

bloodshed grew with what it fed on, and the world knows the result.

Such a page, let us fervently hope, will never be written in American history. But it will be well if the great commercial magnates who seem to hold the nation in the hollow of their hands should see in the temper of an American mob once thoroughly aroused a warning to beware how they press their power too far. It will be well, too, if thoughtful citizens, who recognize that three "civilized" men out of four are, after all, but varnished savages, should be led to seek more earnestly a remedy which by establishing a just system of taxation will not only make forever impossible the widespread destitution and despair that give birth to French revolutions, but also by raising the morale of all, black and white, from lowest to highest, eventually cause to die out the atrocious individual crimes and the hideous collective retribution that now ever and anon disgrace the nation.

W.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Lincoln, Neb., July 4.—On the summit of a prairie billow, four miles out of Lincoln and commanding a fine view of the capitol and of the charming city about it, stands the commodious and handsome Fairview home of Mr. and Mrs. William Jennings Bryan. Here Mr. Bryan does his literary work and superintends his little stock farm, and to this place come his friends from all quarters and all distances. Fairview is a Mecca for the democratic-Democrat of this new century, as Monticello was for the democratic-Republican of the new century of a hundred years ago.

On the eve of the national birthday this year, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan opened their new home at Fairview to their personal friends of Lincoln and its neighborhood. The distances were long and the night was stormy, but the parlors were filled and the occasion was one which those who participated in it will remember with peculiar pleasure. Among the guests were the present governor of Nebraska, John Mickey, ex-Gov. Poynter, Prof. Ross, of the University of Nebraska, and several of his associate professors. Mr. and Mrs. Tom L. Johnson were to have assisted Mr. and Mrs. Bryan in receiving their guests, but illness prevented Mrs. Johnson from making the long journey. Mayor Johnson arrived, however, and, along with

Dr. Howard S. Taylor and Louis F. Post, of Chicago, he received with the distinguished host and hostess.

The storm of the 3d had spent itself when the sun rose on the 4th, and from dawn till twilight the Fairview celebration was waited upon by the fairest of fair weather. The day was what in Kansas is known as a "Kansas day"—one of those days of which Senator Ingalls said that they "cannot be described, but once seen can never be forgotten." A high canopy of blue sky stretching out to a horizon like that of the ocean, masses of cloud brilliantly white suspended beneath the blue, a balmy atmosphere and softened sunlight, all contributed to a weather effect of indescribable splendor.

Down in a hollow of the billowy prairie, in full sight of the Bryan home, a huge tent had been spread over one of the nearly treeless fields, and there the crowds began to assemble early in the day. The generous invitation of the Jefferson club to attend an old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration had met with a cordial response. When the hour for speaking began the long road was lined on both sides with wagons and buggies, and over 6,000 people had crowded into the tent. Mr. Bryan presided, with that simple dignity and gentle power of oratory which have become so familiar to the American people.

On the platform were assembled only those who were to participate in the proceedings. The highest State officials sat with the rest of the audience, as part of the common people whose temporary servants they are. There were no distinctions other than the necessary distinction of service for the occasion.

When Mr. Bryan had opened the meeting, and the Rev. Harry Huntington, a local clergyman, had pronounced the invocation, the audience arose and joined in singing. Then came the reading of the Declaration of Independence by W. W. Bride, of Washington, who read it not only with elocutionary skill and in good voice, but also with democratic emphasis. The next thing on the programme was a speech by Louis F. Post, of Chicago, on "The Common People," and the next a speech by Dr. Howard S. Taylor, of Chicago, on "The Keystone of the Republic." Dr. Taylor closed by reading an original poem, written for this celebration, entitled "The American Commons."* Later in the proceedings Dr. Taylor read an older poem of his, at the request of Mr. Bryan, on the hauling down of the flag.

Dr. Taylor was followed by Mayor Johnson, the principal speaker at the

* Dr. Taylor's poem will be found in this issue of The Public in the Miscellany.

celebration, whom Mr. Bryan introduced to the audience as "the Hon. Tom L. Johnson, of the United States."* Mayor Johnson's subject was "Local Self Government." He touched lightly, though with no uncertainty, upon national questions; but his speech was devoted almost entirely to the political situation in Ohio, where the democratic-Democrats are striving to establish local self-government and to secure equality of rights in their municipalities. He made a national application by saying that local self-government in municipalities will generate self-government everywhere.

At the close of Mayor Johnson's speech Mr. Bryan brought the meeting to an end with a brief address upon the American flag. This was an oratorical gem. It was as simple and lucid and spontaneous in thought and language as it was brilliant in effect.

The vast audience broke up with a neighborly handshake all around, and Mr. Bryan drove the special guests of the Jefferson club to the railroad station. Trolley cars from Fairview to Lincoln loaded beyond their capacity, and crowded railroad trains out of Lincoln, marked the close of this revival of the old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration, where holiday sports gave way to the inspiration of democratic sentiment.

L. F. P.

* Mr. Bryan's introduction and Mayor Johnson's speech are printed in this issue of The Public, in the Miscellany.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, July 9.

Again the war cloud in the Far East darkens. Russia has not only failed to evacuate Manchuria (p. 58) but has allowed her troops to cross over into Korea; and England and Japan, pursuant to their treaty (vol. iv., p. 712), have made demands upon China which have the sound of an ultimatum to Russia.

