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THE AMERICAN ELECTION OUTLOOK.

"Nothing short of a landslide will elect Mr. Bryan." That is the conclusion arrived at by a prominent New York journal, after a careful and extended canvass, and it also represents the weight of opinion throughout the United States. A political avalanche which would sweep the Democrat candidate to unexpected victory is not, however, regarded as impossible, though with the approach of the eleventh hour the likelihood of such a phenomenon steadily diminishes. It is generally admitted that if the Democrats fail to secure a preponderance of votes in New York State, they will fail disastrously in the majority of other States, and thus it is that the party managers are concentrating all their efforts within the confines of this State, where the campaign will be prosecuted with unparalleled vigour from now to the end of the struggle. The most persuasive orators of both parties have already pitched their tents in New York, where, strange to say, the brass bands, torchlight processions, the motley and picturesque corollaries of former Presidential elections have been entirely eliminated. The reason given by all parties for this reversal of previous tactics is that they have no funds to waste on such affairs; but there are many who believe that the country is taking the present election contest far more seriously than preceding ones, as a natural result of the higher place allotted to moral issues by both candidates. This circumstance, indeed, bids fair to permanently distinguish and make memorable the fight between Messrs. Taft and Bryan. It is true that, while the difference between the platforms of Democrat and Republican is infinitesimal, the diversity of opinion concerning the determination and ability of each candidate to carry out with thoroughness the clean sweep of "graft," political "bossism," chicanery in high places, and the unlawful subjugation of commercial competition, is correspondingly great.

As we have repeatedly emphasised in these columns, the long and brilliant record of the Republican candidate in legal and administrative business lends strong colour to the belief that he is eminently fitted to prosecute with a firm hand the national house-cleaning so strenuously inaugurated by the present distinguished occupant of the White House. The very intimacy of the relations between Mr. Taft and the President, from which their political opponents have endeavoured to make such capital, are a guarantee that the Rooseveltian policies will find a sympathetic champion in Mr. Taft. There is not the least shadow of doubt regarding the country's opinion of those policies. The wave of remarkable enthusiasm which swept the land from coast to coast four years ago, when even the South abandoned its traditional hidebound Democracy and cast a heavy vote for the man who had trampled upon its tenderest scruples by sitting down at table with a member of the coloured race, was sufficient evidence that the public had set the seal of its approval on Mr. Roosevelt's programme of reform. Since then that programme has remained unaltered, and if anything the vigour of its prosecution has increased. It is highly satisfactory to observe the spontaneity with which the Democrats abandoned their charge against the President of having, by the recklessness of his tactics, directly or indirectly brought about the late financial crisis. The charge would not hold water, as its promoters were quick to perceive. Their contention was tantamount to the assertion that because by its removal local derangements would be created, a poisonous growth should be left undisturbed to spread contamination and evil influence. Had the Democrats decided to go before the country as supporters of this hypothesis, their debacle would have been prompt and overwhelming. Timidity in dealing with public questions is absolutely at variance with national American ideals. Owing to the concentration of mental power which the exigencies of his business demand of the average American citizen, he has but little time to concern himself with political intricacies; and consequently for many years the conduct of politics has been almost entirely left in the hands of professional wire-pullers, whose primary interest was the lining of their own pockets. Abuses have naturally flourished in such a congenial atmosphere, but the time has come when the electorate has resolved upon setting its house in order. The iron hand wielding the "big stick" must supersede the lengthy and unsatisfactory method of legal pro-



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cedure under the old system. Mr. Roosevelt's prowess with this formidable weapon has become a by-word, and who so worthy to wield it when it is surrendered by its present possessor as the man who has stood by the President during some of the hottest fights against corruption which have taken place in the last four years?

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, October 21.
The Prime Minister, in the course of a long speech on the problem of the unemployed, remarked that he did not wish to anticipate the legislative proposals which the Government intended to make at the beginning of next Session with regard to the permanent causes of want of employment; and that at the moment he had only to deal with the distress that required immediate attention. The Government, he said, was not disposed to represent the state of things as less serious than it really is. Although there were signs that the distress would only be of short duration, it was not doubtful that many people of both sexes would be out of work in the coming winter. It was the duty of Parliament to offer such people something more than bare sympathy. The Prime Minister then enumerated the measures which the Government and the local authorities had taken for relieving the distress; among those measures being grants in aid of distressed districts, and expediting the building of ships.

