

platform favored a decided expansion, not to say inflation, of the currency. In all this section, the Populist vote, while greater than in 1892, was but two per cent. of the total, and only half as great as the Prohibition vote.

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West and South, however, there was a marked change in the character of all platforms and in the comparative strength of the People's party. It was least marked in the Central States (from Pennsylvania and Maryland to the Mississippi), though even here the income tax was nowhere condemned, and the currency planks (except in Wisconsin) were ambiguous where they were not distinctly friendly to the coinage of silver. In this section the People's party, though weak, gained a foothold, polling thirty thousand votes in the city of Chicago, and (unfortunately for its own reputation) making General Coxey second in the race for Congress in his district. In the old Southern States and in the States west of the Mississippi the platforms of all parties, with few exceptions, favored the free coinage of silver, and the Populists in nearly all States formed the second party. These two sections need to be separated in treatment only because in the South it was the Republican party which showed signs of extinction, while in the West it was the Democratic party. In the South the Republican party has fallen to pieces in all but the two States—Tennessee and North Carolina—in which there was always a strong white Republican vote. Even in Louisiana the revolt of the sugar-planters failed to carry a single district for the Republicans. Apparently the negro Republican party is no more. In Tennessee and North Carolina the Republican victories were gained with the aid of the Populists. In North Carolina there was formal fusion between these two parties, and the victory involves the election of a free-coinage Republican and a Populist to the United States Senate. In the West the Democratic party did not fuse with the Populists as in '92, but recovered strength only in the cities. The People's party made gains in its total vote, but not the gains expected of it. In Nebraska alone was its candidate elected Governor, and this victory was only won through the aid of fusion Democrats under the lead of Mr. Bryan, and through the refusal of the Omaha "Bee" to support the Republican nominee. In Minnesota, however, the People's party became the second party in the State, polling fifteen thousand votes in the city of Minneapolis. In Colorado and in Kansas the party lost, as was expected. In Colorado Governor Waite was practically defeated by the vote of Denver, which polled fifteen thousand majority against him. In California alone, among all the States in the North, was the Democratic party successful, and here its success was confined to its candidate for Governor, who conducted his campaign distinctly on State issues. The Republican victories in all of the legislative contests in the West give to that party a plurality in the United States Senate—the Populists holding the balance of power. These Senatorial contests were, from the standpoint of National politics, the most important decided this year. The Senatorial gains which the Republicans have made promise to help them throughout the administration following President Cleveland's, unless the adoption of an anti-silver platform by the next National Republican Convention alienate the twenty prospective Republican Senators pledged to free coinage.

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The trial of the referendum in New York State was highly satisfactory so far as results were concerned, but less so as an indication of a popular demand for direct legislation. The revised Constitution was carried by a majority of ten to nine, the reapportionment amendment by a

smaller majority, the consolidation of Brooklyn and New York by an unexpectedly large majority in New York and an unexpectedly narrow one in Brooklyn, and municipal construction of New York's rapid-transit system by a vote of nearly three to one. The most important of these enactments morally was the adoption of the revised Constitution, which contains the prohibition of pool-selling at races, and gambling of every form; the most important politically was the adoption of the reapportionment amendment, which gives the Republicans the Legislature even if the State goes fifty thousand Democratic, and restricts the power of Greater New York if the vote on consolidation is carried into effect; the most important industrially was the vote in favor of the municipal construction of a rapid-transit system, which seems to secure to the general public in the future the privilege of untaxed transit from their business to their homes. So much for the majorities. When we come to consider the votes themselves, we find that on all the questions one-third of the voters failed to express an opinion, and on some of them two-thirds. This experience differs so much from that in California as to indicate that voters in the East care much less than voters in the West to have public questions submitted to them. However, there was this comforting fact developed by the vote: it was the districts with the foreign-born vote which most signally failed to pass judgment on the amendments. This means that the referendum furnished a sort of intelligence qualification, and that, while it failed to elicit the opinions of the entire public, it did secure the opinions of the intelligent part of it.

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Though Dr. Rice, in his volume on "The Public Schools of the United States," is doubtless just in characterizing the schools of New York City as the worst among the city schools of the country, there is one feature in which the New York public-school system is as pre-eminently good as it is pre-eminently bad in most other respects. Six years ago the New York Board of Education tentatively tried the experiment of conducting a course of free lectures in various schools to supplement for adults in the evenings the educational work done for the children in the daytime. The first winter 186 lectures were given, and the total attendance was 22,000. This was considered tolerably successful, and the next year over three hundred lectures were given. The total attendance, however, was hardly greater than the year before, and the Board seriously contemplated abandoning the plan. Fortunately, instead of doing this they engaged a man of ability and enthusiasm in this work—Dr. Henry M. Leipsiger—to give his entire time to the lectures and determine whether they could be developed. Dr. Leipsiger at once reduced the number of lectures to that given the first year, and set to work to secure men of real intellectual leadership as lecturers. Then, through the co-operation of the public-school teachers, each scholar was given programmes of the lectures to take to his parents. The result was that during the next season the average attendance rose from seventy to three hundred and fifty. Since that time the number of lectures has steadily increased, and the attendance has increased with it, until last year nearly four hundred lectures were given to audiences averaging more than four hundred. The plan of lectures for the coming season has just been issued, and among the lecturers are such men as Professors Boyesen and Sprague Smith, of Columbia, who take hold of this work from a belief in its intellectual value to the city in which they live. This feature of the work of the New York Board of Education is second in importance only to the free libraries established by school

boards in so many cities in the West. A country in whose cities one-half of the men of voting age are foreign-born cannot limit its educational work to the children.



