

amendments—of one of Allen Ripley Foote's pamphlets. It purported to have been "issued under auspices of the Catholic press and Catholic organizations of Ohio;" and it denounced most of the proposed amendments, including the one on woman suffrage. That this pamphlet failed of its purpose is evident from the vote. Although its denunciation of the Initiative and Referendum was as pronounced as its denunciation of woman suffrage, the former carried and the latter lost by majorities so large as to make it clear that none of this ecclesiastical influence was decisive as to either.



Penal Atrocities in Michigan.

Voters of Michigan who cherish the good name of their State should take advantage of the opportunity the coming election affords to disclaim in her behalf all responsibility for the atrocious prison management at Jackson. The reported circumstances of the recent revolt of convicts there, indicate that the fault lies with prison officials. Be that as it may, however, and regardless of what the conduct of the prisoners really was, it is a shame to any American State at the present stage of human progress to have that truly said of its prison discipline which appears in the following excerpts from Oscar E. Hewitt's report to the Chicago Tribune of the 6th. Quoting a militiaman, corroborated by a prison guard, Mr. Hewitt says:

The floggings today were administered to inmates of the east wing of the prison. Six were strapped this morning and three this afternoon, and I was told that as many more will follow tomorrow. A barrel was placed upon a ladder which lay flat upon the floor. Each victim was made to strip his back and lie with his face down across the barrel. About his wrists were placed handcuffs and his arms were stretched out in front and fastened to a round in the ladder. Leg irons were placed on his ankles and his feet were stretched out behind. A gag was placed in the mouth of every one except a big husky fellow who, I was told, works in the engine room as a stoker. Over those who had thin white skins a sheet was placed, while those with the thick yellow hides had to take it bare. With these preliminaries over, a bulky guard who lives here in Jackson started in to whale the victim. You can make it as horrible as you want to and you won't be exaggerating it much. Some convicts brought in were white with fright and could hardly talk. One fellow's lips quivered and his eyes bulged out like walnuts. A small fellow succeeded in wriggling the gag out of his mouth and he begged piteously for mercy. He promised anything that was asked of him if the man that was doing the whipping would only let up. But he had to take the full dose prescribed for him. Two fellows fainted and another fellow was limp when he was taken off the barrel.

Do the voters of Michigan stand for such infamous barbarity?



Accusing Congressman Buchanan.

If Congressmen Buchanan had in truth been culpably connected with the McNamaras, the fact would have been discovered prior to his campaign for re-election to Congress. Moreover, it doesn't fit in with his long and finally successful struggle against the Sam Parks "crowd" in his labor organization—a struggle in which Sam Parks got aid and comfort from the very steel-trust ring from which the charges against Buchanan emanate now. Evidently the objection to Buchanan, and the motive for these accusations against him, are not that he is a Labor criminal, as the accusations imply, but that he is an honest Congressman.



Presidential Possibilities.

"About this season," said the old almanacs, "begin to look for"—well, what should we look for at this particular season but estimates of the election results of two months hence? The first supply comes from the North American Review. Considered without emotion its estimate is not half bad. From the Wilson point of view, it must be highly satisfactory; and while it is altogether hopeless for Taft and Roosevelt, it is by no means bad for—whom do you think? For Sherman!



Yet the flaw is difficult to find, if there be a flaw, although the estimate may crack later on. Some say it is full of flaws already, but the weather is still warm. Here is the estimate:

Wilson: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.—Total Electoral vote, 290.

Taft: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Wisconsin.—Total Electoral vote, 156.

Roosevelt: California, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.—Total Electoral vote, 63.

Uncertain: Maine, Nebraska, New Mexico, Rhode Island.—Total Electoral vote, 22.



As the number of Electoral votes necessary to a choice is 266, the above estimate leaves Wilson 24 to spare. New York is therefore the only single State credited to him which, by disappointing that expectation, would deprive him of his

majority. The loss of Ohio would not be enough in itself. It would take almost a miracle, as matters now look, to deprive Wilson of the majority given him in the estimate; and the election of either Roosevelt or Taft by the Electoral College is well out of the jurisdiction even of miracles. The fight is not between Wilson and Roosevelt, as Roosevelt's speeches have it; nor between Wilson and Taft. It is between Wilson and the present Vice President, Mr. Sherman. How so? By no reasonable probability can either Taft or Roosevelt get a majority of the Electoral College, whatever happens to Wilson. This must be conceded by anyone who scans the foregoing estimate. But Wilson's loss in the Wilson list above, of New York, or of Indiana and New Jersey, or of Ohio and any other State, would relegate the selection of the next President to the present House, where the vote would be not by members but by State delegations. As the House is equally divided politically, the *North American Review* fairly concludes that the new Vice President would become President on the 4th of March; and that in all probability, under those circumstances, the new Vice President, and therefore the next President, would be James S. Sherman. Its reasons for the latter part of that conclusion are that under the Constitution the Senate would choose the Vice President if the Electoral College did not, that it would be restricted in its choice to Marshall and Sherman, and that the Republicans would probably be strong enough to choose Sherman.



Vermont and the Progressive Party.

Out of its baptism of ballots at the State election in Vermont last week, the Progressive Party came with fair assurance of reality as a party. To be sure, it was only third; it should have been second if it is to count for more than a Republican "bolt." But it was a big third. If it had come out of the Maine election this week with as good an account of itself, it would have won its spurs; but as it had no candidates in Maine, its vote merged with the Republican party. There is reason to believe that the Maine election is prophetic in that respect of the future of the Progressive Party.



THE DECADENCE OF AMERICAN SHIPPING.

Has any one marked, in these days of spread-eagling, the pathetic silence of the Protectionist regarding our shipping? The American ship bids fair to have a summing up as brief as that of the

famous chapter on the snakes of Ireland. It may be recalled that the chapter in question consisted of six words: "There are no snakes in Ireland."

What calamitous circumstance could have brought American shipping to this pass?



Time was, and that too within the memory of men now living, when our flag was to be seen upon every sea; and its presence proclaimed the largest, the fastest, and the best ships. As far back as 1800, when the nation was scarce out of its swaddling clothes, the flag covered a tonnage of 970,000 tons, while the British scarcely doubled it with 1,856,000. The Americans steadily gained on the mother country till, in 1860, our shipping amounted to 5,350,000 tons, while that of Great Britain, including her colonies, was barely 5,713,000.

With what pride does the American school boy scan the figures! And how eagerly does he turn to the next decade to see his country's flag the first in all the world!

Alas, for those who pin their faith to Protective tariffs! And woe unto them who would lift themselves over the fence by pulling on their boot-straps! American shipping had reached its zenith, and started on its decline.

In 1888 it had fallen to 4,310,000 tons—less, actually, than thirty years before—while the British tonnage had mounted to 9,050,000.

Even those figures do not convey the full truth. for part of the tonnage was steam, and as steamers can make quicker voyages they are reckoned at a higher carrying capacity. America in 1860 had steam tonnage to the amount of 870,000 tons, while England had only 502,000; which made the actual carrying power of the two countries in that year—America 7,960,000; Great Britain 7,219,000. The American flag really covered more commerce than did the English flag.

Since 1888 American tonnage has increased somewhat, owing to our coasting trade. The law forbids any foreign ship from carrying freight or passengers from one port in the United States to another port in the United States, so that there are more ships in that trade now than formerly. But in our overseas trade, or foreign commerce, our shipping has dwindled from 2,379,396 tons in 1860, to 863,495 in 1911, while our foreign commerce in the same period increased from \$689,192,176 to \$3,576,546,304. In other words, our shipping decreased to one-third while our trade increased five fold.



Let it be viewed from another point.