

CHARLOTTE.

On Wednesday the great Democratic State Convention will assemble in Charlotte, the first since the memorable one of 1855.

Common expectation attributes to the coming convention momentous consequences, and history tells us how important were the results of that of a half century ago.

Charlotte has often been called a boastful city, but it always "makes good." It started out a year ago to call itself "The Convention City."

No doubt the heat and turmoil of a North Carolina State Convention, the tumult, and the wounds and scars of many conflicts, will find this time, unusual mitigation in the hospitality of Charlotte, whose civic motto should be: "Fortiter in Re; Suaviter in Modo."

Note.—The writer takes occasion here to make acknowledgment of the uncommon hospitality with which he was treated on the occasion of his recent visit to Charlotte with his brethren of the Press—at the hands of Messrs. Caldwell, of the Observer, Dowd, of the News, and Harris, of the Chronicle, all of them, editors and papers, splendid exemplars of modern Journalism.

RIVER AND RAIL.

It is frequently asserted, and with excellent foundation, that the Prussian system of inland waterway improvement—a work in which no section of the country is so vitally interested as the great North West—is the best and the most comprehensive in all Europe, but the inland waterway system of France is, none the less, a most admirable object lesson.

Imbued with the soundness of that view the Committee of the French Senate, having the question before it, thus reported to the Senate in 1902, "It is futile to deny that traction is less costly by water than by rail and where transportation by water and by rail are both available they complement and complete each other, the one transporting heavy materials, the low cost of which is an indispensable condition to the vitality of industries which segment, in their turn, the traffic of the railway."

The report, concurred in by both branches of the legislative body of the French Republic, resulted in the perfecting of the system of improvement of the artificial and the natural inland waterways of France and every branch of trade and commerce is feeling the inestimable benefit of the wisdom of the French legislative body in the completion of a system which is now a part of the fixed policy of the government of the country.

Deep in the vellum-bound ancient volumes of many an old book store lies the romance of electricity. It is a story so old as to be lost in the obscurity of the mystic East and so interesting as to read more like fiction than fact.

From the electric light in the library reading room and the electric cars rumbling past the building the story of electricity can be traced back through centuries until the tiny thread was lost in the Great Empire of China thousands of years ago.

enjoy the benefits of such a system. Certainly no section would profit by the system as the great North West would profit by it. France is illustrating the immeasurable benefits coming from the adoption and the enforcement of an enlightened and definite system with river and rail supplementing and completing each other as means of transportation without hostility between them, but with both sharing in the benefits that come to every interest in the entire country.

THE VERDICT OF NEUTRAL TERRITORY.

Webster's Weekly.) Three splendid gentlemen are asking for the Democratic nomination for Governor. Their merits have been presented by zealous champions.

There is not the faintest suspicion against the integrity of either. Many have found it difficult to decide between them. Mr. Craig lives beyond the Blue Ridge and the mountain people are practically unknown to him. Mr. Kitchin represented the Fifth District with signal ability for the past twelve years, redeeming it in 1896 from the dominion of the brilliant Section, and naturally the Fifth District desires to see him honored with the governorship.

The Weekly is confident that Mr. Kitchin will win the prize. When the delegates get to Charlotte and compare notes they will look at the matter in this way: The three mountain districts say Craig, the Fifth and Second say Kitchin, Charlotte and Wilmington say neither, but favor Mr. Kitchin. Now what do the neutral counties say? Then they will turn to the Charlotte Observer's bulletin of May 17th and will read this:

"Seven counties held primaries yesterday and though many of them were in Congressman W. W. or Claude Kitchin's district the results of the balloting for the day leaves Mr. Locke Craig still with a good lead, a matter of some 50 votes. It was Mr. Kitchin's best day and it is said that with yesterday's balloting he has about run his course—that the battle from henceforth will be fought in neutral territory and that Mr. Craig will have the best of it."

"Thus far 45 counties—just one-half the State—have voted, leaving Mr. Craig with a lead of 58 votes. The balance of the battle is to be fought out in neutral territory and Mr. Craig's supporters are confident that he will get a majority of the votes to be cast and that he will come to the convention with a sufficient number of votes to be nominated on the first ballot."

