

makes any pretense to respectability express satisfaction with that situation? Is such a paper worthy of the confidence of the common people? Will such a paper long enjoy the support of the common people? No. The common people are fast coming to understand that they are justly entitled to such share of "prosperity" as they would be able to secure under conditions of free competition in the entire field of private enterprise. They are coming to realize the fact that when the prevalence of unexampled prosperity is not concretely reflected in their own condition the reason for it lies in the irresistible power of private monopoly to capture the greater part of the increasing products of the world's industries. Realizing this, it will not be long till they will come to perceive the fact that the newspaper that preaches contentment with the condition is at enmity with the people, and that the most immediate and effective step in self-defense is to withdraw support from such papers and transfer it to papers which, instead of laboriously correlating statistics to prove that the common people are not entirely forestalled in the hocus pocus of distribution, point to their meager share in the prosperity of the country as incontrovertible evidence of economic misbalance, so extreme in degree as to menace the stability of business, and, for that reason, if for no other, absolutely intolerable. The newspaper that seeks to quiet popular discontent with inequitable conditions is in no better business than the "nigger on the safety-valve." There is only this principal difference, that in the latter case the resultant explosion may destroy but a hundred lives, while in the former a whole nation must suffer the devastation of ruined industries, wrecked fortunes, blighted hopes, and all the train of ills that follow a "lean" year or a deliberate conspiracy of the kings of mammon to wreck the market for the furtherance of their selfish ends.

Centralized power is always dangerous. There is no safety but in equality of opportunity, leading to universal affluence. And while the tendency to pile up unlimited wealth in few hands continues, the moral duty of every man or institution of influence is to intelligently countervail that tendency by seeking out and removing its cause.

EDWARD HOWELL PUTNAM.

I cannot occupy the bleakest crag of the White Hills, or the Allegheny Range, but some man or corporation steps up to me to show me that it is his.—Emerson.

## NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Wednesday, September 12.

### The Maine Election.

Maine is one of the few States in which elections are held in advance of the general elections of other States. It has therefore long been regarded as a barometer of political conditions. For this reason the election there on the 10th was especially important as foreshadowing results elsewhere in November. The Republican candidate for governor, William T. Cobb (p. 320), was elected by a plurality of about 8,000, in a total vote of about 135,000. Gov. Cobb was elected two years ago by a plurality of 25,800 in a total of 129,714—a falling off in plurality of about 17,000.

National interest in the election this year turned largely upon the candidacy of Congressman Chas. E. Littlefield for re-election in the second district. His hostility in Congress to organized labor had made him the principal object of attack by the American Federation of Labor (p. 465), and to aid him the strongest Republican campaigners went into his district, including Speaker Cannon, Secretary Taft, Senator Lodge, and Senator Beveridge. He has been re-elected by about 1,134 plurality in a total vote of 33,508. Two years ago he was elected by a plurality of 5,419 in a total vote of 33,524. His loss in plurality this year, therefore, is over 4,000.

### New York Politics.

The opening of the New York campaign began on the 11th with the assembling at New York City of the State convention of the Independence League (pp. 439, 457), of which William Randolph Hearst is the founder. Judge Samuel J. Seabury was elected permanent chairman. No nominations were made on the 11th, but the convention decided against fusion with the Democrats and in favor of the nomination of a full State ticket, Mr. Hearst himself taking the lead in this demand. Before adjournment on the 11th a platform was adopted which condemned the cheating of Mr. Hearst out of his election as mayor of New York as having "raised an issue upon the right decision of which depends the preservation of the fundamental principle of American government." The platform demands—

A revision of the present dishonest and complex election law, a simplified ballot, and a law providing for a recount in cases of fraud or mistake in terms so plain and mandatory that they can neither be disregarded nor circumvented in the courts. A measure stripping the attorney general of discretionary power in quo warranto

proceedings to test the title to an office in dispute, and measures facilitating independent nominations, providing for the selection by popular vote of candidates for the United States Senate, an effective corrupt-practices act, and provision for direct nominations. Honest life insurance and a safe banking system. Legislation that will increase both the civil and criminal responsibility of directors of banks, trust companies, building and loan associations and public service corporations, not only for malfeasance in office but for neglect in office. Administration of the franchise law (under which the great public service corporations now evade full taxation), through a fair and faithful tax commission, so that every public service corporation shall pay taxes upon the full value of its franchise. Complete reorganization of the railroad commission, now the creature of a governor who is the creature of the corporations. A searching investigation of every department. The principle of the eight-hour day in American government, national, State and local, as a good example to employers, and strict enforcement of the eight-hour day with the prevailing rate of wages as provided by law in public contracts and in public work, and the child-labor law, the compulsory education law, the act relating to contract prison labor, together with the laws requiring sanitary inspection of all mines, tunnels, workshops and dwellings. Restoration of the three-platoon system to the policemen of Greater New York and the extension of the benefits of the system to all other cities in the State. The same right of appeal to the patrolmen of all cities in the State now effective in the cities of New York and Buffalo, and accompanying this reform reduction of the hours of firemen and improvement of the conditions of the underpaid, ill-treated street cleaning force in Greater New York. Enforcement of the pure food law, liberal appropriations for educational purposes, adequate salaries and a pension system for teachers, suitable accommodations for all children in the public schools and an end to the annual scandal of turning thousands of children into the streets for lack of proper school provision for them. Honesty in public service, the rule of the majority, equality before the law, regard for the welfare of the whole people, independence in politics, opportunity in business, freedom of government from the grip of corporation control.

