

GENERAL NEWS

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT NEARLY KILLED.

Trolley Car Crashes Into His Carriage, Kills a Guard in Front of Him; and also Kills a Horse—President Slightly Injured.

Lenox, Mass., Sept. 3.—President Roosevelt was close to death in a terrible accident that befell his party while en route from Pittsfield to this place in a landau at 10 o'clock this morning.

Providence saw fit to preserve the life of the President and he is safe, though slightly injured on the head, but life was crushed from William Craig, United States Secret Service officer and personal guard of the President. D. J. Pratt, driver of the landau, sustained injuries that may cause his death; W. Murray Crane, Governor of Massachusetts, was cut, bruised and scratched; Congressman George Lawrence of Massachusetts, was slightly hurt, and George B. Cortelyou, Secretary to the President, rendered unconscious.

The demon of destruction was an electric trolley car, running at top speed, estimated at thirty miles an hour. It struck the landau squarely and the six occupants, the President, Governor Crane, Congressman Lawrence, George B. Cortelyou, Secretary to the President, Secret Service Detective William Craig and the driver were hurled with terrific force in all directions. The scene of the disaster was on a country road one mile out of Pittsfield, in the heart of the Berkshire hills.

Negro Disfranchisement in Alabama.

The registration under the new Alabama Constitution has just been completed, and while the full official returns from three counties, Cherokee, Choctaw and Winston, are not yet at hand, the returns, as given by the Montgomery Advertiser, are sufficiently complete to show that the Alabama suffrage provisions are a complete success having accomplished exactly what was desired—cut down the negro votes without disfranchising the whites.

The white registration is exceptionally large, relatively much larger than that of Louisiana or Mississippi. The registration in sixty-three of the sixty-six counties of the State foots up 177,712. If the remaining three counties register in the same proportion as those that have already made returns, the totals registration will be 183,713. It is estimated that of this total nearly all are white and not over 2,500 are negroes.

Many counties returned no negroes registered at all. The largest negro county in the State is Montgomery, with 52,207 negro population. It registered only forty-seven negroes, or one in 111 of population. Dallas county, with 45,372 negroes, registered only sixty-seven, against 2,292 whites. That is, although the negroes exceed the whites five to one, the white registered vote is as thirty-four to one.

Some idea of the negro registration may be had from the following figures: Butler with 12,246 negroes had 1 registered; Conecuh, with 7,793 negroes, registers 2 as voters; Lee, with 19,078 negroes, registers 4; and Tallapoosa, with 10,688, register 2.

It will thus be seen that not only is all danger of negro supremacy over, but that the negro will henceforth cut no figure whatever in Alabama. Even in Booker Washington's county only fifty-two negroes are registered.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

TOM L. JOHNSON FOR PRESIDENT.

He is the Choice of the Ohio Democrats

Sandusky, Ohio, Sept. 4.—The Democratic State Convention yesterday was principally the occasion of booming its presiding officer, Mayor Tom L. Johnson, for the Presidency, and of introducing into Ohio politics Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, pastor of Vine Street Congregational Church at Cincinnati. The former has been conspicuously before the public as Congressman and delegate to national and other conventions for years, but the latter was not so well known until he was to-day made the standard bearer of his party and made a speech of acceptance that was received with unusual enthusiasm. Bigelow is 33 years of age, independent in his creed and has become prominent as a lecturer as well as a popular preacher. He was nominated for Secretary of State.

The platform adopted reaffirms the principles of the Kansas City platform "faithfully and ably represented in the Presidential campaign of 1900 by William Jennings Bryan," and condemns any effort to repudiate those principles.

The Destruction of Morne Rouge.

The news comes to-day of another serious eruption of Mont Pelee volcano, which cleaned up every sign of life that had escaped the initial disaster. Morne Rouge was a little village clinging to the rugged sides of the mountain, sheltered to some extent by the cleft that it was built in, and it did not suffer in any degree like its big neighbor, St. Pierre, at the foot of the mountain. It would seem as if the loss of 30,000 people in that city would have served as a warning to the Morne Rouge villagers and have emptied that place of its people. But it didn't. They stayed, hoping and trusting that the worst was over and Saturday the ugly crater belched forth again its molten mass and destroyed the last of the Morne Rougers.

The incident illustrates the homing pigeon instinct in humankind. Here in the cleft of the volcano the villagers had been born and reared. Here was the burial place of their forefathers and their kinsmen. Here seemed to them the only place where life would be tolerable. And while the mountain muttered, they trembled and dreaded the worst, but they stayed. They took the heaviest of all risks, danger of life itself,—and lost. Two hundred or more, it is said perished in this last eruption.—Charlotte Observer, 2nd.