How has it been since then? They will ask. If Kitchin has exhausted his strength when half the counties had spoken and he 58 votes behind Craig, was he secured the votes to not only catch up with Craig, but to lead him 49 votes, as he has done, he will turn to the Charlotte Observer of June 14th, where they will see the counties that have acted since May 17th have divided their votes as follows:

Kitchin 178.87
Craig 56.94
Horse 66.40

Thus they will see in what the Charlotte Observer pronounces "neutral territory," Kitchin's vote exceeds that of both his competitors combined. Eliminating from the account the partiality of the mountain country for Craig and the partiality of the Fifth and Second Districts for Kitchin, "neutral territory" has decided for Kitchin. Leaving out of the account the Tenth, Ninth and Eighth Districts, Craig carries only one Congressional District in neutral territory, the Seventh.

Leaving out of the account the Fifth and Second Districts, Kitchin carries the First, Third, Fourth and Sixth Districts, all in neutral territory. Or, if we will get a plurality in the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Districts, while Kitchin carries the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Districts—making his lead by Districts six to two. Kitchin's lead is not a narrow one. The hopes of the Horse men are that the rivalry between Craig and Kitchin will be so fierce that the friends of either will go to the Johnson man rather than see Kitchin or Craig, respectively, win the prize. Similar hopes were entertained by the Turner men four years ago, but the man who went into the convention in the lead held his forces together, and was nominated by the votes of the voters and Davidson men. Glenn lacked 78 votes of winning on the first ballot, which was relatively the same as Kitchin, the convention of 1908 being composed of 855 delegates, whereas the convention of 1904 had 1100 voters and was held in only five counties, Johnston, New Hanover, Brunswick, Anson and Mecklenburg, whereas Turner had five counties and Gen. Davidson ten.

We predict that the Kitchin, Craig and Horse forces will hold together without a break for several ballots, and that the Horse men from the east will finally give Kitchin the nomination, just as the Turner and Davidson men did the adding candidate in the convention of 1904.

Kitchin will share generously in the votes of the uninstructed counties, especially Rowan. Having caught up with Craig, overcoming a lead of 58 votes and discarding him in the race by 50 votes in four weeks, he lacks only about \$9 to win the nomination, and we cannot believe that any combination can be formed that can take the prize from him now.

The "neutral territory" has spoken and the verdict is for Kitchin.

tricity" goes back twenty-five centuries and is derived from the Greek word "elektron" meaning amber. This amber, came from the sea. The ancients used it extensively as an insulator in the arts and for ornamental purposes. It was one of the old Greek philosophers, Thales, who discovered in polishing this amber by the hand that the fundamental truth possessed by the attraction of attracting light bodies whose power of attracting light bodies whose power possessed the secret of life but he failed to explain the magnetic attraction.

The hearing of the Greeks was adopted by the Romans and Pliny, the elder, wrote considerably of this strange property of amber. He said the stone was rubbed into life by his fingers. The Romans contented themselves with this knowledge and arrived no further towards a solution of the problem. While they believed Jove hurled his immortal thunderbolts in just anger over some fancied wrong they little knew that their amber ornaments contained the secret of lightning. The great Caesar was awed and astounded at the strange lights which on certain nights played ghost-like about the spiked helmets and spear points of the Roman legions. Thoms ancient writer was translated as ghosts and immortal than in silence. His little understood nature and attributed all such phenomena to static electricity shining in "St. Elmo's light" upon the steel spear points of the army and the masts of each of these in the Roman navy was translated as a message from the gods in assurance of victory.

Fortunately electricity was neither forgotten or neglected when the great Roman civilization passed away and the Dark Ages succeeded. The record of electrical experiments is recorded in the seventeenth century when Gilbert, an Englishman, studied the electric and the magnet and wrote his famous book, "De Magnete," which was the beginning of a new era in electric science. Gilbert told little that Thales had not known but he paved the way for a new scientific development. Goerckie, a Prussian, invented the first crude electric machine. He made a simple device was a cylinder of sulphur mounted on an axle and turned with a crank. By whirling this cylinder and pressing a silk cloth against it, frictional or static electricity was produced. This was the first machine of considerable quantity of electricity and stimulated further experiments. Though many properties of the mystic force were discovered little other progress was made during that century.