On the general principle of public ownership, the platform declares the belief of the Independence League in the—

public ownership of public utilities that are natural monopolies. Holding that no person or corporation is privileged to confiscate what rightfully belongs to another, it stands for irreconcilable hostility to appropriations by corporations of franchise values created by the community and belonging to the community. Respect for local rights and home rule should authorize the enactment of a statute empowering all cities to acquire and operate public necessities.

In support of these principles the League asks "the co-operation of all patriotic citizens and of all political organizations in sympathy with their practical enforcement."

+ +

#### Sullivan's Reply to Bryan.

In reply to William J. Bryan's declaration at the Jefferson Club dinner at Chicago (p. 538) with reference to Roger C. Sullivan's membership in the Democratic national committee, Mr. Sullivan issued a statement on the 7th in which he expresses regret that Mr. Bryan should have done this, as he "would regret any incident or circumstance tending toward discord in the Democratic party," but in so far as the mat-

ter is personal he declares that he welcomes the issue. Continuing, he says:

I was born a Democrat. . . . I was a Democrat when Mr. Bryan was a Populist in Nebraska. . . . Mr. Bryan has said by innuendo that I, as an official of the Ogden Gas Company of Chicago, have secured government favor and profit by illegal or corrupt means. He did not dare say so in direct statement. He is now a man of property and for such a slander I would have my remedy: Let Mr. Bryan and his "purifiers" of politics understand in this connection that I, too, am a man of some property. If I utter slander on him or them the courts are open to them. Mr. Bryan hangs on my connection with the Ogden Gas Company, as if that connection were disreputable. The public press will show that the only offense this corporation ever committed was to reduce the price of gas. It was brought into existence by a demand for cheaper gas. It gave its customers for 90 cents what they had been paying \$1.10 for. It agreed to pay and did pay the City of Chicago 3½ per cent compensation on its gross receipts. It was the first public service corporation in Chicago or in Illinois that ever paid anything like such compensation. . . . The very first paragraph in Mr. Bryan's speech on me and on "the Illinois situation" contains a deliberate untruth. Practically every succeeding paragraph contains either a deliberate untruth or an equivocation of the kind that we expect only from the shifty, word-juggling pettifogger. . . . He insinuates that I make money out of politics and that his sincerity therefore compels him to oppose my participation in Democratic affairs. The plain inference is that Mr. Bryan thinks it wrong to make money out of politics. This boast of his puts the stamp of insincerity all over him. If Mr. Bryan thinks it wrong to make money out of politics he should quit making money. Mr. Bryan has not \$1 that he ever made out of anything but politics. He tried to be a lawyer; he was a failure at it. He tried to be a newspaper editor; he was a failure at that. He is now a man of property. As fortunes go, he is a rich man. He has made every dollar of his fortune out of politics as a stepping stone to the lecture platform. Mr. Bryan discovered many years ago that he could make his political prominence pay. He is a shrewd advertiser and in his way a clever business man. He has discovered that so long as he is a candidate for President and a possible nominee, gifted with the ability to weave flowing sentences into well rounded periods, the public will come to see and hear him at so much a head. He is in politics because it helps the gate receipts. Like the actresses who have discarded the stolen diamond dodge for the greater publicity of a divorce suit, Mr. Bryan will quit running for President and will quit politics just as soon as he discovers that some other form of advertising will bring more dollars to the box office when he is announced to appear on the stage.

+ +

#### The Cuban Insurrection.

War wages more fiercely in Cuba (p. 538). An attempted armistice proved inoperative, as Colonel Pino Guerra (p. 512), the most energetic of the insurgent leaders, would not discontinue fighting. The insurgents were reported on the 6th as winning three battles. On the 8th President Palma issued a call for a special session of the Cuban Congress to convene Sept. 14. On the 9th Colonel Guerra was reported as having been at least temporarily checked in his victorious march across the province of Pinar del Rio, by General Pedro Diaz. On the 10th President Palma suspended all constitutional guarantees in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana and Santa Clara, and what is equivalent to martial law was put into effect in these provinces. Following these orders