The President's Speeches on His New England Tour.

The President's speeches were fully reported, and their most striking feature was his treatment of the trust problem. Indeed, the Providence and Boston addresses amount to a declaration of policy that, whether peculiar to the President or shared by other leaders of his party, means, if it means anything, the formulation of a new political program. "I am inclined to think," he said in Boston, "that much the greatest trouble in any immediate handling of the question of the trust comes from our system of government." When this government was founded, there were no great individual or corporate fortunes; there was thus no particular reason at that time to bother as to whether the nation or the State had control of the corporations. They were easy to control. Now the exact reverse is the case. States set corporations going which they then have no power to control. The creator creates a corporation, and then it goes and operates somewhere else, and there is no interest to the creator to deal with it. The President continued:

"Now I want to make a real and not a nominal sovereign—to have some one sovereign to which the corporations shall be really, really and not nominally, responsible. * * * I think that most of our difficulties would be in a fair way of solution if we had the power to put on the national statute books, and did put on them, laws for the nation much like those you have here on the subject of corporations in Massachusetts. * * * I believe it is possible to frame national legislation which shall give us more power than we have now, at any rate, over corporations doing an interstate business. * * * If it proves on effort that we cannot, under the Constitution as it is, give the national administration sufficient power in dealing with these great corporations, then, no matter what our reverence to the past may be, our duty to the present and to the future will force us to see that more power is conferred upon the National Administration."

This looked very like a theft of Democratic thunder—"dishing the Whigs" in Disraeli's phrase,—and was hailed by many papers as marking the President's break with Wall Street. But the week passed with no signs of an earthquake in that quarter. It is hard to excite much apprehension about anything that can only be brought to pass by a constitutional amendment. Uniform corporation laws enacted by the several States would probably be as easy to obtain and as effective. But such laws would amount to self denial ordinances in the States that now find it profitable to set in motion the Frankenstein that no one can control.—Country Gentleman.

The entire stock of American cotton on September 1, 1900, was 569,759 bales; the entire stock of American cotton on September 1, 1901, was 943,385 bales; the entire stock of American cotton on September 1, 1902, was 800,468 bales.

Details of Martinique's Latest Disaster.

Late details from Martinique show that the eruption of Mount Pelee, of which only inklings had previously reached the outside world, has had terrible results.

Two hundred persons are estimated to have been killed in the towns of Morne Rouge and Le Carbet alone, besides many others in the northern districts of the island.

There were horrible detonations and showers of volcanic matter, besides terrifying electrical displays.

Survivors are fleeing from the coast villages to Fort de France. The mountain has been in almost continuous eruption since August 15.—Baltimore Sun, 6th.

Porto Rico is Prospering.

Porto Rico is a brilliant and refreshing exception among our possessions beyonds the sea. It has taken its modest place quietly, and it doesn't trouble us by flaunting its own sins or by mirroring ours. In another column will be found an article by Governor-General Hunt, who returned the other day. He reports prosperity, peace and content among the people. We have the strongest sort of support for his assertions in an article from a ministerial paper of Madrid. This old enemy of Americans, after commenting on the great improvement that has taken place in Porto Rico since it was ceded to the United States, sadly remarks on the incompetence of the Spanish Governors, who were unable to do in centuries what Americans have accomplished in less than three years.—Collier's Weekly.

A New Uniform for Our Soldiers.

Since the range of rifles has begun to exceed that of the human eye, to dress so as not to be easily seen has become a military requirement. During the Civil War it was discovered that the Confederate gray was much less conspicuous than the dark blue which United States troops have worn since Colonial days. In a wood, gray is superior to brown, but on the deserts and in the tropics a greenish brown or yellow has been found most satisfactory. So the latter has been recently promulgated in a general order as the color of the service uniform of our soldiers. It is a color which has long been worn by hunters of big game, but somehow it does not seem romantic to speak of "the boys in greenish yellow." But poetry is of less value to our soldiers than the ability to avoid hostile bullets.—Nashville Christian Advocate.

Giles W. Jackson, a negro, has filed an application in the Circuit Court of the United States for an injunction against the new State Constitution of Alabama. The petition prays that the State registrars be enjoined from further refusing to put the names of himself and other qualified negro voters on the registration list. He also asks that the grandfather and understanding clause of the new Constitution be declared unconstitutional.