

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

OKLAHOMA is now a full-fledged state. On last Saturday President Roosevelt signed the proclamation formally admitting the new state, as prescribed by the act of Congress.

This new state is destined to be one of the greatest of all the states. It has already a population of one million and a half, which seems almost incredible when it is recalled that only seventeen years ago the territory of Oklahoma was first opened to white settlers.

Oklahoma is Democratic by an overwhelming majority, the State Senate having 39 Democrats and 5 Republicans, and the House of Representatives having 119 Democrats and 17 Republicans.

Among the provisions of Oklahoma's constitution is the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of any kind of intoxicating liquors. Another provision is that in all civil cases, and in criminal cases, less than felonies, three-fourths of a jury may render a verdict, instead of the assent of all twelve.

But the most striking and important feature of Oklahoma's long constitution is the unusual powers reserved to the people and the checks laid upon the legislature, which can hardly be called a representative body, as any law passed by the legislature can be repealed by a vote of the people.

"The legislative authority of the state shall be vested in a legislature, consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives; but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose laws and amendments to the constitution and to enact or reject the same at the polls independent of the legislature, and also reserve power at their own option to approve or reject at the polls any act of the legislature."

Oklahoma has thus put in full force the much ridiculed "initiative and referendum" that was advocated by the Populists a few years ago. Indeed the above quoted clause of Oklahoma's constitution reserves more power to the people than that embraced in the initiative and referendum, for it reserves to the people not only the power to propose and make new laws but also to reject, by their direct vote, any law passed by the legislature.

THE financial condition in New York is greatly relieved. The importation of nearly fifty million dollars in gold (as mentioned last week) was a great help, and now the Secretary of the Treasury has relieved the stringency by the issuing of fifty million dollars worth of Panama canal bonds and one hundred million dollars worth of Treasury certificates.

HON. William Jennings Bryan has at last formally announced that he will accept the nomination next year as the Democratic candidate for President, but that he will make no effort to obtain the nomination.

Whether or not Mr. Bryan will be the most available candidate is a matter that should be seriously

considered by the Democrats of the United States. Much can be said for and also against his nomination and circumstances may arise between now and the date of nomination that will clear up the situation and enable the party to make no mistake.

It is argued in favor of Mr. Bryan's nomination that Roosevelt has adopted and is advocating many of the principles and measures which Mr. Bryan first advocated; or in other words has "stolen his thunder". It is also argued (and generally admitted) that Mr. Bryan has a larger personal following than any other Democrat, and he is undoubtedly a man of great ability and honesty of purpose.

CONFIDENCE is all that is needed to relieve the stringency in the financial condition. As has been frequently stated, there is more money now in the United States than ever before, but the trouble is that people have become frightened at nothing and are hoarding their money and not allowing it to circulate.

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THE city authorities of Asheville have passed an ordinance forbidding boys, under twenty-one years old, from smoking cigarettes. The penalty is a fine of \$5 for each offence.

Washington Letter.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, D. C., Nov. 14

The report comes to Washington from many sources that if Mr. Roosevelt is renominated the solitary hope of Democratic success lies in a new man, other than Bryan, and a new platform, while others are equally insistent that in the renomination of Mr. Roosevelt lies the salvation of the Democratic party, as it will surely place Mr. Bryan in the executive chair.

Mr. Bryan's recent declaration in favor of immediate tariff revision is welcomed by Democrats in Washington who believe that it will serve to emphasize the utter incapacity of the Republican party to deal with the tariff monster, which it has of itself created. Already there are indications of a lively row in Republican ranks.

Such a conference is very timely and the subjects for its consideration are very important. CONFIDENCE is all that is needed to relieve the stringency in the financial condition. As has been frequently stated, there is more money now in the United States than ever before, but the trouble is that people have become frightened at nothing and are hoarding their money and not allowing it to circulate.

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THE WORLD AND THE LOVER.

An Old Proverb That is Exceedingly Open to Question.

