

of Missouri. But who are they? Senator Stone's "old guard." Perhaps Mr. Wilson ought to be politically grateful to Senator Stone for having got Speaker Clark into a hole during the pre-convention campaign in connection with Bryan's famous question which Wilson answered frankly. But Mr. Wilson isn't famous for this kind of gratitude, glory be! And why should any State dictate Cabinet opportunities? The President's Cabinet is of national, not of mere State concern. To allow Stone's "old guard" to determine a Cabinet appointment for Missouri, whether by thrusting the wrong Missourian in or elbowing the right Missourian out, would be stultifying.



That President Wilson will consider Folk for the Cabinet upon his merits as a sincere and able Democrat of the progressive variety, and of national character, is a reasonable inference from the public career of both men. It remains for influential progressive Democrats of the country to assure the incoming President of their support, if in making this selection he offends influential reactionaries of his party—in Missouri or anywhere else.



Wilson versus Smith in New Jersey.

A clear line between Governor Wilson progressives and "Jim" Smith reactionaries was drawn last week in the Democratic caucus for Speaker of the House in the New Jersey legislature. It is in favor of the "Jim" Smiths, but by a narrow margin. The candidate representing Wilson policies was Charles O'Connor Hennessy, a Democrat who is so much more democratic than the regular brand that at the polls he draws more democrats of other parties to him than he drives away reactionaries of his own party. He was defeated by only 4 votes in a caucus vote of 51—26 for Taylor, 22 for Hennessy, and 3 for Holcombe. It seems that Mr. Hennessy could have been elected by making a "Jim" Smith deal but wouldn't make it. The Bergen News vouches for the truth of that highly probable inference. "Having the prize within his grasp," says The News of the 4th, "by acquiescence in the demands of a most obnoxious and discredited boss, Mr. Hennessy spurned the honor which must thus be bought with the taint of a sacrifice of principle." The News adds this sensible comment: "His friends and admirers can glory more in his defeat under these circumstances than in his success at the dictation of the Interests from which the hard work of Governor Wilson and the independent

Democrats have wrested control." Allied with the "Jim" Smiths were the liquor interests of the State, of course; for had not Mr. Hennessy stood against them and for local option in the last legislature? One New Jersey paper wonders if this "Jim" Smith victory may not be the beginning of a party difference that will put Democrats in New Jersey "somewhat in the same position as that now occupied by the Republicans and Progressives on the other side of the political fence?" Let all democratic Democrats hope so. The body of that political death which "Jim" Smith typifies in New Jersey is a grievous burden for the Democratic Party to bear.



The Glory of Governor Blease.

It is the great glory of the present Governor of South Carolina that while he might have been born into almost any estate, he chose to be born a white man. Would that there were a Gilbert yet living to sing his praises. Governor Blease can not sing them well himself, but he thinks without ceasing of this wonderful fact in his career; and at the Richmond Conference of Governors his language about it in public speech was coarse. But coarse language is only a sort of outer apparel. It does not make the man, though it may advertise him. Coarse purposes are worse than coarse language. They are all the worse if criminal. And Governor Blease's coarseness at Richmond was criminal, in purpose as well as expression. He had defined a policy, as Governor, of protecting lynchers of Negroes accused of abhorrent crime, and when asked if he had not taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of his State and if this did not require him to protect the rights of Negroes as well as other citizens to fair trials upon accusations of crime, he replied: "To hell with the Constitution!" Governor Blease appears to be one of those pitiful men who waste their minds in proud contemplation and boastful publication of the fact that they were not born black. Have they nothing more in the way of accident to be proud of, and nothing at all in the way of achievement?



Rural Credits.

With characteristic simplicity, President Taft has put in concise words the rural credit scheme with which Big Business is trying to chain farmers to its triumphal chariots. The object of the rural credit scheme is to capitalize the "unearned increment" of farm lands in the same great stock-gambling pool in which the "unearned incre-