The next century brought discoveries which filled the world with excitement and nearly every book printed during that time contains articles on electricity. The glass electrical machine invented at this time consisted of a large glass cylinder or disk revolved on an axle having rubber with leather. This machine produced a large, brilliant spark. DePaire, a Frenchman, sent a spark through a wire 1,300 feet long and suspending it from a silk cord was charged with electricity. When his friend touched him he was astonished to see a large spark leap from his body to theirs. Muschenbroek tried to touch electricity and produced the Leyden jar, named after the city where he first used it. It was a glass jar with a nearly knocked him to the floor. The Leyden jar brought alarm and terror to all who saw for the first time the great power of electricity. The words say that Louis XV held an audience with his jar and received electricity and that his royal arms were jerked out of their sockets, which mystified him greatly.

Then our own Benjamin Franklin turned to the front and proved with his kite that the electricity from the lightning machine and the lightning from the clouds were the same thing. He was the greatest electrical scientist of the age and the history of electrical progress dates practically from that day. He constructed a battery of Leyden jars which he used for lighting himself, shocking animals to death and setting fire to tinder. Franklin's experiments were repeated in Europe and he was honored as being the greatest scientist of the age. Up to this time static electricity was the only kind known. Two kinds of electricity are recognized, the static electricity which is motionless and takes the form of discharges from one body to another and electricity generated by chemical action or mechanical means. The next world-wide smashing development in electricity was the discovery of the chemical battery which gave a steady flow of current. A man named Galvani, a professor of anatomy at Bologna, in 1790 was experimenting with an electric machine. By chance some frog legs were lying upon the same table as his machine and as he watched the panicking delegates delegates running over each other in their effort to get away from the LaFollette reforms, some of which had been denounced in the senate as a patriotic in a republican president, and much that has been sneered at as "Bryanism" has thus been made respectable.

Lincoln, Neb., June 26.—Under the caption "In Full Retreat," William J. Bryan, the Nebraska orator, the champion of the Republican cause, is retreating from the platform of the Nebraska Will Discuss the Doings of the Republican Convention.

Delegates Ran Over Each Other Getting Away From the Reforms Endorsed by President Roosevelt—Republicans Will Have Many Embarrassing Things to Deal With in the Coming Campaign, Chief Among These Being the Defeat of the Campaign Publicity Resolution—Retreat From the Railroad Question.

The Republicans who attended the national convention as spectators and joined in the demonstration in favor of the reforms and other reforms, LaFollette, must have felt indignation as they watched the panicking delegates delegates running over each other in their effort to get away from the LaFollette reforms, some of which had been denounced in the senate as a patriotic in a republican president, and much that has been sneered at as "Bryanism" has thus been made respectable.

The good of the president's policies has made his name a household word. His name is held upon the country which must be reckoned with in the future, for the president will fulfill his present term while yet in the full vigor of his manhood, and he is not without ambition.

Another check on the president's policies are by no means faint. It is a question whether the bad in them does not outweigh the good. That Mr. Roosevelt's opinion has made him blind to the reserved rights of the states, and oblivious of the barriers which the constitution has erected between the executive and the other branches of government, is well known to every thoughtful, unprejudiced mind. However well-intentioned these intentions may be, they will expose the republic in the future no less serious.

The Prince of Peace.

(Continued from Page One.)

to fill it with purpose, earnestness and happiness. But this Prince of Peace promises not only peace but strength. Some have thought his teachings fit only for the weak and the timid and assailed to men of vigor, energy and ambition. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Only the men of faith can be courageous. Confident that he fights on the side of Jehovah he doubts not the success of his cause. What matters it whether he shares in the shouts of triumph? If every word spoken in behalf of truth has its influence and every deed done for the right weighs in the final account it is immaterial to the Christian whether his eyes behold victory or whether he dies in the midst of the conflict.

Yes, though thou lie upon the dust, When they who hoped thee flee in fear, Like fall of hope and manly trust, Lie those who fell in battle here.

Another hand will sword shall wield, Another host will trumpet mouth is pealed, The blast of triumph o'er thy grave."

