

THE CANVASS.

Ben Butler a Rock in the Political Channels.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Mr. Blaine is causing those who are managing his canvass no little anxiety. He is no longer the dashing and audacious Plumed Knight of 1876. He is a changed man. Though always the most cautious and secretive of men, he used to conceal these traits by an assumption of dash and pluck that was a most artistic as well as long-sustained piece of acting. Now, however, his friends find that the brilliant aggressiveness is gone. His seems to be not only timid but almost indifferent. If he has any great interest in the approaching canvass he does not reveal it. He simply urges his friends to go on with the canvass in their own way, and let him be at peace so far as possible. Now, that was not at all what the energetic Elkins and the diplomatic Phelps expected when they procured his nomination. They looked for an abundance of brilliant suggestions, some audacious and overwhelming line of policy for carrying on the canvass from the candidate, but Mr. Blaine so far has seriously disappointed them.

EFFECT OF GUITEAU'S PISTOL SHOT. It has been an open secret among Mr. Blaine's close friends that he has never recovered from the shock that Guitau's pistol caused him. He was arm-in-arm with Garfield when the assassin fired; he saw the President totter and fall, and he believed that the next shot would be received by himself. The effect of that shot was to give him what is known in his own State as "the hypo." He is convinced that he has an organic disease, and although the best physicians in the country have assured him that he is wrong, he will not believe them. Last summer he pained his friends by asking constantly how they thought he looked. Somebody told him that the little pools of water left by the ebb tide on the rocks of the coast were a specific for the disease he thinks he has, and he was often seen drinking from them and bathing his face and arms in them. During the past winter, when he was visited by prominent politicians who wished to talk with him about his nomination, he surprised and saddened them by indifference, and he told one man that he had rather live in peace and quiet than to be elected President and die in the office. For a few days before the Convention met he seemed to be like his old self, and after he was nominated displayed to those nearest him some of the energy that was characteristic of him in the days of his prime. But that did not last long. After the Democratic Convention the old conviction that he cannot be elected returned, and with it his depression of spirits. He is now said to be despondent, and those who are nearest him believe that unless this hypochondria can be shaken off, all the work of the canvass must be done without much help from him.

THINKS HIS POPULARITY ON THE WANE. Mr. Blaine has already received a great deal of information respecting the political situation, and he thinks that it justifies his despondency. He claims at all events that his political forecasts of last winter were correct, and that the country has entered upon a canvass that will be unique, and that will show some unexpected results which the wisest man cannot now predict. While Mr. Blaine has no such organized corps of clerks, letter openers and assistants as were at Mentor in 1880, yet he has a bright and energetic son and a diligent secretary, through whom a great deal of correspondence is conducted. The news that has already come to Augusta agrees in the main with that received by the National Committee. It is far from cheering, though it is not thought by Mr. Blaine's friends to justify his own despair. The reports confirm the suspicion of some of the shrewd politicians who were at the Chicago Convention that the Blaine enthusiasm was not genuine, but was manufactured to a great degree, if not to some extent bought. The reports that are trustworthy already received, both by Mr. Blaine and by the National Committee here, show that he exists throughout the great Republican States of the Northwest no such fiery and overwhelming desire that Blaine shall go to the White House as there did in 1876. This is precisely what Mr. Blaine saw to be the case last winter. He knew his heyday was in 1876, and that since then his popularity has waned, like that of all politicians who have passed their day. All the flattery of the men who sought him last winter could not dissuade him from that belief.

DE-SERTERS TO DECIDE THE BATTLE. Mr. Blaine last winter stated that the rank and file of the two parties would not decide the battle, but the deserters would, and he knew that his candidacy would result in a large number of desertions. His friends did not believe it. He did. While the Mulligan powder may have been burned, it left in its burning a very deep scar on the Republican party, and no one knew that better than Blaine himself. It was supposed that the fatal minority would be mainly confined to New York, but the reports already received show that it exists throughout the country. Mr. Blaine himself regards the choice of Cleveland as an unwise one for the Democratic party, yet he thinks that in spite of a bad nomination the deserters are going to be great enough in some States now regarded as surely Republican to cost the party those States.

