

tion of Independence was only a "nursery rhyme sung round the cradle of our nation's childhood;" that government by consent of the governed has been outgrown. It behooves all, without regard to race, color or previous condition of party servitude or affiliation, who would call a halt to this declension into the mire of absolutism, who would render any and all real governmental progress possible by preserving the very foundation of all just government, who would conserve the greatest and most sacred political achievements of the past, to support William Jennings Bryan and the democracy of to-day, the party of true conservatism and therefore of true progress.

We have not sailed past the north star of free government. The pilot who is now at the helm has gone to sleep, under the influence of the soporifics which the trusts have rained down upon him; and our ship of state has veered and drifted round until that changeless star hangs over our ship's stern. But by our faith in the American people, there will be a new hand at the helm the 4th of next March, and our ship of state will be swung around and headed for the pole star again. We shall thenceforth sail securely, keeping ever in plain sight, right in front of us, that eternal and immutable star of liberty.

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NEWS

The coal miners' strike in the Pennsylvania anthracite region, which was supposed last week to have been settled, still drags along in full force. The first hitch was in connection with the price of powder. It has long been the custom for the employers to charge their men \$2.75 a keg for powder which costs in the open market \$1.50. This extortion was one of the complaints of the strikers. The settlement was delayed, therefore, when the employers, after accepting the terms of compromise proposed by the Scranton labor convention and reported in these columns last week—namely, a ten per cent. advance in wages to be continued until next April—notified the strikers that the advance in wages would be given partly through a reduction in the price of powder from the old rates to

the market rate. The net result of this modification would have been hardly an advance in wages at all. Or, more accurately, it would have amounted to a reduction of the exorbitant price for powder without increase of wages, or to an increase of wages without reduction in the exorbitant price of powder, according to which form of statement might be preferred. President Mitchell refused to call off the strike upon those terms. It would now appear, however, from the very imperfect press reports, that the powder question has been satisfactorily adjusted, and that the strike continues only because all the employers have not yet accepted the terms of the Scranton convention. On the 24th the owners of mines producing about 75 per cent. of the total output had accepted; the others had not then been heard from.

Last week's political news closed with the departure of Mr. Bryan from New York city, after he had excited most enthusiastic demonstrations there, upon a campaign tour through New York state. After meeting with extraordinary receptions at every point, he jumped over into West Virginia and thence into Maryland whence he will return to New York through Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and will devote the latter part of next week to Chicago.

Gov. Roosevelt has been following in Bryan's wake, making vituperative attacks upon him, charging him, among other things with hypocrisy. Gov. Roosevelt's methods were adopted also by Senator Hanna in his speech-making campaign. At Lincoln, Neb., on the 19th, he said, as reported on the 20th by the Chicago Times-Herald, a McKinley organ:

I am here in Mr. Bryan's own town to hurl back in his teeth the slanders he has uttered against me and to tell him they are false as hell. I am here to tell his neighbors that a man who circulates such slanders against another man as he has circulated against me shows no conception of the dignity of the office to which he aspires. Such a man is not fit to be a constable.

What the slanders were to which Mr. Hanna alluded did not transpire, and the reports of Bryan's speeches fail to reveal any.

President McKinley arrived at Canton on the 23d, where he intends to remain until he votes on the 6th. He has decided to decline invitations

to political demonstrations at New York and Chicago, but it is expected that he will send letters embodying political sentiments.

On the 27th there is to be a monster McKinley parade in Chicago. The democrats of Chicago will parade on the 3d, with Bryan to review them. Chairman Jones, of the democratic national committee, has proclaimed the 27th as Flag day, when supporters of Bryan and Stevenson throughout the country are to display portraits of the candidates and the American flag, and to hold meetings in their honor.

The new territory of Hawaii is having its first experience in American politics. The registration of territorial voters, which closed on the 9th, was reported at San Francisco on the 18th. For the district of Oahu the number registered was 5,891. Returns had not been received from the other districts, but it was estimated that the registration for the district of Hawaii would amount to 3,000; for Maui, 2,000, and for Kauai, 1,000. Both the democratic and the republican parties have done active electioneering to secure the native vote; but the natives are suspicious, and have nominated a ticket of their own.

The question of the constitution and the flag has twice come up in this territory before the supreme court, and in each case a diametrically different decision has been made. In one case the court held that immediately upon the cession of the islands to the United States, the constitution of the United States, with all its guarantees for the protection of life, liberty and property was in force. In the other case the court held that the constitution did not apply to the territory until extended by act of congress. Both cases were upon indictments for criminal libel. The indictments had not been found by a grand jury, and convictions were obtained by a verdict of ten jurors out of twelve. This contravenes the provisions of the constitution. In one case the conviction was sustained, the constitution being held to apply. In the other the conviction was reversed, the constitution being disregarded. The chief justice held in both cases that the constitution follows the flag. But whereas in one case one of his two associates agreed with him while the other opposed, in the other case