Only those who believe attempt the seemingly impossible and, by attempting, prove that one with God can change a thousand and two can put ten thousand to flight. I can imagine that the early Christians who were carried into the arena to make a spectacle for the more savage than the beasts, were treated by their doubting companions not to condemn their lives, but, kneeling in the center of the arena, they prayed and sang until they were devoured. How helpless they seemed, and measured by every human standard, how hopeless was their cause. And yet within a few decades the power which they invoked proved mightier than the legions of the emperor and the faith in which they died was triumphant over all that land. It is said that those who went to meet at their suicide returned asking themselves, "What is it that can enter into the heart of man and make him die as these die?" They were greater conquerors in their death than they could have been had they purchased life by a surrender of their faith.

What would have been the fate of the church if the early Christians had had as little faith as many of our Christians now have? And, on the other hand, if the Christians of today had the faith of the martyrs, how long would it be before the fulfillment of the prophecy that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess?

Our faith shall be even stronger than the faith of those who lived two thousand years ago for we see our religion spreading and growing, the pillars of our faith are being strengthened. At the Christian grow older he appreciates more and more the completeness with which Christ fills the requirements of the heart and, grateful for the peace which he enjoys and for the strength which he has received, he repeats the words of the great scholar, Sir William Jones:

"Before thy mystic altar, heavenly I kneel in manhood, as I kneel in youth, Thus let me kneel, till this dull form decay, And life's last shade be brightened by the ray."

BYRAN ON THE CONVENTION.

REPUBLICANS ARE RETREATING.

In the Next Issue of the Commoner the Nebraska Will Discuss the Doings of the Republican Convention—Delegates Ran Over Each Other Getting Away From the Reforms Endorsed by President Roosevelt—Republicans Will Have Many Embarrassing Things to Deal With in the Coming Campaign, Chief Among These Being the Defeat of the Campaign Publicity Resolution—Retreat From the Railroad Question.

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Another check on the president's policies are by no means faint. It is a question whether the bad in them does not outweigh the good. That Mr. Roosevelt's opinion has made him blind to the reserved rights of the states, and oblivious of the barriers which the constitution has erected between the executive and the other branches of government, is well known to every thoughtful, unprejudiced mind. However well-intentioned these intentions may be, they will expose the republic in the future no less serious.

Why did he retain in his cabinet, Mr. Knox, the attorney for the trusts, appointed attorney general at the instance of the trusts? Why did he make Mr. Morton, a railroad magnate of malodorous repute, a member of his cabinet, and defend this self-confessed violator of the constitution? Why did he appoint, and why does he keep in his cabinet, Mr. Root, a notorious attorney of the very trusts the president is denouncing? Why does the president affiliate with the Adickes and the Spooners at idleness games, and he turns his back upon the Government? Why does he renege on his word? Why did he go to the assistance of the "Quay" republicans, as against the "Lincoln" republicans in Pennsylvania? Mr. Knox, the favorite candidate of the trust barons for the country, the

tion is silent on that subject. Was the President ahead of the Republican party in his reforms or has the Republican party receded from the President's position? Did the President give a false alarm on this question or has the party soundly a retreat? PRESIDENT'S PARTY HEATS UP IN RETREAT ON HIS PROPOSITION THAT PREDATORY WEALTH EXISTED.

In the President's message to Congress last spring he presented an indictment against the conspiracy formed among the great lawbreakers to prevent the enforcement of the laws and to evade the punishment provided by law. The platform adopted by the Republican convention contains no intimation of the President's reform or any conspiracies, the convention did not see them; if there are any combinations it had not heard of them; if there are any dangers, they are unconscious of them. Was the President mistaken when he called "merger suits," so often boasted of, seems to be a case against rather than in favor of the administration. The decree of the supreme court in that case upholds the criminal as well as the civil clauses of the Sherman anti-trust act, but instead of following up the civil with criminal action against the law breakers, Attorney General Knox hastened to Wall Street to assure the trust magnates that the administration was not going to "run amuck," and thereupon the railroad concerned immediately proceeded to organize another merger under a different name, which new trust has openly continued the same violations of law denounced by the President.

The President's singular change of front on the question of the control of rates when the amendment to the interstate commerce act was before the senate, and the House of Representatives was Republican, has been endorsed by nearly two-thirds of the States of the Union and there is probably not a State in the Union in which it would not be endorsed as a reform. It is true that the record in the record made in the houses and by the various States, this reform is rejected by a 7 to 1 vote in a Republican convention.

SEVEN PROPOSITIONS TURNED DOWN.

