

The Outlook

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ON Monday of this week, at his home in Canton, Ohio, Mr. McKinley was officially notified of his nomination for the Presidency, and accepted in a short and well-worded speech, commending the St. Louis platform in its entirety. Senator Thurston, of Nebraska, the Chairman of the recent Convention, made the address of notification. He assured Mr. McKinley that his nomination had been the result of the spontaneous demand of the plain people of all sections, who recognized in him the champion of the principle which meant adequate public revenue, full employment for labor, and the restoration of the Nation's credit. The currency question was barely touched upon in a few words about "sound money" and "honest finance." Mr. McKinley's speech of acceptance took up the four subjects of increased protection, increased revenue, increased reciprocity, and increased confidence in the value of all our money. Like Senator Thurston, Mr. McKinley attributed the universal fall in values and lessening of production to the changes in the tariff. He declared that the loss of revenue and the consequent deficit had alone occasioned the embarrassment of the Treasury and forced the issue of bonds. "If sufficient revenues," he said, "are provided for the support of the government, there will be no necessity for borrowing money and increasing the public debt. During all the years of Republican control following resumption there was a steady reduction of public debt, while the gold reserve was sacredly maintained, and our currency and credit preserved without depreciation, taint, or suspicion." Mr. McKinley urged the increase of tariff duties in the interests of the home market, but he also urged a renewal of reciprocity treaties in order to provide a foreign market for our surplus products. Despite his belief that our high wages make it impossible for our manufacturers to compete with those abroad in our own markets, he believes that some of our producers can undersell foreigners in their markets. On the question of the currency his words were as follows: "The money of the United States, and every kind and form of it, whether paper, silver, or gold, must be as good as the best in the world. It must not only be current at its full face value at home, but it must be counted at par in any and every commercial center of the globe."

Democratic State Conventions were held last week in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, North Carolina, and Georgia. In all of these States except New York and Wisconsin the Conventions declared for the immediate renewal of the free coinage of gold and silver at the old ratio. In the Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio Conventions old party leaders were conspicuous by reason of their absence. In Ohio few of the delegates had ever before been present at a Democratic Convention. They were a much plainer set of men than usual; many of them from the farms, and all of them enthusiastic for the free coinage of silver. In Ohio the platform adopted contained but one plank. Ex-Governor Campbell tried to

secure the adoption of other planks indorsing the Monroe Doctrine, demanding the liberation of Cuba, supporting a tariff for revenue only, etc., but the Convention tabled these resolutions by a majority of more than four to one. Little interest was manifested in the selection of candidates—a Republican victory being anticipated because of the personal popularity of Mr. McKinley. In Illinois and Indiana the Conventions were no less enthusiastic for the free coinage of silver, and were apparently far more hopeful of victory. In Indiana the anti-silver element was practically obliterated by the unseating of gold delegates from the city of Indianapolis. Three or four anti-silver men were sent as delegates to Chicago, but these were bound by the unit rule to vote with the majority. They were elected at the request of Governor Matthews, who wished them to support his candidacy for the Presidential nomination. In the Illinois Convention the anti-silver element made no demonstration of its strength or weakness. The Convention seemed to be entirely unanimous for the re-nomination of Governor Altgeld.

In Wisconsin an explicit gold-standard platform was adopted, and the delegates to Chicago were instructed to vote as a unit. There was, however, a sharp fight made on behalf of silver, for the first time in the history of Wisconsin Democracy. Even some of the strongly German counties this year elected a few silver delegates. Senator Vilas attributed the strength shown by the free-coinage men to the disposition of delegates to ride with the current of popular opinion. In New York State the platform adopted indorsed bimetallism, but urged that the restoration of silver to the currency of this country would not help, but would hinder, its restoration to the currency of the world. This portion of the platform was evidently prepared by Mr. Whitney, and will be urged as a basis for compromise at Chicago. The attitude assumed toward the greenbacks was more in accordance with previous declarations of the New York Democracy. Their complete retirement was demanded, and the issue of bonds in order to redeem them in gold was indorsed. The North Carolina and Georgia Conventions were practically unanimous for the free coinage of silver. All the Democratic State Conventions have now been held, and the delegations elected stand as follows on the currency issue:

| | Gold. | Silver. |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| New England | 72 | 6 |
| Middle States | 161 | 1 |
| Southern States | 23 | 261 |
| Western States | 77 | 325 |
| Total | 333 | 593 |

Four of the silver delegates from New England are from Maine and two from Massachusetts; the one silver delegate from the Middle States is from Delaware; sixteen of the gold delegates from the South are from Maryland, two from the District of Columbia, and five from Florida; twenty-eight of the gold delegates from the West are from Michigan, twenty-four from Wisconsin, twelve from Minnesota,

eight from South Dakota, and five from Washington. In case the gold delegations from Michigan and South Dakota are unseated, the free-coinage advocates will have an apparent majority of two to one. It will, however, probably be necessary for them to change the traditional rule requiring a two-thirds majority for nominations, if they would place an uncompromising free-coinage man at the head of the ticket. There are anti-silver men on many of the delegations instructed to vote as a unit for a free-coinage platform, and these can dictate the nomination of a compromise candidate in case the two-thirds rule is maintained and the Eastern delegates remain in the Convention after the adoption of a free-coinage platform. A compromise candidate would prevent the union of the silver forces. The nomination of a free-coinage candidate will be followed either by a bolt or a great secession, in the East, to the Republican candidate.

