

# The Public

Fifth Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1902.

Number 211.

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Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last page.

At an interview in the White House, duly heralded by the press, between Mr. Roosevelt and Helen Keller, the young woman who in spite of having been blind and deaf from infancy has become an intellectual wonder, Mr. Roosevelt entertained his sensitive guest with a story of how one of his boys enjoyed a rabbit hunt in the White House grounds. Does this man ever think of anything but killing?

In his bid this week at the Tammany "harmony" dinner for the Democratic nomination for the presidency, David B. Hill urged upon the party the importance at this time of unity and aggressive action. Aggressive action in what? Unity for what? Not the tariff, surely; for Hill is as good a protectionist as Roosevelt. Not the money question; for he stands as unflinchingly for hard money and the national bank of issue system as Mr. Gage, or Mr. Shaw. Not imperialism; for if he is opposed to that he has thus far borne the infliction with great fortitude and singular reticence. Not direct taxation; for he prefers indirect taxes, which surreptitiously rob the poor, to an income tax that would fall upon the rich. Not anything that would prejudice the interests of property in legal privilege; for as a thick and thin defender of established privilege he yields to no plutocrat in the land. Upon what principle, then, and for what policy can the Democratic party unite with Mr. Hill? If for anything under heaven which the Republican party does not already represent more efficiently, we should like to be en-

lightened. As at present advised we discern no other motive for a reunion of the Democratic party with Mr. Hill than an earnest hope and a lively expectation of sharing in the spoils of office. For that policy, and for that alone, Mr. Hill stands preeminent.

Senator Depew has saddled the constitutional amendment for the election of senators by popular vote, with a clause requiring that "the qualifications of citizens entitled to vote for United States Senators and representatives in Congress shall be uniform in all states." His implication is that in fixing these uniform qualifications his party in Congress will secure the Negro in the south his right to vote at least for members of both houses of the national legislature. The primary object of the tricky clause is probably what it is suspected to be, a weapon to force Southern senators and congressmen to oppose the principle of popular election of senators. Incidentally, however, the Republican managers expect to get some cheap capital out of the matter by pretending to be the very good friends of the Negro race. If they were really friendly to Negro suffrage rights they would not confine their efforts to making such a clause the condition of an amendment to which it is not especially related. They would at once take steps to secure those rights to the Negro regardless of the senatorial election amendment. But there is possibly an ulterior motive. Suppose the Depew condition were conceded. Suppose Congress were given power to make those uniform suffrage qualifications. Is there any certainty that the qualifications would be broadened so as to include the disfranchised Negroes of the South? Is it not as probable that they would be narrowed so as to exclude great bodies of enfranchised,

white men as well as Negroes everywhere? What better opportunity to perpetuate its power could a plutocratic party already in control of Congress want, than authority to define the qualifications of voters for its successors? May not Mr. Depew be working only nominally for the Negro and more liberty, but really for the great corporations and more restrictions?

The third successive Democratic victory in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, under the leadership of Tom L. Johnson, is attracting marked attention all over the country. It is made especially notable because, for one thing, this is a Republican county, and for another, the Republicans appear to have been generally successful elsewhere in the state at the recent local elections. In these circumstances another fact regarding the spring elections in Ohio is significant. In Loraine, in a neighboring county, Joseph King became the Democratic candidate for mayor at Johnson's suggestion; and, although this town had never before in its history elected a Democrat to office, Mr. King received a plurality of 70 votes. The truth is that Johnson's methods are becoming as acceptable to the people as they are peculiar to politics. Candor and fidelity have been the chief points of his political policy. His purposes are radical, his plans are conservative, his judgment is sound, and his word is at par. These are the qualities that are making him, indeed have already made him, the Democratic leader in Ohio. He is a leader who leads.

One thing about Johnson is only just coming to be recognized at its full value—his civil service policy. He believes in the merit system, and unlike some more pretentious civil service reformers in office, he is apply-