CABINET MINISTERS IN A POLICE COURT.

London, October 21.
A great crowd collected today before the Bow Street Police Court, where it was understood that two Cabinet Ministers, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Gladstone, would appear, as they had been summoned as witnesses by three Suffragettes. The latter had to answer to the charge of inciting to riot on the evening before the opening of Parliament. The two Ministers did appear and gave evidence. Mr. Lloyd George, cross-examined by one of the defendants, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, humourously admitted that he had attended the meeting at which the advocates of votes for women had called upon the people to storm the House of Commons. The Chancellor of the Exchequer further admitted that, in his opinion, the speeches made were not so very violent.

BRITAIN'S THIRD "DREADNOUGHT" COMMISSIONED.

London, October 21.
The armoured cruiser "Inflexible," recently delivered from the works of Messrs. John Brown and Co., Glasgow, where her first keel plate was laid on February 5, 1906, was commissioned at Chatham Dockyard yesterday by Capt. H. H. Torlesse for service in the Nore Division of the Home Fleet. Sister ship to the armoured cruiser "Indomitable," whose first service was to convey the Prince of Wales across the Atlantic to attend the Quebec tercentenary fêtes, the "Inflexible" is the third ship of the "Dreadnought" class to hoist the pennant for active service. She was manned by a crew from the Medway depot, her total complement being 731 officers and men, and will replace one of the battleships of the "Majestic" type. The "Lord Nelson," battleship, and the "Invincible," armoured cruiser, will join the flag of Rear-Admiral the Hon. S. C. J. Colville, C.B., as soon as they are ready for the pennant, and the Nore fully-manned division of the Home Fleet will then consist of the "Dreadnought," flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir F. C. B. Bridgeman, Commander-in-Chief, the "Lord Nelson," flying the flag of Rear-Admiral the Hon. S. C. J. Colville, the "Agamemnon," battleship, and the "Dreadnought" cruisers "Indomitable," "Inflexible," and "Invincible."

BRITISH SAILORS IN PRETORIA.

Pretoria, October 21.
Four hundred officers and men belonging to Sir Percy Scott's Squadron arrived here yesterday and were welcomed by the municipal authorities and by enthusiastic crowds. The Hon. Jacob de Villiers, the Attorney-General, in greeting the visitors on behalf of the Government, said that he hoped that the day was distant when South Africa would require a Navy of her own. He relied confidently on the British Navy. A round of entertainments has been organised for the sailors.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

There has been considerable speculation in American political circles regarding what transpired at Sunday's conference between the President and Mr. Taft, and the usual crop of rumours has found its way into the papers. It does not appear, however, that any new or more vigorous policy was decided upon, nor that there is any truth in the Democratic contention that something like panic prevails at the White House. Mr. Roosevelt, in fact, has at no time shared the pessimistic feelings which still prevail in certain Republican quarters, and it is understood that, after hearing Mr. Taft's own account of the state of the battle, he has satisfied himself that there is no necessity for him to go upon the stump. To do so, indeed, would be a confession of weakness and bad strategy when the election is less than a fortnight distant, a fact which some of the Republican newspapers have been careful to emphasise.

Excitement is daily growing in New York State, and by the end of the present week may be expected to reach an almost hysterical pitch. Mr. Taft is not expected in the State before next Monday, having in the meanwhile to visit Ohio and Indiana, in which "doubtful" States the Republicans, as already indicated in these columns, have by no means lost hope, though their Democratic opponents were on Monday claiming that their victory in the former was assured. The Bryanites, however, are laying plans to take New York by storm, and that without delay. According to a contemporary, they admit that the latest reports from inside quarters in the Empire State have not been exactly to their liking, but considering, and with some reason, that on New York the whole contest may turn, are hurrying the pick of their forces there already.

NEXT YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL BALLOON CONTEST.

New York, October 21.
The St. Louis Aero Club has cabled to the Aero Club in London a request that next year's Gordon Bennett races may take place at St. Louis, which is a long way from the sea.
(Continued on page 2.)