

# The Outlook

Published Weekly

Vol. 68

June 22, 1901

No. 8

**No Third Term** The country may be glad that Senator Depew, in an interview, urged the nomination of Mr. McKinley for a third term, since it brought from the latter a brief, perfectly explicit letter, the gist of which is contained in the following sentence: "I not only am not and will not be a candidate for a third term, but would not accept a nomination for it if it were tendered me." We are not among those who think that any harm to the United States would result if a President could be elected for three or even more successive terms. On the contrary, we are inclined to the belief that it would be a distinct advantage if American traditions resembled in this respect the English traditions. In England the triumph of the Liberal party necessarily implied the appointment of Mr. Gladstone as Prime Minister, as the triumph of the Conservative party necessarily implied at one time Lord Beaconsfield, at another Lord Salisbury, as Prime Minister. Such a tradition prevents faction within the party, and tends to secure the ablest if not the best man in the party as its permanent leader. But, whatever advantages or disadvantages there might be in the eligibility of a President for more than two terms, the practice of the country for many years, established and confirmed by the failure to nominate General Grant for a third term, has made this American tradition a part of the unwritten constitution. It would be bad politics at any time for a party to disregard it; it would be especially bad politics at the present time, with charges of imperialism current against the Republican party, which would certainly be reinforced by the disregard of the American tradition on this subject. There is no lack of men in sympathy with the general policy of the present Administration, and with political ability not inferior to that of the President under

whom that policy has been thus far carried forward, out of any one of whom an entirely competent and able President could be made. We are not in the business of nominating Presidents; but the list would certainly include Vice-President Roosevelt, Secretary Root, Judge Taft, Governor Odell; doubtless twice as many more equally capable could easily be added to the list of possible candidates.



**The Boston Subway Again** Massachusetts is witnessing a striking illustration of the power which corporation influence is able to obtain over legislative bodies. In that Commonwealth, fortunately, Governor Crane has been on the alert to protect the public, but most of the legislators—and most of the Boston newspapers—oppose his recommendations. When it is remembered that Governor Crane himself is a man of large business interests, and commands, to an exceptional degree, the confidence of business men, the strength of the corporation's grasp which he undertook to break becomes all the more noteworthy. The matter at issue related to the extension of the subway system of Boston under Washington Street. The Tremont Street subway, now in operation, was built by the city, with money borrowed at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., and was then leased for twenty years to the Boston Elevated Company at a minimum rental of  $4\frac{7}{8}$  per cent. on the net cost, with provision for further compensation to the city proportioned to the volume of business after passing a given limit. Obviously, as the city will soon begin to derive additional rental from the expanding traffic through the subway, these terms suffice to meet the city's interest charge and gradually to pay the debt incurred, leaving the subway clear to the city, possibly within twenty years, and

certainly within about thirty. This arrangement has been satisfactory to the city, and no doubt profitable to the company; and when a Washington Street subway is proposed, the same course would be the natural one to follow; it is, indeed, difficult to discover or invent any reason why it should not be followed.



**Governor Crane Demands  
a Referendum**

There is no doubt that the sentiment of Boston overwhelmingly favored following in Washington Street the precedent set in Tremont Street, but the Elevated Company had other plans. It proposed to build the way itself and have the use of it for fifty years, turning it over then to the city. A bill to this effect was accordingly put into the present Legislature, and acquired overwhelming strength in both branches. The associated business interests of Boston declared against it, and so did organized labor—all demanding that the people of Boston be allowed to vote on the matter. Both political parties were committed to such a referendum. Nevertheless, all referendum and other amendments were voted down by large majorities in both branches, save one reducing the time from fifty to forty years. It was while the measure was on its way through the House that Governor Crane caused it to be known that, unless provision was made for submitting the matter to the people, he would veto the bill. But nearly the entire press of Boston had meantime been enlisted for the measure, and the Governor's declaration, while causing a storm of diverse comment, proved of no effect in staying the progress of the Company's bill. It was sent to the Governor, and he has now vetoed it, on the ground chiefly that the people of a city should have the disposal of their own streets, and that to spread a contract of this nature over so long a time is unwise public policy. Moreover, by securing a forty years' use of the Washington Street subway the Company would plainly be in a position to dictate the terms of a re-rental of the Tremont Street subway, whose present lease expires in seventeen years. As the Governor's veto is likely, though not certain, to be sustained by the neces-

sary one-third in the lower House, the whole question will probably go over to the next Legislature. The exhibition of legislative subserviency to the corporation interest has deeply enlisted public attention in the State. Both parties have been about equally smirched by the episode, which suggests the widespread employment of sinister influences. Governor Crane himself, exemplifying in this matter the business man in politics in the best sense of the term, has gained greatly in popular strength, and a renomination will now certainly be forced upon him.



**For Majority Rule in  
Connecticut**

The House of Representatives in Connecticut has retreated from the position it seemed to take a fortnight ago, when it defeated the Fyler amendment to the Constitution, slightly increasing the representation of the cities in the Legislature. Last week it fell in line with the recommendations of Governor McLean and by a majority of 117 to 101 voted in favor of a Constitutional Convention which may revise the whole system of representation. In this Convention, it is true, the representation will be "of acres and not of men," for each of the one hundred and sixty-eight towns will elect but a single delegate, and the one hundred little towns which have but a fifth of the population will elect two-thirds of the members. Nevertheless, this body must submit the result of its deliberations to the people of the State, to be accepted or rejected as a majority of the people and not a majority of the towns may decide. The friends of majority rule, therefore, are already rejoiced that its extreme opponents defeated the timid compromise proposed a fortnight ago. As often happens, the aggressive reactionaries have proven to be the most effective supporters of the radical reformers.



**The Alabama and Virginia  
Conventions**

The Montgomery "Advertiser" reports that the Committee on Education of the Alabama Constitutional Convention has decided unanimously not to report favorably any ordinance which seeks to discriminate against the negro race in the division of the school fund. This report, while not