The Republican managers, both of the National Congressional Committee and the National Committee, while they do not share Blaine's gloom, are very anxious about some of the States that have been counted surely Republican. Unless there be a change of sentiment in these States before November the party is in very serious danger of losing some of them, and is certain to lose others. The committees have not failed to take notice that the Western

Germans, the Prohibitionists, the labor and Irish-American voters, the Independent Republicans and Gen. Butler are to elect the next President, unless, in fact, the House of Representatives does—a contingency which some regard as far from impossible. The committees of both parties are confronted by these curious, confusing and dangerous elements of party demoralization, and are now all at sea respecting the probable outcome. So far as the Republicans are concerned, the situation is entirely different from that which followed Garfield's nomination. Then a faction sulked and mutinied, but it was only necessary to conciliate the leaders of that faction—Grant, Conkling, Don Cameron, T. C. Platt, and as was done at Mentor and the Fifth Avenue Hotel. When this was done the rank and file were found with the open leaders. But now, aside from the open and expressed opposition, like that of the Germans, the Prohibitionists, the organized bolting Republicans, there comes information of quiet discontent all through the party everywhere, which is difficult to put the finger on, hard to find because it is private and unorganized opposition, and therefore extremely dangerous. The Republican managers say that these complications will make the canvass the most difficult that they have had to conduct. They can now simply gather information, which they are diligently doing, before they can actively begin the canvass. They admit that the outlook now is very gloomy. Senator Plumb, who is a very keen man, said the other day that the condition of affairs in both parties seemed to indicate the beginnings of a break up in both, and that no one could now possibly tell what the outcome would be.

AD OUTLOOK ON THE PACIFIC COAST. Taking some of the States from which the committees have received bad news, it will be found that there is much to justify alarm. Beginning with California, the report comes that Blaine's reputed popularity there to be confined to San Francisco. Republicans write that they fear the State is hopelessly Democratic. There will be no great Republican defection from Blaine; the German and Prohibition vote will not make any serious inroads in the party. But the truth is, the Republicans have gained no strength there for some years, while the Democrats have. The private advices received set the State down as anti-Republican by ten thousand. Yet with Ben Butler running on the Anti-Monopoly ticket, strange things may happen in California. The State has turned over to the Democracy largely because of the intense anti-monopoly feeling there. The labor vote is large, and, if thoroughly well organized, it will nearly all go to Butler. Then the Anti-Monopolists unquestionably hold the balance of power in the State, if in fact there are not a plurality of Anti-Monopolists in California. They are feeling more deeply about this matter than people in the east have any idea of. Gen. Butler will get a very large vote from them. In what proportion it will come from the two parties is one of the problems of the canvass in California. Some letters have been received here, in which the assertion is made that Butler will receive a larger vote than Blaine, and some enthusiasts there insist that he can carry the State. Cleveland's nomination caused no enthusiasm there. He simply represents an idea—the man who was elected by nearly two hundred thousand majority. If the Democratic party is whipped in California, it will simply be on account of Cleveland's nomination. Some suggestions are received from the State that the Butler party concentrate its vote on two or three electors.

No news comes from Nevada that cheers the Republican managers either by the committee here or in New York. The State is confidently claimed by the Democratic managers, and is privately conceded to them by the Republicans. The rich Republicans who once were there are no longer, and the rich Democrats who nominally live in this absurd rotten borough of forty thousand people will take care that money enough is provided to keep up the very good Democratic organization they have there. QUEER ANTICS IN KANSAS. Kansas may cut up some very queer antics, according to the information received. At the recent Prohibition Convention in Pittsburgh the Kansas delegates said that Gov. St. John would receive not less than thirty thousand votes in that State, and that nine-tenths of them would come from the old Republican organization. No more zealous Prohibitionists are in the country than those of Kansas. Aside from their principles they have a special avowal for giving Gov. St. John all the support possible. They feel very sore because he was beaten when he ran for Governor on the prohibition issue, and they hold the Republican party responsible for that defeat. The Republican managers do not believe that Gov. St. John can get thirty thousand votes in Kansas, but they admit that if the Prohibition canvass is correct, the State becomes doubtful. In Kansas, too, is found the curious political inconsistency which is very noticeable in some other States, and that is that the German vote is now hostile to the Republican ticket, because the conviction has seized these people that Blaine is a prohibitionist and because the Republican party is responsible for the sumptuary laws that have been enacted in many States. Now, the Prohibitionists are opposing the Republican party, because they assert that it is not for suppression of the liquor traffic. Between these two, the Republicans in Kansas run some risk of falling into a minority. There are some twenty-five thousand German voters in that State. Reports received here show very serious dissatisfaction, one careful canvasser estimating that at least 15,000 German Republicans will not vote the Republican ticket. Some Republicans, too, are known to have repudiated Blaine because of his record, though there seems to be less of this in Kansas than in some other States. But if the 15,000 Germans and the 30,000 Prohibitionists leave the Republican party, Kansas is lost to the Republicans. But where will its vote go? Through the great agricultural States West of the Mississippi River there has grown up, within three or four years, an anti-monopoly sentiment which threatens to obliterate all party lines, and to secure

