

demand that the Democratic candidate refrain in future speeches from asserting misconduct of the office of Attorney-General. Mr. Davis has not had time, as this is written, to reply, but it is announced that he is giving careful consideration to the development and will reply as promptly as possible. Senator Wheeler replied, apparently without taking time for careful consideration. He belittled the significance of the incident, said that Means had always tried to shield the former Attorney-General personally, and that Means's statement that he had lied was not surprising. He said further that Means had recently urged him to reopen the investigation, promising further sensational disclosures. On the whole, Senator Wheeler's treatment of the incident simply tends to discredit still further his own witness.

### And Now Couzens

**S**IMULTANEOUSLY with the airing of the Means mess another investigation began in Washington. A committee, of which Senator Couzens, of Michigan, is now chairman, is undertaking to find out what goes on in the Prohibition Enforcement Unit and the Internal Revenue Bureau of the Treasury. The machinery for making the investigation was set up last winter while the Daugherty and the oil investigations were in progress, but was not actually put in motion for several reasons. Senator Couzens undertook to employ Francis J. Heney as committee "prosecutor" and to pay him out of his own pocket. This proposal found strenuous opponents, including President Coolidge, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, and some of Senator Couzens's associates on the committee. While the proposal was still under discussion Senator Couzens became ill. The hearing was postponed, and the general belief was that it would be abandoned. After Congress adjourned, however, a determination was reached by a majority of the members of the committee to proceed with the investigation. Senator Watson, of Indiana, strenuously objected and, when his protest did not avail, resigned the chairmanship of the committee. Senator Couzens was then elected chairman.

Undoubtedly the committee can render real service if it conducts the investigation in the proper manner. It is admitted, even by those in charge of the work, that prohibition enforcement is not as effective as it should be. There are defects in the system of income-tax collection which everybody would like to see

cured. If the Couzens committee carries out the purpose for which Congressional investigations are really intended and discovers facts on which can be based legislation for better administration of the two units, it will render a genuine public service.

If, on the other hand, the committee pursues the sensational and unsound methods of the Wheeler and Walsh committees and seeks to uncover scandal instead of constructive facts, it can do nothing but harm. The temptation to this latter course may be extreme, inasmuch as the work is to be done in the closing days of a National campaign which, it may be supposed, will be affected by the investigation. Very likely any political effect will be different from the effect that members of the committee may expect.

Senator Couzens was recently nominated by the Republicans of Michigan for a second term in the Senate. His record is not one of friendliness to the National Republican Administration. He may, if he thinks superficially, take his indorsement as a commission from the Republicans of Michigan to attempt discrediting the Republican Administration in Washington. If Senator Couzens thinks to the root of things, however, he will realize that partisanship and factionalism have no part in the investigation of governmental activities, and that his sole duty as chairman of the committee is to find facts to aid in framing better legis-

lation for the administration of prohibition enforcement and tax collection.

### Mr. White Challenges the Klan

**W**ILLIAM ALLEN WHITE, the famous editor of the Emporia "Gazette," has become an independent candidate for Governor of Kansas upon a platform of one plank—"Free Kansas from the Ku Klux Klan."

When he filed his petition for a place on the ballot, Mr. White made a statement remarkable for candor, force, and directness. His petition, he says, is the largest ever filed in Kansas, but none of the petitioners live in his home town or county. "I wish," he says, "honestly to test sentiment."

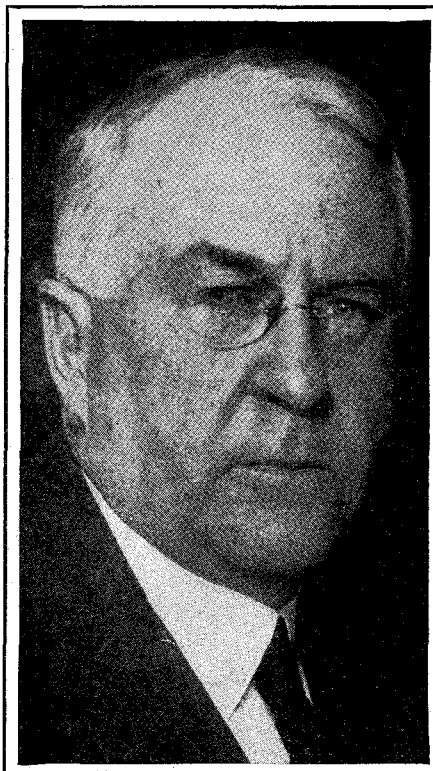
Whether or not Mr. White can accurately test sentiment on this matter by means of the ballot-box is, necessarily, a question. The Klan issue, in Kansas as in most other States, is inextricably tangled with other issues. Ben S. Paulen, the Republican candidate, and Jonathan M. Davis, the Democratic candidate, both are said to have Klan indorsement. But, because they are Republican and Democrat regularly accredited by their parties, they will receive the votes of many men and women hardly less opposed than Mr. White himself to the Ku Klux Klan. The actual voting strength of the Klan can never be determined in a general election.

