

DEWEY'S HEAD TURNED The Admiral Willing to Be Any Party's Candidate. NOT MAKING PLATFORMS He Has No Policy to Announce, but Believes that the People Will Not Be Happy Unless He Is President—His Candidacy Generally Regarded as the Joke of the Season—Mark Hanna Says He Should Have Come Out April 1st

Washington, April 4.—Admiral Dewey is willing to become a candidate for the nomination for the presidency, and has made a definite announcement of this fact. He declines at the same time to express his views on any subject of political interest or significance. In fact, he is apparently in a mood to receive questions, and is waiting to see how the people receive the statement of his willingness to accept at their hands the presidency of the United States.

"I have very decided opinions on matters of public moment," he said, "but I am not prepared to announce them at the present time. I have been reading the newspapers constantly and have received thousands of letters from all parts of the country, and I have formed very strong opinions on a number of matters in which the public is interested, but I do not think it would be wise for me to announce them at present. Candidates for the presidency do not make platforms."

"What has induced you to change your mind in regard to the presidency?" "When I first returned from Manila, I replied the admiral, "my health was not as good as it is now. I did not know so well the feelings of the people toward me. Ever since my return I have been receiving letters urging me to announce my willingness to become President, and I have discovered that the position of admiral is not the highest in the United States. The highest position in the United States is that of President; and if the American people want me to act as President, how can I refuse? Everywhere I have gone I have been most warmly received, and people in crowds have exclaimed, 'We want you for President.' They want me for President, and I have believed that an officer of the United States navy would have met with such a reception as that given me on my recent trip through the South. I was everywhere received with the greatest warmth and courtesy. I have seen sectionalism being wiped out rapidly and that the old feeling of the South toward the North is rapidly disappearing. The Spanish war did a great deal to bring the country together. The people of the United States are more prosaic today than they ever were before. They are building cotton mills all over the South and manufacturing of every kind is on the increase."

"Admiral Dewey's position in regard to the presidency is an independent one, and he said this morning he would have no 'policy' to execute if he were elected. 'To my mind,' he said, 'the office of the President, as contemplated by the Constitution, is wholly executive. I do not see any possibility of the President dictating to Congress, but, on the contrary, I believe he should execute the laws which Congress enacts, faithfully and without fear or prejudice. I remember the denunciation which once followed the administration of a President of the United States of my party; and the admiral indicated that he did not intend to commit himself in any way to the politicians of either party, although he had no hesitancy in saying that he would be grateful to his friends. The admiral would express no preference as to which party he would accept a nomination from, but indicated that, believing as he does, that the presidency is an executive office with functions wholly independent of any party, he would announce a platform as a candidate, or to formulate policies for a candidate, and therefore he was in a position to accept the nomination from whichever party offered it, and that he would accept it to take it from either the Republicans or Democrats. In fact, he went so far as to intimate that in the belief of the two great parties nominated him, and he should still remain the subject, but that the American people give them the opportunity of expressing their preference by nominating him on an independent platform.

but I have no desire to go abroad this summer." In conclusion, the admiral stated that he intended to devote all the time possible to his duties as president of the new board, which is to be substantially the general staff of the navy. He said that if he had the time he could spend seven days in the week at this work, as it was not only an important, but a very interesting subject.

BUTT OF MANY JOKES

The Admiral's Announcement Provokes Mirth on All Sides.

Washington, April 4.—Admiral Dewey's announced candidacy for President was received by members of Congress this morning with varying emotions. The Democrats, generally speaking, regard it as a joke. The Republicans seem to take a more serious view of it. Indeed, while Republicans at both ends of the Capitol refuse sullenly to discuss the subject for publication, their private expressions are characterized by a tone of dread.

Democratic House members talked about it glibly enough, and their very glibness indicated that they refuse to view the matter seriously. None of them professed to know whether Admiral Dewey was a Democrat or a Republican. Senator Hanna said that the announcement was a surprise to him. He knew nothing about it coming. He then smiled and said: "Admiral Dewey is not my ratee."

Representative Sully: "The Republicans are going to renominate McKinley, and I am running as a Republican Democrat."

Representative Dismore: "When a man marries his troubles begin. That is one of the reasons why I have never married. By the way, have you noticed the ticket. He is not running as a Republican Democrat."

Representative McCulloch: "What do I think of it? Oh, it is just Dewey, that's all."

QUAY CASE BOBS UP

His Friends Clamor for an Early Vote in the Senate

BURROWS WANTS TIME

Citizens of Cuba Petition Against Using Military Power to Prevent Landing of a Competing Cable—The Petition Received and Ordered Printed Notwithstanding a Rule of the Senate to the Contrary—Flowers on Foraker's Desk

Washington, April 4.—A bunch of beautiful flowers adorned the desk of Mr. Foraker of Ohio when the Senate convened today. It was sent to him by friends in recognition of his handling of the Porto Rican bill.