The first important event of the week in China was the departure of the British cruiser *Caroline* for the island of Chusan, off Shanghai, where the Porpoise has already spent a week in preparation, it is said, for British occupation. Judged from either a strategic or a commercial point of view, the possession of Chusan would be invaluable to the great nation which has most of the trade of China's greatest treaty-port. As to the seat of war, the past week has witnessed a demoralization almost unparalleled among any people. The extreme end of the Regent's Sword promontory, separating the Gulf of Liaotung from Korea Bay, is occupied by that Gibraltar of China, Port Arthur, which is also the ordnance and quartermaster department of the Empire. It is reported that, after bombarding the fortress, the Japanese made a land assault, and the Chinese quickly surrendered. The garrisons of Kinchau and Talienwan (which occupy the narrow isthmus between the promontory and the mainland), numbering respectively three thousand and one thousand, have fled, after making a feeble defense. Finding their loss overwhelming, they abandoned their guns and stores, the infantry even casting aside their small arms as they ran. The Japanese loss was fourteen men. The last dispatches from Shanghai say: "It is reported that the Japanese force is approaching Niuchwang, and that the town is already panic-stricken. The officials are paralyzed. Hordes of half-starved and desperate deserters are arriving there daily." In the interior the stampede continues, and the Japanese are searching in vain for an organized body of the enemy. The conquerors have been welcomed with enthusiasm by the Manchurians, who see in them a deliverance from mandarin oppression. Minister Denby has been giving ample warning to Americans along the lines of Chinese retreat, instructing them to seek security in the treaty-ports, whither American vessels have been ordered for their protection. China is indeed in a pitiful position. She has been defeated by a people only a tenth as many in number. Her officials seem to be callous as to her fate, and are devoting their attention to personal peculations. Her great military men have all been found wanting, nor has any leader come to the front. It is, then, not surprising that China would like our Government to join with the other powers in intervention, pleading brazenly that she has always recognized the independence of Korea. Mediation, however, is a different matter, and it is thought by some that our Government would be willing to use its good offices in any way not inconsistent with our well-established policy; indeed, it is rumored that President Cleveland has already offered to mediate. Thus China, with true Oriental indirectness, seeks to avoid following the one frank course in suing for peace directly from Japan. After the latter power has settled her case with China at Peking, she may then properly call together an international congress to approve her demands. Any interference just now, especially by that great colonial power chiefly interested, might well be met by the reply, "Hands off," from the young nation which has long contended against great odds, has but just learned its real strength, and, not unjustly proud in consequence, deserves to enjoy the full extent of victory.



The disappearance of the old Liberal parties in Europe and the reappearance of the Clericals, with the Socialists

as their chief opponents, already commented upon in these columns, continues to attract attention as a serious, if not a portentous, sign of the times. The Conservative reaction, accelerated by the waving of the red flag and by the great gains of the Socialists in various parts of Europe, becomes every day more marked. Even M. Clemenceau, the leader of the French Radicals, summed up the situation not long ago in the phrase, "With arms folded, eyes closed, mouths tightly shut, we slide on the slope of revolution." "Liberty" and "property" are the two words upon which the Conservatives are ringing the changes, and, so far as we remember, it is a long time since these two words have been put in juxtaposition. "Liberty" has usually been the cry of the Radical, "property" the cry of the Conservative; but the Socialistic propaganda is exciting genuine fear lest the liberty which has been slowly wrested from monarchies shall be lost under a new kind of tyranny. Fuller reports from Belgium make the victory of the Clericals in that country still more decisive. In the next Parliament they will hold 104 seats, as against 33 held by the Socialists, and only 15 by the Liberals and Progressists combined. In Italy the Government has taken the extreme measure of ordering the dissolution of all associations which are in any way affiliated with the Socialist party or have in any form adopted its programmes. Under this new order, in Milan alone fifty-five associations, including trades-unions, co-operative societies, debating societies, and clubs of various kinds, have been dissolved, while domiciliary visits have been made in great numbers and papers of all kinds have been seized. If it is the vice of extreme forms of radicalism to excite reactions, it is the vice of reactions to become tyrannical through fear. Nothing will be gained by confusing healthful agitation, criticism, and liberalizing movements with Anarchism or with destructive Socialism. If Italy is close to the edge of revolution, as a great many people believe, such an indiscriminate use of authority as the Government is now making is likely to precipitate rather than to postpone or avoid the crisis.



There is no doubt that the real reason for the widespread discontent which is taking on revolutionary forms throughout Europe, and which is feeding the ranks of the Socialist party, is the pressure on the working populations of an exhausting military system. While the Great Powers have been increasing armies and piling up debts, they have been at the same time undermining the ground beneath their feet; while they are preparing to destroy each other, they have been developing an enemy far more dangerous than any against which they have striven to protect themselves. The disappearance of the Liberal parties probably means a sharp collision between the extremes of society, and that is the most dangerous form which the political struggle can take on. Militarism in an industrial age has produced the revolutionary party on the one hand and the reactionary party on the other hand. There is reason to believe that the great armies are no longer untainted by the spreading discontent. Recent removals of considerable numbers of officers in Germany are said to be significant of the spread of Socialism in the most thoroughly drilled army on the Continent. The spread of this movement in Austria is being brought about by the most careful organization and the most thorough agitation. All northern Austria is divided into sections and organized into clubs; books are furnished and lectures given, and the propaganda of Socialism carried on with enthusiasm. In Vienna, during the course of the last year, nearly a thousand public meetings were held. The burden of tax-