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The death of Lyman Trumbull at Chicago, Ill., removes one of the last of the commanding figures associated with the organization of the Republican party and the emancipation of the slaves. Ex-Senator Trumbull was born in Colchester, Conn., in 1813. After teaching school for several years in his native State and in Georgia, he began the practice of law in Illinois in 1837. In 1848 he was made Judge of the Supreme Court of the State, and in 1854 was elected to Congress as an anti-slavery Democrat. The year following he was elected United States Senator through the fusion of the anti-slavery forces in the Legislature. Upon the formation of the Republican party he was a leader of the Democrats who joined the new organization and overthrew Democratic supremacy in what had been its chief stronghold. He was re-elected to the Senate in 1861 and 1867. During the war he was a member of the radical wing of the Republican party, supporting the most vigorous measures for the suppression of the rebellion and the emancipation of the slaves. He drafted the laws freeing the slaves in the territory held by our armies, and the Constitutional amendment establishing their emancipation. When the war was over, he remained an earnest supporter of the civil rights of the negroes—himself drafting the Civil Rights Bill—but upon other matters became as friendly toward the South in its defeat as he had been hostile toward it in the time of its supremacy. He finally broke with his party on the question of the impeachment of President Johnson. He was one of the leaders of the Liberal Republican movement of 1872, and was widely supported for its Presidential nomination. After the defeat of Greeley, he joined the Democratic party, and in 1880 was the Democratic candidate for Governor of Illinois. In his later life he became identified with the Populist party. Though a man of considerable property, he was an especially earnest advocate of the progressive taxation of incomes and inheritances. Despite his great age, he was prominently spoken of for the Populist Presidential nomination this year.

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The Canadian general elections, which were held on June 23, and resulted in favor of the Liberals by a plurality of forty-six over the Conservatives, and a majority of twenty-four over all opposing parties combined, mark the reversal of a tariff policy which had been in force in the Dominion ever since 1878; and they are also noteworthy in their relation to the vexed question of clerical interference in politics—a question which, in Canada, has had a continuous life since Confederation. In 1878 the Conservative party gained power by its advocacy of a protective tariff; and, until a few days ago, an average tax of

ty-five per cent. on dutiable imports was the economic policy of the country. One of the two leading issues in the elections was the reform of the tariff, with the object of placing it upon a revenue instead of a protective basis; and the accession of the Liberals to power is likely to effect this change, lowering the duties chiefly on the raw materials of manufacture, though doing so cautiously, so as to injure as little as possible such industries as have been built up under a protective tariff and are specially dependent upon it. As nearly as can be inferred from the utterances of leading men and journals in the Dominion, the average rate upon dutiable imports under the new tariff will be about twenty per cent. The verdict so decisively given on this question was a well-won and deliberate recognition that the protective policy had had a long and fair trial, and that it did not fulfill the sanguine predictions which were made at the time of its introduction. In another respect the change made has a practical bearing upon the commercial policy of this country. Heretofore the Liberals have shown more willingness than their opponents for a measure of reciprocity with the United States; and the chances of such a measure have been improved by the change of government in the Dominion. Expressions of opinion at Washington confirm this view.

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But, without doubt, the other main issue—the Manitoba school question—was the more exciting, though not intrinsically the more important. The question whether Manitoba should be coerced into the restoration of a separate school system which she had abolished touched racial and religious prejudices from one end of the Dominion to the other, though, as the event proved, with disastrous results to the prestige of the Roman Catholic hierarchy of Quebec. We have already given our readers a brief outline of the dispute, and of its introduction into the federal politics of Canada. The well-known mandate of the Quebec bishops, commanding all the Roman Catholic parishioners of that province to vote for Sir Charles Tupper and the Conservative party, was at first looked upon as a weapon of such strength and edge that the object of its aim would be surely pierced. But shortly before election day ominous signs of revolt were noticed. The mandate was read a second time in all the Catholic churches of the Province; and in dozens of congregations dissentient members arose and walked out, as a protest against priestly rule in politics. The greatest surprise of the election was the return, from a Province said to be the most bigoted of Catholic communities, of forty-six members—out of a total of sixty-five—pledged to resist the policy so menacingly enjoined upon them by the bishops. The mandate proved a boomerang, and has dealt a death-blow to the interference of the Romish hierarchy in Canadian politics. Never again will an episcopal manifesto be used in the Dominion to coerce the conscience of a Catholic elector. Doubtless the personality of the Liberal leader, Mr. Wilfrid Laurier, a French Canadian of great natural eloquence and high character, had much to do with the large majority won by him in his native province. Had Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the other provinces supported him with the same heartiness as Quebec, the Liberal majority would have been more than doubled. His policy of conciliation, as opposed to coercion, gained him the support of thousands of Protestant Conservative voters who had confidence in his integrity and admired his fearless opposition to the bishops. The first step in the realization of that policy will be the appointment of a Commission whose thorough investigation will bring to view the facts and circumstances affecting the educational condition of the Catholic minority