

struct and acquire by purchase such public service utilities as they may deem proper."

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#### President Roosevelt and Another Term.

One of the delegates from New York to the Republican convention of 1856, recently wrote to President Roosevelt asking if he intends being a candidate for re-election in 1908. Following is the reply he received:

White House, Washington, D. C., June 21, 1906.—My Dear Mr. Conant: The President thanks you for your letter of the 17th inst., and cordially appreciates your kind expressions concerning himself. He says, however, that you will have to vote for some other Republican candidate next time. Wm. Loeb, Jr., Secretary to the President.

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#### Adjournment of Congress.

The deadlock in Congress (p. 299) came to an end on the 30th, and Congress adjourned for the session after passing the pure food bill, the railroad rate bill and the meat inspection bill.

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The pure food bill prohibits the manufacture, sale, delivery for shipment, or introduction into any State or Territory or the District of Columbia of adulterated, misbranded, poisonous, or deleterious foods, drugs, medicines, or liquors. The railroad rate bill requires all interstate carriers to make through routes and reasonable joint rates. It makes oil pipe line companies, express companies, and sleeping car companies common carriers and subject to the law. Railways are forbidden engaging in any other business than transportation, but pipe lines are excluded from this prohibition. It requires publication of all rates, fares, or charges, and forbids changes save on thirty days' notice. Jurisdiction is conferred upon the Interstate Commerce Commission to hear complaints, and to fix rates, subject to review by the courts. The meat inspection bill requires Federal inspection at the expense of the government.

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Senator Tillman vigorously attacked the discrimination in favor of the Standard Oil Co. in the railroad rate bill. He refused for this reason to sign the conference report. In his speech on the floor of the Senate, he said:

I shall vote for this report, because conditions are such that either the opportunity will be denied to me of being counted in favor of the railroad rate bill, or I must agree to this report. It is an unpleasant predicament to be in. But this is what I consider an outrageous provision to be forced into this bill by this infamous monopoly. I may be in error; I am not infallible; but I simply believe that, and I have a great many facts to back me in arriving at that conclusion. I have protested by refusing to sign it twice; I have protested on the floor of the Senate, and I believe if we could get a separate vote on this provision alone a majority of the Senate would stand with me in opposition to this change which the House conferees have demanded of us. But that can not be had without rejecting the whole report, and then it would be difficult to get instructions in regard to this change by the Senate, if the Senate should deem it worth while. Therefore, the adoption of the report, which will be the completion of the legislative procedure in enacting this law, is all that remains, and I want to say just two or three things in regard to the Standard Oil and its influence. It will be recalled that, after three or four months of strenuous fighting here between the

contending forces, about the time the Allison amendment was incubating and a vote had been agreed upon on the rate bill, a great hurrah and furor in the papers were made about the Garfield report and about the Standard Oil Company and its iniquitous methods, and we were told that the exposure of the crimes of that great monopoly would help the vote on the rate bill against the railroad view of it. And under cover of this great noise the President retired from the advanced position which he had maintained for the last two years in regard to the rate fixed by the Commission remaining in force until reversed in the courts, and he accepted the Allison amendment. The big stick and the pitchfork, which had been in alliance, or at least fighting together, then separated. The pitchfork, while on duty on the firing line, to use a military phrase, looking around for the ally, saw the tail of his coat hustling to the rear, and, to use a baseball phrase, the last seen of him he was sliding toward the Allison base, trying, like baseball players, to reach the home base. The President surrendered. I have given him credit for what we do get, because but for him we would have had no bill at all. It is a sad thought to me, his complacency. I do not know what caused this strange change which keeps him silent. Of course he has had nothing to do with this idea of the Senate in regard to the divorcing of production and transportation. But it is a little remarkable that just when he might do something toward thwarting the policy of this gigantic monopoly to control the entire oil industry of the United States, when he might exercise some of that wonderful power which every man recognizes by saying, "I want the Senate provision in regard to the Standard Oil Company left alone," he is as mum as a mouse.

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At the close of the Congressional session President Roosevelt issued the following signed statement:

In the session that has just closed the Congress has done more substantive work for good than any Congress has done at any session since I became familiar with public affairs. The legislation has been along the lines of real constructive statesmanship of the most practical and efficient type, and bill after bill has been enacted into law which was of an importance so great that it is fair to say that the enactment of any one of them alone would have made the session memorable; such, for instance, as the railroad rate bill, the meat inspection measure, the pure food bill, the bill for free alcohol in the arts, the consular reform bill, Panama canal legislation, the joint Statehood bill, and the naturalization bill. I certainly have no disposition to blink at what there is of evil in our social, industrial, or political life of to-day, but it seems to me that the men of genuine patriotism who genuinely wish well to their country, have the right to feel a profound satisfaction in the entire course of this Congress. I would not be afraid to compare its record with that of any previous Congress in our history, not alone for the wisdom, but for the disinterested high-mindedness which has controlled its action. It is noteworthy that not a single measure which the closest scrutiny could warrant us in calling of doubtful propriety has been enacted, and on the other hand, no influence of any kind has availed to prevent the enactment of the laws most vitally necessary to the nation at this time.

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#### Progress in the Russian Douma.

Various questions have been under debate in the Russian Douma (p. 274), but not until the 3d had anything definite occurred in its deliberations. On that day the Czar's plan for settling the land question was introduced. In an accompanying message the Czar argues against land nationalization. The plan he proposes contemplates—

1. Distribution of all the arable land in European Russia to the peasants who have not sufficient lands.
2. Purchase for the account of the state the land which private owners are willing to sell.
3. Sale of such lands to the peasants on reasonable terms, even if this involves the assumption by

the state of the difference between the cost and the selling price.