This does not mean that Mr. White may not be able to defeat both of the regular party candidates, who are said to have Klan indorsement. The vigor with which he enters the campaign will go far to carry him successfully through it. He gives to his candidacy an admirable basis by divorcing it at the outset from special pleading for special classes of population. "I call to my support least of all," he says, "those who are oppressed by the Ku Klux Klan."

In his estimate of Klan membership and his analysis of Klan purpose Mr. White is vigorous if not sufficiently liberal. "The Ku Klux Klan," he says, "represents a small minority and is organized for the purpose of terror." The Klan as it exists to-day has, of course, other purposes, which Mr. White will probably find he has to reckon with.

### La Follette's Madison Square Speech

**T**HE very cordial reception given Senator La Follette in New York will hardly justify a radical historian to begin work on "The Winning of the East."



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Senator James Couzens, of Michigan



It proves something, to be sure, but hardly more than that there are in New York fourteen thousand persons willing to spend an evening indoors—and about half of them willing to spend a couple of dollars—to hear Senator La Follette expound his theories of governmental reform. It does not furnish even a clear indication of what strength the independent candidate has in the metropolis.

An audience of 20,000, which is about what Senator La Follette had, inclusive of the crowd in Madison Square Garden and the overflow crowd outside in the Square, is less indicative of general sentiment than an audience of comparable size would be elsewhere in the country. Then, too, it is to be remembered that there are and have always been a great many—numerically, though perhaps not relatively—radicals in New York City, and this was their first opportunity to hear a radical speech on a genuinely National scale.

None the less, Senator La Follette had a reception that might cheer the heart of any campaigner. To the crowd that heard him his doctrines undoubtedly are appealing. His plan for giving Congress a veto power over the Supreme Court, his declaration that important decisions of the Supreme Court always are in the interest of the powerful and to the detriment of the weak, and his determination that the question of declaring war shall be referred to the people—these ideas nick with the desires of the audience that filled Madison Square Garden.

### Can the Weak Trust Congress?

THERE appears to be no conclusive proof that the Madison Square Garden audience—or, for that matter, Senator La Follette—thinks below the surface of these questions. If the audience and the candidate do so think, it must occur to them to doubt that a Congressional veto on court decisions would better serve to protect the weak. Granted, for argument's sake alone, that the Supreme Court of the United States does too often decide cases in favor of the strong, it is not in the record of our Government that Congress is more immune to the blandishments and emoluments of strength. In fact, the general judgment of informed persons would be that the legislative branch of the Government is more easily within reach of influence than the Supreme Court. There has been fairly clear proof at odd times that individual members of the legislative branch have been grossly and mate-



P. & A. Photos

Senator La Follette discusses his political prospects with Samuel Gompers

rially influenced by the strong. So far as our memory serves, there has never been such proof against even an individual member of the highest court of the Nation. It probably follows, therefore, that if those who are strong should influence the Supreme Court to a wrong decision they could at the same time do something toward influencing the Congress to withhold the veto.

Senator La Follette, indeed, is not quite true to himself in the belief that Congress would remain immaculate when the Supreme Court could be debauched by those who are strong. He, in common with Mr. Davis, contends that Congress actually was corrupted by the strong to write the present Tariff Law to serve the interests of the strong against the interests of the weak. That contention is not to be accepted as fact, but it does go to show that Senator La Follette is not quite consistent with himself when he believes that Congress, in overruling decisions of the Supreme Court, would never be influenced by the powerful, but would unfailingly render decisions in protection of the humble.

While he was in New York Senator La Follette found or had forced upon him the occasion to address the Steuben Day celebration audience. What he said in praise of the Germans in America was, in the main, probably true. But the speech will serve to recall to the minds of people the country over a chapter in Senator La Follette's record which, one would think, a candidate would be glad

to leave in the dark, or at least out of the full glare of the spotlight. Senator La Follette's war record is not his strong point with the people of the country generally.

On the whole, Senator La Follette's trip to New York probably has not strengthened his candidacy.

### The League's Protocol

IT is largely due to the statesmanship and fair-mindedness of Edouard Benes, Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, that the League of Nations through its Assembly has made progress at Geneva in its effort to frame a protocol that should be acceptable to the member nations and should be followed by a new international disarmament (strictly speaking, reduction of armaments) conference. This latter would naturally deal with military rather than naval strength, as no one wants at present to disturb the results arrived at in the Washington agreement.

It was announced on September 22 that the proposed protocol had been presented to the League's Commission on Disarmament with addresses by Dr. Benes and representatives of France, Great Britain, Italy, and Belgium. If the protocol is duly signed by the representatives of the great nations in the Council and ratified in all by fourteen member nations of the League within a reasonable time, the disarmament conference will be called. It is thought that it may meet in Geneva next June. It is