

1892. Even the Southern State of Tennessee had only 6 in a delegation of 10 in 1894, while Missouri had only 4 in a delegation of 15. The Senate, too, was changed from Democratic to Republican. In the Congress which followed the elections of 1894 there were only 39 Democratic Senators to 42 Republicans; whereas in the Congress following the elections of 1892 there had been 44 Democratic Senators to only 36 Republicans. Things Democratic grew steadily worse, until in the Spring of 1896 the Democratic nomination for President went a-begging. Excepting the impossible Hill, none of the old "available" nor the new "possibilities" wanted it. Utter defeat for the Democratic party was regarded as inevitable by the leaders on both sides. Such was the hopeless condition of the party when Bryan was unexpectedly put forward to save it from dropping out of the political arena or into a scarcely concealed alliance with the Republicans. At once its prospects revived, and in spite of Cleveland's going over to McKinley's support, it continued to regain strength. Under the circumstances success was impossible. But the heaviest load it had to carry through it all, was not "Bryanism", but the unpopularity of the Cleveland administration. Outside of financial circles that was the tune which the Republican orators sung, and that, together with Hanna's corruption fund, was the cause of Bryan's defeat. Yet the popular vote for Bryan in 1896 was larger than that for Cleveland in 1892 by 946,007. His proportion of the total vote was 46.7 per cent., whereas Cleveland's in 1892 was only 46.08—Bryan's being larger by two-thirds of 1 per cent. In harmony with this result was the change in the Democratic representation in the lower House of Congress. From a total of only 93 elected in the last Cleveland year (1894) the Democratic representation was raised in the first Bryan year (1896) to 130, and the Republican majority reduced from 74 to 24; while in the second Bryan year (1900), the

Democratic representation was raised to 153 and the Republican majority reduced to 20. The number of Democrats in the California delegation was increased from 1 in 1894 to 2 in 1896, though both were lost in 1900; that of the Illinois delegation from none in 1894 to 5 in 1896, and 11 in 1900; that of the Indiana delegation from none in 1894 to 4 in 1896 and the gain held in 1900; that of Kansas from none in 1894 to 1 in 1900; that of Massachusetts from 1 in 1894 to 2 in 1896 and 3 in 1900; that of Michigan from none in 1894 to 1 in 1896, which, however, was lost in 1900; that of New York from 5 in 1894 to 6 in 1896 and 12 in 1900; that of Ohio from 2 in 1894 to 6 in 1896, but reduced to 4 in 1900; that of Nebraska from none in 1894 to 2 in 1900; and that of New Jersey from none in 1894 and 1896 to 2 in 1900. The Democratic delegation from Tennessee rose from 6 in 1894 to 8 in 1896, remaining at 8 in 1900, and that from Missouri from 4 in 1894 to 12 in 1896 and 13 in 1900.

The merit system in the civil service, as "she is practiced" by the Roosevelt administration, has received a new illustration from Fairhope, the single tax colony of Alabama. The post office for that colony was established in 1895 and the founder of the colony was made postmaster, a place he has held without interruption ever since. As the new post office was then and is now especially for the accommodation of the colony, the selection for postmaster was a proper one, and the incumbent should have been continued in office during good behavior and while satisfactory to the colonists. This, at any rate, is the idea which the administration professes to hold. But profession and practice are different things in politics as well as religion, as the Fairhope colonists have learned. Though the incumbent was a satisfactory postmaster he was not a satisfactory Republican, while the colonists themselves are altogether unsatisfactory to a lot

of land speculators who own tracts on the outskirts of the colony. Hence the change in postmasters.

Since this colony offers sites for homes and business to all comers, on condition only of paying ground rent in proportion to the value of their sites respectively, and with exemption from all other taxes that can be distinguished as such, the surrounding land does not rise in value with the expansion of prosperity. This is the quite natural cause of the dissatisfaction among the land speculators at whose instance the colony has now been not only deprived of a faithful postmaster, but forced to take a successor from outside. One instance like this would not be enough to make President Roosevelt responsible for disregard of sound civil service principles. He might easily be ignorant of the circumstances. But when all instances are taken together, from the appointment of a spoilsman at the head of the department on down to the arbitrary removal of the postmaster at Fairhope, Mr. Roosevelt's sincerity with reference to the merit system in the public service cannot be excused upon the plea of ignorance.

The appellate court in Cincinnati has made a decision in a street car case which bears with great heaviness upon the "widows and orphans" who own the watered stock of street car companies. The circumstances are interesting—pleasantly so, except to the "widows and orphans." The street car monopoly of Cincinnati had acquired a 50-year renewal of franchises under the infamous "Rogers law;" and this law, having been held to be unconstitutional, the Republican "gang" in the Ohio legislature, under orders from Foraker, Hanna, Coxe, et al., rushed a "curative" clause into the new municipal code. This curative clause assumed to make invalid grants valid. But the Cincinnati court seems to have been constituted when "Boss" Coxe