

Iowa, to the Hon. John A. T. Hull. Like Mr. Dalzell, Mr. Hull has been in Congress for twenty years, and has long been Chairman of the important Committee on Military Affairs. He is emphatically a "stand-patter," and is a leading ally of Speaker Cannon. The forced retirement of such a man is of far more consequence and significance than the gain of a seat by the Regulars. To make the progressive victory the more emphatic, Judge Prouty, Mr. Hull's successful opponent, carried every county in his district. In South Dakota the contest between the Stalwarts and the Progressives for the nomination of Governor was so close that it may take an official recount to settle it. In New Jersey Representative Fowler's candidacy to succeed Senator Kean is made specially interesting by the adoption of resolutions by the Progressives in that State. These declare that the next United States Senator from New Jersey should be chosen in accordance with the law now on the statute-books, which provides for the designation at the primaries of the man whom the voters want the Legislature to select for the office. But to make assurance doubly sure, the Progressives sensibly pledged themselves not to vote for any legislator who did not promise as follows:

I do hereby solemnly declare upon my honor that, if nominated and elected to the Legislature, I will vote for that Republican for United States Senator who shall receive the largest number of votes cast in the State by the Republicans as their choice for United States Senator, and, further, that I will do all in my power to secure the election of said Republican to the United States Senate. I do hereby solemnly declare upon my honor that I will do all in my power to secure such an amendment to the present primary law as will make it obligatory upon all candidates for the Assembly and Senate to make such a declaration as the above with regard to their respective party candidates for the United States Senate.

MAKING NEW CITIZENS

The flood of immigration in recent years is making itself felt in a new direction in some of the great centers of population where immigrants have settled in large numbers. The courts are being overwhelmed by the stream of aliens desiring to transfer their allegiance to the Consti-

tution of the United States. In the course of the next two years this stream may assume the characteristics of a spring freshet as it piles up against the gates, unless a wider channel is provided. It is estimated that within the jurisdiction of the three courts in New York County empowered to act there are 150,000 men who will be entitled to apply for naturalization within the next two years, and that more than three-fourths of them will ultimately take advantage of their privilege. Moreover, this number is being increased at the rate of 50,000 annually. These courts are "making" citizens at the rate of only 4,500 a year. The smallness of this number is due chiefly to lack of judicial facilities, and in the Federal courts, in a measure, also to small clerical forces. The greater care required by the new Federal Act in determining the fitness of the petitioners is also an important factor. Where once possibly three hundred cases could be disposed of in a day, sixty or seventy is now the maximum for a day's calendar. As the judges have other duties to perform, not one of the courts feels that it can undertake to naturalize more than the latter number in a week. In the Federal Court in Brooklyn the limit is thirty a week, and in the State Supreme Court in New York County the maximum is forty. The bureau of the last-named Court is so congested that, at the present rate of adjudication, the petitions already received will occupy the attention of the Court for nearly a year. New petitioners cannot expect to have action taken in their cases in time to cast a ballot in 1911, although already qualified by residence to have immediate attention. In the Federal courts only fifteen petitions can be accepted in a day, double that number of petitioners being turned away, at serious loss of time and money to the applicants. The actual cost in cash of citizenship papers to some of the petitioners has been as high as forty-six dollars, exclusive of the statutory fee. This represented wages lost and compensation to witnesses for their time, several visits to the Naturalization Bureau being required before the case received a hearing. Conditions are similar in Brooklyn. The volume of petitioners, were it not for these discouraging conditions, can only be surmised. Material advantage

must be the chief motive for naturalization at the present time, for the test of political ideals offered is a severe one, and one tending to create at the very beginning of the relationship a bad impression of American institutions. The Liberal Immigration League has suggested that, in view of the fact that naturalization is now a purely Federal function, Congress ought to establish a special naturalization court in the judicial districts where there is now, or is likely to be in the near future, congestion in the naturalization bureaus. Congressman Bennet, of New York, who is a member of the United States Immigration Commission, has introduced a bill providing that Commissioners of Naturalization may be appointed by the President to serve where there is demand for additional judicial facilities for naturalization, and that they shall sit daily to hear cases. It has been suggested that provision be made for evening sessions to accommodate wage-earners.



THE NEGRO IN OKLAHOMA

Negro disfranchisement is a live issue in Oklahoma. The Democratic party, which has been in power in Oklahoma ever since Statehood was granted, has secured the adoption in the Legislature of a resolution suggesting the so-called "grandfather test" as an amendment to the State Constitution. This test is a device for limiting the suffrage which has been adopted in some Southern States—or, to be more accurate, it is a device for permitting illiterate or otherwise disqualified whites to vote, while keeping from the ballot illiterate or otherwise disqualified blacks. Such a test sometimes has proved necessary or at least excusable as a temporary expedient, in order to secure the adoption of proper safeguards to the suffrage. In this case, however, the test is proposed as a part of the permanent, organic law of the State. Moreover, the Legislature of Oklahoma has presented an ingenious expedient which will make the defeat of such a Constitutional amendment rather difficult. While in extraordinary session the Legislature enacted a law providing that, whenever the Legislature should suggest to the people the initiation of an amendment to the State Constitution, the initiated proposition might be

placed anywhere on the ballot without a distinguishing mark, and should appear only as an affirmative proposal "for the amendment." Unless a voter should erase this line, his ballot would be counted for the proposition. Thus an illiterate voter who does not mark his ballot in any way votes for the proposition. On the other hand, those who vote against it must be literate enough to search out the proposition among the items on the ballot in order to erase it. Why should the Legislature of Oklahoma take such pains to secure this suffrage amendment? The negroes in Oklahoma represent less than eight per cent of the population. As voters, however, they constitute a sufficient number to make a difference in the election results if they vote solidly. The possible voting strength of the negroes in Oklahoma is estimated at about thirty thousand votes. At the last Presidential election the Democratic plurality was about twelve thousand, but the Democratic vote was about nine thousand less than the combined votes of the Republicans and the Socialists. If this amendment should be adopted, it would seem to assure to the Democrats a safe majority. The plan has the approval, we understand, of the Democratic Governor of Oklahoma, Mr. C. N. Haskell. Like the attempts that have been made in Maryland, this disfranchisement movement is not an undertaking to improve the quality of the electorate and to associate responsibility with power, but is clearly a political move to secure advantage for a political organization. Neither the State of Oklahoma nor the Democratic party can afford to have this movement become successful.



THE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

The investigations undertaken in preparation for the Hetch-Hetchy hearing, already spoken of in The Outlook, brought out two important matters. Seemingly the legal status of the Yosemite National Park is indefinite, and therefore uncertain. It was set aside as a forest reserve, and not as a park, in a loosely drawn act of Congress, and is only a National Park by inference and implication. Rights of intrusion by permit for various purposes are not definitely limited