political results such as the Grangers were never able to accomplish. Senator Van Wyck said recently that if the Republican managers knew the extent of that feeling in the States of Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas they would tremble for the party in those States. The farmers have had what they regarded as grievances so great that many of them have made but a hand so month living, and they see no redress but that of the ballot box, and the success of a party committed to anti-monopoly legislation. This feeling is very strong in Western Kansas. Mr. Anderson, the member of Congress from that section, could not have been renominated had he not made a record in the House as a most persistent Anti-Monopolist. Reports come that the nomination of Butler by the Anti-Monopolists has resulted in perfecting a good organization in Kansas, and that he will receive a very large vote in the State. The Democratic managers, while realizing that there will be a large defection from the Republican vote, large enough to justify hard work in the State, yet are at sea exactly how to go at the canvass. It is a dangerous thing to put tariff speeches into the State, because many Kansas Democrats are protectionists and many Republicans free traders. Cleveland's nomination arouses no enthusiasm, and there is no way of reaching the Anti-Monopolists who will quit the party and vote for Butler. The General will get a big vote in the State, but what its effect will be is one of the many problems of this curious canvass.

We have had too much experience in political campaigns to be greatly surprised at anything we may hear as to the probable result; but we must confess to some astonishment when we see in the Republican papers that the party which they represent have strong grounds for expecting to capture North Carolina in the coming election. This State is Democratic by at least 15,000 majority in any ordinary year and when the Republicans have then most able, talented and popular men as candidates, but in the present campaign, when the Democratic ticket is composed of some of the best and most influential men in the party and State and the Republican ticket is so weak that it is absolutely periclit, the Democratic majority bids fair to roll up to 20,000. The Republicans hope to make a grand fight in several of the Northern States in which they expect to be materially assisted by the candidature of Butler, and the prohibition candidate, St. John, but even in this calculation we think they are much mistaken as these two candidates will weaken rather than assist Blaine's chances. The votes for St. John will be mainly east in the West and North-west, while Butler will receive some votes in nearly every Northern State. Neither candidate will secure any votes in this State, nor, in fact, in the South, but the battle will be narrowed down to a contest between the Democrats and Republicans. Can there be a shadow of doubt as to the result? We think not. The Democrats are fully awake and prepared for the struggle and have already taken the aggressive which they will maintain unto the end, while the Republicans are disheartened and demoralized already.

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Change of Schedule.

ON AND AFTER JULY 15th, 1884, at 9:00 A. M., the following Passenger Schedule will be run on this road: NIGHT EXPRESS TRAINS, DAILY—Nos. 45 West and 47 East.

Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Company. OFFICE OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, Wilmington, N. C., May 9, 1884.

Change of Schedule.

ON AND AFTER JULY 15th, 1884, at 9:00 A. M. Passenger Trains on the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad will run as follows: DAY MAIL AND EXPRESS TRAINS DAILY Nos. 47 NORTH and 48 SOUTH.

Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Company. OFFICE OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, Wilmington, N. C., May 10, 1884.

Change of Schedule.

ON AND AFTER MAY 12th, 1884, THE following schedule will be operated on this Railroad: PASSENGER MAIL AND EXPRESS TRAIN DAILY except Sundays.

Carolina Central R. R. Company. OFFICE OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, Wilmington, N. C., May 10, 1884.

Change of Schedule.

ON AND AFTER MAY 12th, 1884, THE following schedule will be operated on this Railroad: PASSENGER MAIL AND EXPRESS TRAIN DAILY except Sundays.

Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Company. OFFICE OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, Wilmington, N. C., May 10, 1884.

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