The whole world is proverbially said to love a lover. Like most proverbial statements, this one is exceedingly open to question. In fact, all the evidence seems flatly the other way. On what data, one wonders, did the old proverb maker base his dictum? Surely not on the great love stories. The world, with its appetite for vicarious excitement, likes well enough to watch the tragic spectacle of a great passion. Incapable of great feelings itself, it thrills to the drama of them in others.

Life of a Good Watch.

The lifetime of a good watch, says Amateur Work, is fifty years. In its daily duties the balance vibrates 18,000 times every hour, 432,000 times a day, or 157,680,000 times a year. The hairspring makes a similar number of vibrations and an equal number of ticks from the escapement.

His Hereditary Foe.

An Irishman, a Scotchman and an Englishman on the unemployed list were once tramping the country in search of work. On coming to a field of turnips they took several in order to appease the pangs of hunger. For this they were dragged before the judge, who took a lenient view of the case.

Made It Even.

Curran, when master of the rolls in Ireland, was going one day to a levee at the castle. There was a great press of carriages, when all at once he was startled by the pole of the carriage which followed him crashing through the back of his head.

Dividing a Journey.

An Englishman was sent out on a journey to take a parcel to a place about twelve miles from Maldon, Essex, a little town near the coast. As he started rather late in the day his master was surprised to see him back soon after dark.

Generosity.

Rebecca, aged five, who claimed a handsome, heavily bearded young man, a neighbor, for a sweetheart, was asked by a young lady if she would not give her a claim also on the young man.

ODD CASE OF COMBUSTION.

Rosebushes Shipped in Wet Moss Almost Burned Up.

A peculiar case of spontaneous combustion or something like it is described by a writer in Cassier's Magazine.

On Feb. 17, 1906, two large refrigerator cars of young rosebushes were received at Hannibal, Mo., from a nursery in California. They were shipped in wooden cases containing numerous auger holes for ventilation and were carefully packed with wet sphagnum, or California swamp moss, to prevent chafing and to support their vitality.

No ice was put in the cooling tanks, and the covers of these as well as all other openings in the cars were closed as tightly as possible. The cars were ten days in transit. The outside temperature was 60 degrees F. at the start and 15 degrees at the end of the trip.

Upon arrival steam was issuing from every crevice of the cars. Upon removing the tank covers it rushed out in large volume. The doors were opened, and ice was put in the tanks. The free circulation of cold air soon cooled the contents of the cars.

In unloading it was discovered that some of the upper layers of boxes were badly damaged by heat, which naturally was most intense near the top of the cars. No signs of actual combustion were found, but this would probably have occurred in a short time had not the cars been quickly cooled.

Origin of Dollar Mark.

"Every American knows the meaning of the dollar mark, but in the urgent quest for that which it represents few ever take time to learn its origin," said a bank clerk the other day.

"After a careful search of several books," he continued, "I have found that it was originally the figure 8 and was first used to denote dollars by Alexander Hamilton. This gentleman, it is well known, lived for a number of years among Spanish people, and it is from them he derived the use of the figure as a sign for our dollar. In a Spanish dollar there are just eight pieces, and when prefixed by a Spaniard to a number it signifies so many times eight pieces. The two lines were afterward drawn through to distinguish it from other figures."

Miraculous Eggs.

A correspondent calls to mind an incident in the life of Professor Anderson, "the wizard of the north," says the London News. Walking through the butter and egg market in Aberdeen, he bought one egg from an old woman with a basketful. He cracked the shell on the spot and extracted a sovereign, which he calmly put in his pocket.

"Na, wa! Ye'll get nae mair," was the reply, as the saleswoman swung the basket on her arm and rushed home to break every egg she had.

Training School Located.

Greensboro, Nov. 19.—The committee appointed to select a site for the Stonewall Jackson Manual and Training School met in the Benbow Hotel last night and unanimously accepted the proposition of Concord and Cabarrus county to locate the school near Concord. The proposition consisted of a donation of 227 acres of land and \$1,000 in cash.

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