

cessful resistance in war or peaceful negotiations with plutocratic profit for their objective, will cause the United States to abandon the Monroe doctrine.

That some such negotiations are contemplated, under cover of the child's-play ceremonial of the naming of a German royal yacht by the daughter of an American republican president, is a fair inference. Such suspicion is at any rate abroad in Germany. The present German ministry is in the hands of capitalists who organized the reaction against the young kaiser's factory legislation, during the early nineties. Many of them are heavy holders of colonial investments. Their interests and needs are of the same kind as those of the capitalists now wielding power in Washington, and it is suspected that the visit of Prince Henry to President Roosevelt will result in an "understanding between statesmen" about South American affairs. Such arrangements are believed to be probable as will enable the German capitalists to push their South American schemes without restriction, while the sacredness of the Monroe doctrine is preserved on paper for purposes of domestic politics. The German suspicions—expectations or hopes would probably be a better word—may not be without a basis in fact. When potentates play with the vanity of presidents, it is not unreasonable to suppose that they are not seeking exercise merely nor are solicitous alone for their health.

An enormous work and a valuable service have been performed by Daniel Cruice, Thomas G. McElligott and W. J. Sullivan and their associates, in Chicago, in securing a municipal petition from over 140,000 signers demanding a popular vote, under the Illinois advisory referendum, on three questions: (1) municipal ownership of street railroads; (2), municipal ownership of light and power; and (3), nominations of city officers at primary elections. This referendum law was enacted last winter. It allows an advisory vote in municipalities on any

question, upon the petition of 25 per cent. of the voters. The large percentage was inserted under plutocratic influence with the unconcealed intention of making the law practically inoperative. In this instance, the number necessary was 104,000, and but for the energy of the gentlemen named and their supporters, so huge a petition could not have been secured. Even with that the effort would probably have failed but for the timely and effective assistance of the Chicago American. All the other local dailies were either silent or obstructive. Since the filing of the petition some of them have tried to discredit it and to cause its rejection by picking out and making much of a few instances of false signatures made by practical jokers. But all opposition is likely to fall through and at next spring's municipal election the three questions outlined above will probably be voted on. A favorable vote will not be mandatory. Neither legislature nor council need pay any attention to it. But after the vote, if favorable, one of the objections to these reforms—alleged popular indifference or hostility—will have been knocked out of the fight.

Indications regarding the delegate conference of the People's party to be held at Topeka on the 21st are pointing more and more in the direction of an amalgamation in that state of the People's party with the Democratic party. As already explained in these columns (p. 660) the necessity for some such action is due to the ballot law recently enacted by the Republican legislature, which prevents fusion nominations. One of the strongest advocates of amalgamation is Annie L. Diggs, editor of the Topeka Advocate and widely known as state librarian of Kansas. She argues that—

events are now shaping (notably the conflict of the people of the northwestern states with the consolidating railway corporations) which in the near future will compel a national party to take an unequivocal position and fight the battle for the people as against the corporate powers. This position the national Republican party cannot

take, because it includes in its dominating membership men who desire the corporation side to win. The national Democratic party can, and will, unequivocally and aggressively espouse the people's side, unless its next national convention shall be recaptured by the men who dominated it before "Bryanism" came to the front. Right here is the great service which Kansas Populists might render to practical politics; they might, by uniting with Kansas Democrats, form so consequential and forceful a delegation to the national convention as to aid greatly in holding that body to the new Democracy and prevent Messrs. Hill, Cleveland et al from walking off with the situation. For should Kansas show her faith in the new Democracy, like action would follow in other states and reformers everywhere would take heart and enthrust with the effort to use the great national party machine, already constructed, for genuine reform and progressive politics.

That is good argument and good sense. It has the merit, moreover, of telling the whole story in the briefest possible compass. And this and other like arguments are having the effect of fostering the amalgamation sentiment among the rank and file of the People's party. Many of the delegates are coming up to Topeka instructed by their constituents to favor amalgamation with all the forces opposed to the Republican party in Kansas. One obstacle to this most important conclusion is the fact that prohibition is generally opposed by Kansas Democrats, whereas Kansas populists very generally favor it; but it is believed that this obstacle may be surmounted. Should the amalgamation be made, the Republicans will of course promote the organization of a bolting People's party—another "middle-of-the-road" contingent in Republican pay and service. But that need give the body of the party no serious concern. Investments of that kind by Republicans in the past, whether in Kansas or elsewhere, have not proved profitable to the investors.

"About this time look out for"—something; snow, or rain, or hail, or winds, according to the season. That was a familiar warning in the patent medicine almanacs of our youth. The