

# The Public

Third Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1900.

Number 119.

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Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post-office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last column of last page.

It appears from the reports of the British press regarding British war office contracts that Joe Chamberlain has a brother whose name ought to be Abner.

In their published interviews, Mr. McKinley's supporters express their disapproval of the Kansas City platform and nominations with welcome unanimity.

The prosperity touter finds his occupation an onerous one. All his whistling is up the wind. This is because the public is beginning to realize that there is no prosperity and has been none except for the beneficiaries of special privileges.

What a satire upon liberty it must have been, that Fourth of July celebration at Manila. Flags were displayed, patriotic songs were sung, and patriotic speeches were delivered. Even the declaration of independence was read. And that part of it, too, which asserts that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed!

Dispatches from the Transvaal say that Lord Roberts is distributing seed to the impoverished Boer farmers. This will doubtless be cited as an instance of magnanimity on the part of a victor. It is a very queer sort of magnanimity that robs a people of independence and then offers them seed-corn. But then it is so much easier and pleasanter to be "magnanimous" and "generous" and "benevolent" than to be plainly and simply just.

If the making of unnecessary noise

in public places is a characteristic of savagery, as has been plausibly argued, then Chicago is about to take a step in the direction of civilization. The corporation counsel has drawn an ordinance forbidding all needless noises within the city limits. Should this ordinance be adopted and enforced, there would be no more shouting of wares for sale in the early morning or late evening, no more creaking wheels making excruciating music upon the streets, no more jangling of loosely loaded iron rails upon trucks, no more yelling and whooping and screaming at midnight with intent to notify sleeping people that the disturbers are still awake. It is to be hoped that the ordinance may pass, and that it may be followed by a wider extension of noiseless pavements and the general adoption of rubber tires for vehicles. But as the mayor proclaims his preference for street noises, as testimonials to the urban character of Chicago, this is too much to hope for.

The seriousness of the situation, both in the Philippines and in South Africa, may be better inferred from what the American and the British generals, respectively, say of the possibility of sparing men for China, than from the censored reports of the progress they are making. Lord Roberts assures the British war department that he cannot possibly spare 10,000 men from the seat of war in South Africa, and Gen. MacArthur is equally sure that he cannot spare more than the regiment which has already been taken from him in the Philippines. If the little brown men of the Philippine archipelago and the Boers of South Africa, even after they are defeated, can thus monopolize the attention of over a quarter of a million soldiers, what hope is there for the armies of Europe

in a country like China, with its 400,000,000 outraged and angered population?

Why shouldn't the United States look with favor upon the Swiss agitation for annexation? Time was when the great distance of Switzerland from this country, and the fact that it is neither part of the American continent nor an adjacent island, would have been a conclusive objection. But that objection loses its force, now that we seek to annex territory which is separated from the continent by leagues upon leagues of ocean. Every possible objection that would apply to the annexation of Switzerland applies to the annexation of the Philippines; and there are circumstances besides, that make the annexation of Switzerland comparatively desirable. For one thing, Switzerland, if she adopted the Swiss proposal of annexation, would not have to be conquered. For another, she could be at once admitted as a state in the union. Though this would be expansion, it would not be imperialism. Of course, we might have to fight her European neighbors; but from the Rooseveltian point of view, that would be a favorable consideration. War with European powers would foster the strenuous life among our young men much better than the slaughter of little brown fellows like rabbits in a corral.

The notorious "Tammany hall" in New York, under the boss-ship of Richard Croker, is dishonored with a weak imitation in the "City hall" of Chicago, under the boss-ship of Carter Harrison. Neither of these political combines cares a picayune for political principle. Each is in very truth an organized appetite. Local office spoils, city contracts, and other money-making advantages of polit-

ical power, are the aim and object of both. If New York were a republican city, "Tammany hall" would be a republican organization and Croker a republican leader. Hanna would never have been heard of outside of Cleveland. If Chicago were a republican city, the "City hall" would be a republican organization and Harrison a republican heeler. As it is, both "Tammany hall" in New York, and the "City hall" in Chicago, must profess to be democratic. Otherwise they could not get at the spoils. It is not strange, in these circumstances, that Harrison's "City hall" and Croker's "Tammany hall" work in harmony. Certain kinds of affiliation are natural. Nor will it be remarkable if both try to wreck the presidential ticket, since neither can benefit by its election and both may find local advantage in compassing its defeat. The disposition to do this will be in no degree weakened by the fact that Croker and Harrison were alike "turned down" at Kansas City. Croker was completely balked at every turn by Hill, very much to his own discomfiture and Hill's advantage; while Harrison was rebuked by the nomination of Stevenson, and, though nominal leader of the Illinois delegation, was overshadowed by Altgeld.

