

## "What's The News?"

### The Presidential Campaign.

WITH the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt and Governor Johnson, of California, for President and Vice President by the Progressive Party, the Presidential campaign may be regarded as formally begun. Really, there is not likely to be much more interest or discussion than for the last three or four months.

The Progressive convention was well attended and very enthusiastic. Mr. Roosevelt was, of course, the dominant figure, and his speech, outlining his views, necessarily became the platform. He reiterated his views in regard to direct elections, primaries and the recall of judicial decisions, also his well-known policies in regard to labor laws, workingmen's compensatory acts, and trust control. On the tariff, his utterances were characteristically vague; his declaration in favor of a protective tariff which would protect the workmen might mean anything. He denounced both the old parties as tools of the corrupt interests. Woman suffrage is favored, a National child-labor law, and the Roosevelt conservation policies. The Negro delegates from the South received little consideration, but Mr. Roosevelt flatly disagreed with the men who wished to make a "white man's party."

Both President Taft and Governor Wilson have been notified of their nominations. Much of Senator Root's speech of notification consisted of assurances to the President that the nomination really belonged to him. Mr. Taft's speech of acceptance is generally regarded as aligning him even more definitely with the conservative or stand-pat element of his party.

In this connection it may be interesting to know that Mr. Gilbert E. Roe has made what is probably the most exhaustive and judicial investigation of the contested cases before the Chicago convention. His conclusion is that Mr. Roosevelt was justly entitled to thirty of the delegates awarded Mr. Taft, but that the other contests were fairly decided in favor of the President.

Mr. Wilson's speech of acceptance has been favorably received. He devoted most of it to the tariff question and the direct control of the Government by the people. We stand face to face, he says, "with great questions of right and of justice—questions of National development, of the development of character and of standards of action no less than of a better business system, more free, more equitable, more open to ordinary men, or a better fiscal system whose taxes shall not come out of the pockets of the many to go into the pockets of the few, and within whose intricacies special privilege may not so easily find covert. The forces of the Nation are asserting themselves against every form of special privilege and private control, and are seeking bigger things than they have ever heretofore achieved. They are sweeping away what is unrighteous in order to vindicate once more the essential rights of human life." He favors a gradual reduction of the tariff so as not to disturb business, but a reduction beginning with the schedules "most obviously used to kill competition and to raise prices" and continuing until it reaches every schedule which promotes monopoly or favors special interests.

Mr. Roosevelt's supporters won out in the Kansas Republican primaries and unless the Supreme Court interferes, there will be no chance to vote for Mr. Taft without having Taft electors placed on the ballot by petition.

The contest will be a hard-fought one, and there is plenty of time for great changes of public sentiment to take place. If we might presume to offer a little advice to our readers, it would be to study the claims and the records of each party and each candidate carefully and with as much freedom from partisan bias as possible; to keep cool and good tempered, remembering that in all parties the great mass of voters is honest and patriotic, and that all parties are afflicted with unscrupulous men who have achieved positions of leadership; and then when election day comes, to vote with no other consideration than the welfare of the Nation.

For ourselves, we shall never make The Progressive Farmer the organ of any man or any party, but shall continue to present what seems to us to be the truth, commending or condemning as seems to us just, trying at the same time to realize that our views are just as fallible as those of anyone else, and that those who think differently are just as patriotic and intelligent as we are.

## A Study of Rural Co-operation in Ireland

By CLARENCE POE

### III.—THE TWOFOLD PROBLEM OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATION.\*

PERHAPS the most notable work that the Department of Agriculture has done for Ireland has been in subsidizing premium pure-bred horses, cattle, sheep and swine exhibited at the county fairs, and thereby enabling the farmers to improve the quality of all lines of livestock. Mr. Billinton, of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, told me that the improvement in the stock sold in Ireland each year, as the result of the better blood introduced, would amount to £1,000,000 (nearly \$5,000,000) a year, the cattle exported to Great Britain being worth from \$7 to \$10 per head more than in the days of scrub stock.

From all this it will be seen that the progress the Irish farmer has been making has been symmetrical, comprehensive, and well rounded. Time was when it was thought that if the Irish farmer simply owned the land he tilled, the increase in thrift and industry that ownership would inspire would alone make him prosperous, but Sir Horace Plunkett and his fellows recognized that more than mere land ownership was needed.

#### Ireland Becoming a Land of Home-Owners.

It is gratifying to find that of the total farming area of 18,739,644 acres, the tenants purchased 2,500,000 acres under Land Purchase Acts from 1870 to 1896, while under the vastly more liberal acts of 1903-1909 they have purchased outright nearly 4,000,000 acres and have proceedings pending for the purchase of nearly 5,000,000 more, the total purchased outright, or for which purchase proceedings are pending, aggregating 11,421,448 acres as against only 7,318,196 remaining undisturbed in the hands of land-owners.

