballots. The contention is that constitutional amendments proposed by the legislature for submission to the people must be in harmony with the rest of the constitution; and that if a proposed amendment would alter the constitution fundamentally, as it is claimed the Bucklin amendment would, it can be made only by a constitutional convention.

Desperate efforts are being made by the Republican machine of Illinois to create an appearance of harmony where there is no harmony. Nor can there be harmony there in view of the boss-ridden character of the Republican state convention. Its nomination of Albert J. Hopkins for United States senator was in no sense a party nomination. As Hopkins and Lorimer had packed the convention, he was nominated by himself and Lorimer. In these circumstances there is an excellent opportunity for the Democrats to name Senator Mason's successor. If it were positively known that a democratic-Democrat like Alschuler, whose popularity throughout the state was demonstrated when he ran for governor two years ago, would be sent to the Senate if the legislature were Democratic, while Hopkins would be sent if it were Republican, there is every reason to believe that the Hopkins machine, which captured the Republican state convention by "boodle" and ballot-

box stuffing, would be demolished at the polls.

A wonderful meeting was held at All Souls' church, New York, early in April. Thomas L. James presided, and Walter S. Logan, Recorder Goff, and that redoubtable spiritual knight of the unspiritual sword, the Rev. Dr. MacArthur, all spoke. They discussed a great theme—"the thought of the past, the thought of the present, the thought of the future, with reference to man's relation to his fellow man." Then, inflated with the idea of brotherhood, this meeting solemnly resolved in testimony thereof to erect "a monument to Philanthropy"! After that the meeting adjourned. The inscription on its proposed monument is to be a sentence about brotherhood, from the strenuous Mr. Roosevelt, who believes in making all men brothers even if he has to kill them to do it. A more appropriate inscription would be this: "A mountain labored and brought forth a mouse."

We regret that a misunderstanding of the circumstances led us into the error of saying last week (p. 67) that a constitutional initiative is to be voted on in Rhode Island at the next general election. Such an amendment was before the general assembly of the state, but the Republican members made opposition to it a party measure and defeated its passage in both houses. The question of submitting such an amendment, and not its adoption, is therefore likely to be the leading issue before the people at the November election.

PUT YOURSELF IN HIS PLACE.

To be self-centered is the original condition of mankind. The infant knows of nothing and cares for nothing but self. And this original condition is never wholly eradicated even from the most altruistic characters. Each of us is to his own imagination always the central sun around which everything else revolves.

So essential to our sanity is this in-born habit of looking out from our-