Here are seven propositions upon which the Republican party, in national convention assembled, has retreated from the position taken by that party in Congress or from the position taken by the President. What have Roosevelt Republicans to say? The President has awakened a spirit of reform within his party, he has at least revealed to the world that there are reformers in the Republican party. Can that spirit now be quelled by a standpat convention? The President's call to arms and are ready to march forward; will they furl their banners and turn back merely because the President acquiesces in the sounding of a retreat?

THE GOOD AND THE BAD OF THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES.

W. B. Fleming, in the Arena.) That good has come out of the administration of President Roosevelt is evident from the popular approval accorded it.

The public declaration of the president that under no circumstances would he accept a third term, marked the beginning of this approval. The friendly denunciation in the senate of the Russian Japanese war made him a world figure, and gave him more prestige at home than all of his "big stick" performances in connection with our army and navy.

The steps taken to preserve the public lands and mineral wealth from private depredation has met with universal praise. His public utterances against plutocratic domination and the menace of reformer's wealth have also opened the hearts of the people to him.

The official investigations set on foot and consequent exposure of the high crimes and misdemeanors of some of our "captains of industry" and a few of our public men, have also commended the president to the masses. The efforts of the present to secure some sort of control of the railroads have likewise added to his reputation.

The fact that President Roosevelt was not pledged by the platform on which he was elected to any of these reforms, but that he has voluntarily conducted a happy surprise to the country, and this has probably accorded to him a larger measure of praise than would otherwise have been meted out. Considering his obligations to the masses and other reforms, the president's contributions, and the powerful influences brought to bear upon him in the interests of the big corporations, the president has done so much better than the public had a right to expect, that he shines with the greater brilliancy.

The good that has come from his speeches and messages is the more far-reaching because of its source. That which in a democratic president would have been denounced as an anarchistic in a patriotic in a republican president, and much that has been sneered at as "Bryanism" has thus been made respectable.

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most fulsome praises of himself from Mr. Roosevelt. The significant facts tend to prove that the so-called war of the president upon the predatory corporations was not intended to be heroic.

In addition to those already mentioned many others might be cited which create a suspicion, that after all this warfare is largely a "play to the galleries" or a species of "four-shaming" if not a sham. In spite of this solemn declaration that he would under no circumstances be a candidate in 1908, interviews are being given out to the effect that the president will run his pledge as a third term if he can break the solid south by carrying one northern state, and Mr. John Temple Graves does not hesitate to pledge to him the state of Georgia. Doubtless some other seeker after notoriety or public office will be equally ready to pledge him the state of Texas.

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When Mr. Harrison was caught by the inter-state commerce commission "with the goods on him" and the country had every right to expect that the President would not be a cabinet buccaneer, the Associated Press was quick to publish the news that a cabinet meeting it had been concluded that no criminal measures would be resorted to in the case, and Roosevelt Republicans to say? The President has awakened a spirit of reform within his party, he has at least revealed to the world that there are reformers in the Republican party.

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country, but upon the government itself. They control the party machinery. Behind the boss stands the millionaire and the corporation. Hundreds of thousands of children are made to work in the factories, mills and mines, with long hours and small pay, and the future fathers, mothers, and citizens are being dwarfed in body, mind and soul. Graft is rampant not only in the insurance companies whose wards are the widows and the orphans, but in public places, and corruption reigns in political conventions and at the polls.

It is facts like these that are pitting the people in fear of the future and compelling them to look for a Moses and making them ready to hail as a redeemer the first president they have had in fifty years who has shown any disposition to stand by them as

against their despoilers. When they learn how ineffective the president's policies will prove, Mr. Roosevelt will lose some of his popularity. The president has taken the position that the water now extant in the issues of the capital stock of the corporations must be upheld as "vested rights." When the public comprehends that these fraudulent issues aggregate untold billions and in effect constitute a mortgage upon the productive resources of the country, and that this mortgage, in connection with the tremendous concentration of the resources of the country in the hands of the few must necessarily eventuate in industrial slavery, it is certain that Mr. Roosevelt will have to change his policy or lose his popularity.

"Panic Deposits." Comparative deposits at each call for statement since August, 1907. August 22nd, \$534,539.18. December 3rd, \$697,409.47. February 14th, \$619,599.45. May 14th, \$635,600.84.

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