In spite of this vast increase in land-ownership, I repeat, the Irish farmer today might be discouraged instead of buoyant and hopeful if his leaders had not realized that the land would not long remain in his possession unless he developed qualities of initiative, enterprise, and self-help. Even as it is, a considerable number of holdings purchased by the tenants have come into the possessions of the village "gombeen men," or credit sharks. In fact, these "gombeen men"—combination merchants and liquor sellers—with their crass commercialism have threatened to become the new aristocracy in Ireland: men devoid of the culture which distinguished the old aristocracy and far more grasping and covetous. Editor Russell, of the Irish Homestead, is continually crying out against these vampires of rural strength, whose political power often appears to be greater than that of the farmers themselves. For one thing, the merchants are now trying—with some prospects of success—to prevent the co-operative agricultural banks from being given the power to buy and sell farm products.

#### We Must Crawl Before We Can Walk.

Before leaving the subject of these Irish co-operative societies, one other thought comes into mind that cannot be too strongly emphasized—and that is, that in this matter, as in all others, we must learn to crawl before we can walk. We have had in the South too many big, high-sounding schemes for financing the South's billion-dollar cotton crop, and other such gigantic schemes, and not enough attention has been given to local business organizations wherein the principle of co-operation might be tried out and a way prepared for effective co-operation in larger things. This is a fact which Mr. E. E. Miller has frequently urged in The Progressive Farmer. My observation in Ireland has convinced me more strongly than ever before of the correctness of his teaching. What we need in the South, what we need in our Farmers' Union, is a determined effort to organize local co-operative creameries, poultry societies, fruit growers' and truck growers' societies, co-operative credit societies, etc., and through these neighborhood organizations develop the business qualities and experience which will enable us to grapple with the mightier problem of financing the South's great staple crop.

#### An Ideal for the South.

Last of all, let us not forget the three phrases in Sir Horace Plunkett's brief motto—"Better Farming, Better Business, Better Living." Better farming and better business must be simply the means for better living. There is a new realization of this fact in Ireland now, and this explains,

\*Continued from last week.

in a large measure, the new interest in the "Society of United Irish Women," concerning which a paragraph by Editor G. W. Russell, of the Irish Homestead was published last week. It is inspiring to read Mr. Russell's book, "Co-operation and Nationality," from which this quotation was taken, and in which he sets forth in his dream of the new Ireland. The ideals he has for Ireland are those we must develop in the South, if we are to bring to our own section the beauty which he covets for his. And in the main, his argument is just this: that we must give our thoughts to local betterment, neighborhood improvement, rather than to efforts for reforming the whole country. He says: "How can you speak of working for all Ireland, which you have not seen, if you do not labor and dream for the Ireland before your eyes, which you see as you look out of your own door in the morning, and on which you walk up and down through the day?" What the English poet said of England, Mr. Russell says with regard to Ireland:

"I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land."

I cannot better conclude this article than by asking our Progressive Farmer readers to think of the South instead of Ireland, and the Southern county instead of the Irish county, in the following quotation in which Mr. Russell points out what even a small local community may become by developing all that is best and finest in its men and women:

"We must go on imagining better than the best we know. Even in their ruins now, Greece and Italy seem noble and beautiful with broken pillars and temples made in the day of their glory. But before ever there was a white marble temple shining on a hill, it shone with a more brilliant beauty in the mind of some artist who designed it. Do many people know how that marvellous Greek civilization spread along the shores of the Mediterranean. Little nations owning no more land than would make up an Irish barony sent out colony after colony. The seed of beautiful life they sowed grew and blossomed out into great cities and half-divine civilizations. Italy had a later blossoming of beauty in the Middle Ages, and travellers today go into little Italian towns and find them filled with masterpieces of painting and architecture and sculpture, witnesses of a time when nations no larger than an Irish county rolled their thoughts up to Heaven and mixed their imagination with the angels."

The smallest county in the South is not too small to develop a life and a civilization, distinctive, notable, far-reaching in its influence, if its people fired by a common idealism, should join hands in working out its highest expression. And this should be the supreme aim of the new movement for rural co-operation.

Dublin, Ireland.

### A Thought for the Week.

THE forbearing use of power does not only form a touchstone, but the manner in which an individual enjoys certain advantages over others is a test of a true gentleman. The power which the strong have over the weak, the magistrate over the citizen, the employer over the employed, the educated over the unlettered, the experienced over the confiding, even the clever over the silly—the forbearing or inoffensive use of all this power or authority, or a total abstinence from it when the case admits it, will show the gentleman in a plain light. The gentleman does not needlessly and unnecessarily remind an offender of a wrong he may have committed against him. He can not only forgive, he can forget; and he strives for that nobleness of self and mildness of character which impart sufficient strength to let the past be but the past. A true man of honor feels humbled himself when he cannot help humbling others.—Robert E. Lee.

Next week Mr. Poe will tell about the beauty of English rural landscapes.