4. Establishing the principle that new as well as old peasants' lands are not salable to persons not belonging to the peasant class, besides exempting the land from seizure for debt.

5. Assisting immigrants to reach Siberia and central Asia and to help them in installing themselves there, not only by allotments of land, but by the building of government roads.

6. Making arrangements for the sale of the lands the immigrants leave behind them for the benefit of these immigrants, rigorous improvement of agriculture, correcting the inequalities in plots of land, etc., and right of distribution in severalty where desired.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—At the recent elections in Tasmania, Australia, women voted for the first time for members of the legislative assembly.

—Wendell Phillips Garrison, a son of William Lloyd Garrison, the historical abolitionist, retired from the editorship of the New York Nation on the 28th. He is succeeded by Hammond Lamont.

—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Liberal member of Parliament for the Camborne division of Cornwall, and for many years famous as a leader of the temperance movement in England, died in London on the 1st, aged 77 years.

—The Supreme Court of Colorado on the 2d cut off the investigation into the frauds at the election in May (p. 181) which the Municipal Ownership League and the League for Honest Elections were conducting. Judge Steele dissented.

—Manuel Garcia, professor of singing and inventor of the laryngoscope, died in London on the 1st at the age of 101 years, 3 months and 14 days. He was in his earlier years one of the noted grand opera tenors of the world. Quitting grand opera, he located in London nearly half a century ago as a teacher of singing and came to be recognized as one of the greatest masters of his art.

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## PRESS OPINIONS

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### CONTEMPT BY THE COURT.

Cleveland Press (Ind.), June 30.—Ohio's Supreme Court has postponed decision as to the validity of the Drake investigation until September. It is said that the court was divided three and three and could not reach an agreement. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that Ohio has not a high court competent to decide so important a question within a reasonable time. Gang politicians may rejoice that there can be no further exposures of misdeeds for another three months, but to the majority of citizens, who upheld the Drake committee because of its work for honest government, the delay imposed by the Supreme Court appears unreasonable and vexatious. The court has treated the plain desire of the legislature and the people with a certain contempt.

### CHICAGO IN THE MIRROR.

The (London) Speaker (Lib.), June 9.—Chicago is itself the type of the modern industrial city, primarily the

creature of the railroad, the receptacle, storehouse, and forwarding agency for the vastest quantity of grain and meat ever gathered into a single focus for distribution. A mighty huddle of gigantic factories, warehouses, stores, apartment houses, with an interminable multitude of the meanest, worst-paved and dirtiest streets that have ever claimed to furnish human shelter, the unutterable ugliness thrown into strong relief by the garish parade of hotels and private palaces along the lake front! Such is the body of Chicago. Its economic soul is resident in the packing-houses through which a tiny group of glorified butchers operate the great industrial system whose suckers extend through the length and breadth of the agricultural middle-west.

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### THE NEWSPAPER SUBSIDY.

(New York) Straight Edge Bulletin, June 23.—The post-office department has not yet decided officially whether or not the Straight Edge Bulletin will be accorded newspaper privileges. It is a question as to whether 300 subscribers who pay \$1 a year apiece for the privilege of hearing about the Straight Edge industries have a right to government service on the same terms that are accorded to 300 subscribers who pay \$1 a year apiece for the privilege of hearing idle gossip about their neighbors. Some day an ounce of paper with one set of words printed upon it will be mailable at the same rate that is charged for the same piece of paper with another set of words printed upon it. The subsidizing of "public information" by carrying it at a small fraction of the cost, works out, like any other false principle, disastrously to all concerned. Every publisher should have a chance to pay what it is worth to mail his publication, no more and no less.

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### BRYAN'S POPULARITY.

Omaha World-Herald (Dem.), June 27.—Mr. Bryan's declaration from Norway that private monopolies and trusts "must be exterminated, root and branch," has served noticeably to cool the ardor of certain of his recently converted "conservative" supporters. . . . Perhaps, if Mr. Bryan were merely a politician, he would have been content, as one disgusted critic says he should be, to "let events speak for him awhile longer." . . . But Mr. Bryan is something more than a politician. He, perhaps better than most people, realizes the momentous importance of the fight he is leading. It is a fight to save the Republic and its free democratic institutions from degenerating into an oligarchic despotism with the masses in hopeless industrial dependence on an arrogant plutocracy; it is a fight to preserve individualism and the competitive system against socialism. In such a fight there is no place for compromise, and no time to be politic. Manifestly private monopoly and free competition cannot long exist side by side. One or the other must go under, or the house that is divided against itself must fall.

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Collier's (Ind.), June 30.—Mr. Bryan's popularity draws many inadequate explanations from the Eastern press. In the West it needs less explanations, for there, with all its ebb and flow, it has never ceased to be impressive. The East understands but incompletely the thoughts and emotions that lie beyond the Alleghenies. When it suddenly becomes aware of long-existing facts it is likely to treat them as new occurrences. Although there never was a moment when Judge Parker had the faintest chance of any but a feeble showing, the Eastern press described that bit of history as a sudden rush to Roosevelt, and they explained this sudden rush with almost childlike elucidation. Bryan's ability to take the Democratic nomination, should he wish it, was understood in the Middle-West long before the East awoke to the actual condition and began to find causes therefor. Of course there are causes, but they are large and gradual, and there has been no quick alteration. When the Nebraska leader said, "This is too sudden," he obviously spoke in banter. To describe the movement toward him as due to fear of Hearst is obviously absurd. That is describing the bigger thing by the infinitely less. It is the general drift of American thought that has helped Mr. Bryan most.