The report that Russian troops had crossed over into Korea came from Yokohama on the 28th. It told of two posts on the Korean side of the Yalu river which had been seized by the Russians saying that 150 Russian soldiers had been stationed there. This report was followed by one from Tokio on the 30th, which was to the effect that Japan was then preparing a protest to Russia regarding this invasion of Korea. It was noted in the latter dispatch that

both Japan and Great Britain had sent warships to the Yalu river. Then came the report of an Anglo-Japanese ultimatum to Russia. The report went out from Odessa, Russia, on the 3d, and stated that the St. Petersburg newspaper, Sveit, had received advices from Japan to the effect that the British and the Japanese ministers at Peking had submitted the following demands to the government of China:

1. Russia's occupation of Manchuria threatens the maintenance of peace in the far East and injures the interests of England and Japan.

2. If the departure of the Russians from Manchuria is indefinitely postponed England and Japan must proceed to protect their interests.

3. China must demand from Russia the immediate evacuation of Manchuria.

4. Great Britain and Japan acknowledge no treaty between Russia and China which does not bind Russia to evacuate Manchuria.

5. If after the evacuation of Manchuria a treaty between China and Russia with respect to the civil administration of Manchuria is deemed necessary, such treaty can only be concluded with the approval of Great Britain and Japan.

6. A reply to this note is demanded within five days.

On the 5th the American navy department ordered the battleship Wisconsin and the first-class cruisers Albany, Cincinnati and Raleigh to the gulf of Pechili, China, to reinforce Rear Admiral Evans's squadron.

American relations with Russia are attracting attention in consequence of President Roosevelt's announced decision to forward to the Czar a petition of American citizens relative to the massacre (pp. 153, 171) at Kishineff. A statement was made public last week, semi-officially by the Russian embassy, which declared that the Russian government would categorically refuse to receive from any Power any petition, representations, or communication relative to its internal policy. Alluding to this intimation, the American state department promptly announced that the Kishineff petition will be forwarded by the American government; also that the government cannot consider the semi-official refusal of the Russian government, quoted from above, as the statement is not directed to the state department. The petition in question, which is being engineered by the B'nai B'rith, is being numerously signed by both Jewish and Chris-

tian Americans. It is described as a request on the part of the people of the United States to the Czar of Russia, asking that religious liberty be granted his subjects.

The Negro lynching craze (p. 202) has now broken out in Indiana. Evansville is in consequence in the hands of the militia. A Negro named Lee Brown had been charged with shooting a policeman and was under arrest. To provide for his safety he was removed to the jail at Vincennes when the mob spirit began to manifest itself. He has since been placed in the State prison to await his trial, and the Governor has refused to allow him to be returned for trial in the present disordered state of the public mind at Evansville. On the 4th the mob attacked the Evansville jail and soon after midnight had complete possession of the town. It demanded possession of the Negro prisoner, and broke into the jail. While making this attempt to lynch the Negro, the mob was fired upon in the rear by Negroes; and upon failing to secure its victim, it charged upon the Negro quarters of the town. The militia undertook to restore peace on the 6th, and a pitched battle took place between the mob and the troops, in which nine persons were killed outright and at least 35 were wounded, some of them fatally. Negroes to the number of 1,000 or more have crossed over into Kentucky for safety. Several of the mob have been indicted.

Near Vicksburg, Miss., on the 7th, a Negro who had killed a white man by stabbing him, was lynched by a mob. The Negro had been indicted for the crime and was in the custody of the sheriff when the mob, consisting of 50 masked and heavily armed men, seized the prisoner and hanged him.

At the Afro-American Council, which closed its session at Louisville, Ky., on the 3d, an address to the country was adopted, in the course of which that body declares:

We recognize with pleasure the friendly relation that has all along existed between the best people of the white race and our own, and we sincerely desire that nothing be permitted to intervene to mar this relation. Still we are confident that no one who notes carefully the signs of the times can fail to discover that there are influences at

work in nearly every part of the land to accomplish this very end. Who can fail to see that the Negro is being held up to public gaze as the most objectionable and undesirable citizen that treads American soil; the ignorant, vicious, criminal class are pointed to as the types and products of the race rather than those who are the output of the Negro's best endeavors for race development and uplift. We declare this standard of measurement to be unfair to any people.

As to mob violence, it is gratifying to note that for the last year or two the number of victims shows a decided decrease, while all these were not members of our race the vast majority was. But notwithstanding this fact, we should not feel called upon to discuss the matter at all at this time were it not that although the number of victims is decreasing the variety of provocations which lead up to this act of violence is growing more and more insignificant, and numerous. It is not an unusual thing to read these days of Negroes being lynched for impudence, refusing to obey, striking a white man, etc.

Now we submit that lynching for any cause is destructive of law, is demoralizing. But to subject persons accused of, even guilty of such trivial offenses as we have indicated, to unlawful punishment and death is to make the Negro the marked man of the nation; for him to suffer violences for such causes will eventually involve many of our best people. Even as it is in some sections of the country it means death for a Negro to attempt to protect the females of his family. We ask in all sincerity, Is this America? Is it right? Such conditions indicate clearly a tendency to anarchy, and anarchy for the Negro will terminate in anarchy for all men.

The number of those of our race who are now accused of the nameless crime against woman is so small as compared with the whole number that it is scarcely necessary to discuss this as a distinct crime. Yet we desire to say that we make no plea for any man who may be proved guilty of this crime; our plea is for law and for protection of the innocent.

It is now clearly evident that the purpose of those who first started in ostensibly to disfranchise the ignorant Negro has been broadened and strengthened. Their purpose now includes almost all Negroes. In certain of the States this result has already been achieved and thousands of qualified men are denied positively and absolutely the right to vote. In such States taxation without representation prevails as truly as ever it did when England held control over the American colonies. We make no objection to the disfranchisement of the ignorant Negro, provided the same class of the other race are similarly dealt with. Our contention is not for special but equal privileges.