

banking. The governor has not distinctly complied with their request. but his call for the special session is ambiguous enough in this respect to make room for a question, and a banker's lobby may try to take advantage of it.

In his inaugural address Gov. Cummins, of Iowa, disclosed a purpose and a grasp of political possibilities, which cannot be reassuring to the present occupant of the White House, who has taken into his cabinet an Iowa statesman whom Gov. Cummins "turned down" at the Republican convention last fall. It is evident both that Gov. Cummins has his eye on the Republican presidential nomination, and that this is game which he knows how to go gunning for. He has turned his attention to the question of trusts and the tariff. Much of what he says could be riddled full of holes, but not by anyone who is likely to loom up for the Republican presidential nomination. Economically it is pretty thin stuff, despite several sound but somewhat incongruous generalizations; but politically it is far and away ahead of anything that any Republican aspirant for national honors has yet put forth. A confusing hotch-potch of sense and nonsense, of competitive individualism and paternal state socialism, of dependence and independence, of equality and class interests, the ingredients seem, nevertheless, to be pretty well chosen and very judiciously mixed for the purpose of making the mess agreeable to the Republican palate.

It is difficult to realize the strides that Mayor Johnson has made within 12 months in injecting democracy into the Democratic party of Ohio, and bringing the party to life. It was a mere spoils-hunting machine, absolutely under the control of John R. McLean, when Johnson loomed above the political horizon, and now it has been rescued altogether from McLean's clutches. In the recent reorganization of the state committee all his henchmen were side-tracked,

and he is no longer capable of doing any more harm than can be done in cunning ways by the Cincinnati Enquirer, which he owns. Meanwhile, the street railroad agitation, with which Johnson began the Democratic fight against the monopoly corporations in Ohio, has taken a peculiar turn. On the one hand the three-cent fare proposition, on which Johnson was elected mayor, is being pushed. The city council of Cleveland has authorized bids in accordance with it, to be received on the 10th of February, and of at least one such bid Johnson declares that he is assured. On the other hand his municipal ownership proposition, petitioned for by the Cleveland council, is before the legislature. These two propositions, both of them promoted by Johnson, have thrown the opposition into the utmost confusion. They don't understand Johnson's play. Some of his adversaries, including the representatives of railroad interests, are yielding to the three-cent fare proposition to head off municipal ownership. But even these are in doubt. Johnson has played such an absolutely open game that it seems to them to be a densely mysterious and bewilderingly confusing game. They are more confounded by it than they could be by any amount of concealment, for they are expecting the unexpected to stun them at any moment. Nor are they wholly oblivious to the fact that Johnson's double-head street car movement is only a prelude to radical taxation measures for which it is preparing the legislative mind, and which the pro-monopoly people dreaded more than any other weapons in Johnson's apparently exhaustless collection.

What may prove to be an important political movement in Kansas is to begin at Topeka on the 21st of February. A delegate conference of the People's party of the state is to be held there at that time for the purpose of deciding a question of vital importance. It is to lay out a course for the party to pursue in the dilemma in which it has been

placed with reference to cooperative action with the Democratic party, by the enactment last winter of an obstructive election law by the Republican legislature. This law is intended to prevent temporary fusions of two or more political parties. Under it political parties cannot act together as separate organizations under distinctive names. Similar laws exist in other states, enacted through the influence of political rings in order to protect themselves by preventing combined action by two or more parties against the party in power. Three courses appear to be open to the Kansas conference. It can decide to advise the People's party to go en masse into the Democratic party; or to make no nominations this year, but, populists being nominated by the Democrats, to make the campaign under the Democratic banner and name; or to nominate a complete People's ticket and "go it alone" as a third party. Since the Democratic party of the state is part of a national party, completely organized and with a large following throughout the country, there is naturally no expectation of inducing it to abandon its name and go into the People's party. The third possible course, the "go-it-alone" policy, is wisely not favored. The plan of supporting the Democratic party upon its nominating some populists as its candidates is more popular. But clearly the best plan would be the first. If the populists of Kansas go en masse into the Democratic party of Kansas they can impregnate its somewhat withered tissues with Democratic vitality, can soon control its organization, and what is of most importance, can exert a powerful and beneficial influence upon the policy of the national Democracy and the selection of its national candidates. It is to be hoped that the Kansas conference will have the political acumen and the moral courage to advise this course.

Johnstown, Pennsylvania, furnishes an example of what an able Democratic paper can do if its Democracy is more than a label — if it is truly and aggressively democratic.