Mr. Stewart presented a petition from citizens of Cuba representing \$150,000,000 of capital, "praying Congress to enact a law prohibiting the use of the United States military power to prevent the landing of a competing cable from the United States."

Mr. Daniel of Virginia appealed to the Senate that a time for a vote be fixed. "This is a question of the highest privilege," said he. "It is now four months ago that I presented to the Senate. There is some courtesy due to the body of Senators, to the State from which the applicant comes, and to the applicant himself. I think the time for fixing a day for the final vote has come."

Excitement in the House. Washington, April 4.—The House today resumed consideration of the bill to establish a territorial government in Hawaii. Mr. McDowell of Ohio, a member of the Committee on Territories, was the first speaker.

College Baseball Games. Charlottesville, Va., April 4.—The college baseball season proper opened here this afternoon. The University of Virginia defeated Cornell in a pretty contest. Virginia, 6; Cornell, 5.

GREAT HALL IN ASHES

Where the Democratic Convention Was to Have Met

BURNED IN A HALF HOUR

Entire Fire Department in Kansas City Unable to Save It—Fine Church and a Public School Also a Prey to the Devouring Element—The Kall One of the Largest in the World and Cost a Great Sum of Money.

Kansas City, April 5.—Convention Hall, the mammoth auditorium in which the Democratic convention was to be held July 4, was burned to the ground in less than half an hour by fire that started in the building at 1:10 p. m. today. The hall was one of the largest in the world. It cost, with the ground, in the neighborhood of \$250,000, and was built by popular subscription.

THE END IN SIGHT. Governor Bradley Signs for Close of the Kentucky Contest.

Frankfort, Ky., April 4.—It seems a settled fact tonight that the Court of Appeals will render its decision tomorrow in the governorship contest and the case will be an end, so far as the State court is concerned. Former Governor Bradley evidently anticipates an affirmative of the lower court in holding that the legislative journals are conclusive of the case and that the court has not the right to review the action of the legislature in passing on the contest.

Decision Held Up. Frankfort, Ky., April 4.—The Court of Appeals decided tonight to hold up its decision in the governor's contest case until Saturday or possibly Monday. The delay is said to have been occasioned by the judges, who are writing dissenting opinions.

TOLBERT IN TROUBLE

A South Carolina Mob Makes It Uncomfortable for Him

Columbia, S. C., April 4.—James W. Tolbert, who was expelled from Greenwood county after narrowly escaping severe handling by a mob, and whose brother-in-law is contesting the seat of Congressman Lattimer in the Third district, narrowly escaped falling into the hands of another mob last night. Mrs. Tolbert is postmaster at McCormick, Greenwood county, a few miles from Phoenix. Her husband arrived there yesterday morning.

No News to Speak of from Africa. London, April 5.—There is very little news from South Africa and no actual achievement on either side is reported.

BULLET FOR THE PRINCE

Wales Has a Narrow Escape in Belgium.

Brussels, April 4.—The Prince of Wales was shot at while leaving the railroad station here. As the train was leaving the northern station for the southern railroad station an individual fired a revolver at the Prince of Wales, but missed his royal highness.

Contention of Department of Justice in regard to the Status of Porto Rico. Washington, April 4.—John R. Richards, Solicitor-General of the Department of Justice, has just filed a brief in the Supreme Court which fixes the attitude of this government on the question of whether the Constitution extends to the new possessions of the United States.

CUT AND DRIED PROGRAM. Red-legged Grasshoppers Take Charge of Convention in Hertie. Windsor, N. C., April 4.—Special.—The Populist and Republican conventions met here today. They appointed delegates and adjourned. M. L. Wood, deputy collector, was in charge of the Populist meeting. W. T. King, storekeeper and gauger, arranged the Republican program.

GEORGE MAY WRITE IT

Sub-Committee Don't Need Testimony of Smathers.

ATWATER COMING HOME

The Representative from the Fourth District Has Several Engagements for Speeches—A Virginia Representative Evolves a Scheme to Create a Reserve Volunteer Army—Crawford May Not Lose His Seat After All.

Washington, April 4.—Special.—Mr. George H. Smathers was seen today and he will remain here several days. He is not unfriendly to Judge Ewart, but, so far, he has not had an opportunity to appear before the sub-committee, composed of Senators Simmons and Pettus. He informed Mr. Simmons of his presence while Judge Ewart was here. The judge desired to question him, but Mr. Simmons said he did not need any further evidence in the case, and that Mr. Smathers could submit his statement in writing.

Sympathy for Boers Manifested in a Manner That Was Not Altogether Agreeable to His Royal Highness. Brussels, April 4.—The Prince of Wales was shot at while leaving the railroad station here. As the train was leaving the northern station for the southern railroad station an individual fired a revolver at the Prince of Wales, but missed his royal highness.

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