It was through the manipulation of the Harrison faction—the "City hall" of Chicago politics—that Stevenson had been humiliated at the Springfield convention in June. Stevenson's career in national politics and his standing in the state made him an eminently appropriate candidate for delegate at large to the national convention; but "peanut" politics prevailed, and a Chicago criminal lawyer, with no political standing or record, was made a delegate at large, while Stevenson was pushed into the position of alternate. But without the slightest effort on his part, and equally without any on the part of the Harrison faction, Stevenson, whom the "peanut" machine had rejected as a delegate, became the party candidate for vice president. This

is one of the incidents which goes to show how utterly weak Mr. Harrison is when he gets beyond the influence of the city appointments and contracts which he controls in Chicago.

Another incident in this line was connected with the presence of Altgeld at the national convention. Altgeld stood no more chance of being sent from Chicago to either the state or the national convention than Thomas Jefferson would if he had been here. Harrison's "City hall" machine, with its appointments and contracts, controlled the local conventions. But when Altgeld appeared at the state convention the calls for him were too spontaneous and enthusiastic to be ignored. He was invited to the platform where he delivered a speech which made it impossible for any of Bryan's secret enemies to frustrate a vote of instructions for Bryan. From the state convention Altgeld went, still as a private member of the party, to the national convention at Kansas City. He arrived in good time to prevent something worse than a blunder. Harrison, as the head of the Illinois delegation, had almost upset the arrangement of Bryan's friends to make Gov. Thomas temporary presiding officer; but Altgeld, almost with a wave of the hand, brushed Harrison aside and saved this important position from going from Thomas to Rose of Milwaukee. From that moment Harrison was a nonentity at Kansas City. In spite of his expectation that Altgeld would view the Kansas City convention from the gallery, if at all, Altgeld was the first person not a delegate to be invited to address the convention from the platform. Though the convention was very largely composed of politicians of the Harrison order, it was not insensible to the overshadowing qualities of superior men; and it was evident at Kansas City that Altgeld, however short he might be of the support of "peanut" politicians in Chicago, is the one great national character of Illinois in the democratic party.

In the gold democratic movement four years ago there were two types of men. Both believed in the gold standard. Both had economic reasons for their belief. But whereas the men of one type, being plutocrats as well as economists, found themselves at home in association with the McKinley-Hanna outfit, men of the other type, being essentially democrats, were drawn away from the democracy only by their economic convictions. Where these two types of gold democrats will be found in the coming campaign it is easy to conjecture. The plutocratic type will support McKinley, while the democratic type will support Bryan. An example of the way in which the latter looks upon the present situation is afforded by Edward J. Shriver, a well-known single tax man of the east, who broke away from most of the single tax men of the country four years ago because he could not reconcile "16 to 1" with his economic conscience. We quote from Mr. Shriver's letter:

For the sake of whatever slight influence it may have, in view of my having exerted myself among single taxers against Bryan in 1896, may I ask you to register my intention to vote for him this year, and that most willingly? By doing this I do not wish to recant my views in any way on the money question, nor my opinion that the 16 to 1 proposition is a distinctly paternalistic one to which as a single taxer it would be impossible for me to subscribe; but even were it to become an issue this year, which I do not believe possible, it seems to me that the present danger to the very fundamentals of republican institutions is too great, and the corruption of the present administration too disgraceful, for anyone who believes in abstract democracy or common decency to regard anything else. I should be willing to set aside even my interest in the single tax for the more pressing emergency. As a gold democrat, moreover, I consider that the silver democrats have conceded to us in the Kansas City platform all that we have a right to ask, and that when they invite us to join them in the "paramount issue" where we agree, it would be petty in us to deny them the privilege of reasserting their convictions on other points, however wrong we may still deem those to be.

It would have been impossible for