

valuable treatise of international interest.

Senator Wadsworth's Record on Prohibition

ANTICIPATING word from our readers who inform us of their discoveries of mistakes in *The Outlook*, we hasten to acknowledge an error which we made last week. Trusting too much to memory, we said that Senator Wadsworth, of New York, voted for the Eighteenth Amendment when it was before the Senate. It was not the Eighteenth Amendment that he voted for, but the Volstead Act. We credited him with changing his mind. As a matter of fact, he has never changed his mind with reference to the Eighteenth Amendment. He voted for the Volstead Act over the President's veto on the ground that not to give the Amendment statutory support would be to nullify it. He thinks that modification of the Volstead Act within Constitutional limits is possible but quite inadequate to solve the problem which he thinks prohibition has created. He would change the Eighteenth Amendment to a simple grant of power to Congress. This is the form of Amendment that *The Outlook* originally favored, and it would have eliminated the dangers attending the insertion of legislation in the Constitution. But that water is now over the dam. A brief biography of Senator Wadsworth by H. F. Holthusen, with a preface by Elihu Root, has just been published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. In that book his attitude on prohibition and other subjects is clearly presented.

Senator Wadsworth has the right that any citizen has of advocating a change in the Constitution. He has equally the right to advocate the addition of something new to the Constitution or the subtraction from it of something already in it. It is not that right, however, that is now a political issue in this country.

Nor is it an issue whether we should try to go back to where we were when the Eighteenth Amendment was first proposed and pass an amendment that would have been better at that time. A few people may be interested in such a proposal, but not many. The American people are not very much interested as a rule in talking about what would have been better if something else had happened.

Besides, the American people are practical enough to know that conditions have changed since the Amendment was

passed and that what might have served in 1919 would not be adequate at all in 1926.

The vital issue to-day is the choice between enforcement and nullification.

The A. B. A. and Branch Banking

IT was peculiarly fitting that the American Bankers Association, with the subject of branch banking the question of the hour, should have met this year in Los Angeles; for it is in California,



Franklin W. Cristman

the Independent Republican candidate for United States Senator from New York, opposing Senator Wadsworth, the regular Republican, and Judge Wagner, the Democrat, on the issue of prohibition enforcement, is one of the leading lawyers of the Mohawk Valley, has served in both houses of the New York Legislature, is president of a National bank, local counsel to the New York Central Railroad, legal adviser to utility companies, trustee of Syracuse University and the Folts Missionary Training School, and a Mason

more than in any other State in the Union, that branch banking is an issue of vital moment. The article which appeared in *The Outlook* last March dealing with the subject and entitled, "Is the Federal Reserve System in Danger?" has been distributed widely throughout the State.

From the moment that the meeting of the Association, numbering several thousands, was called to order, our Pacific coast correspondent writes us by air mail, it was apparent that trouble was in the air. The advocates of branch banking were present in force, and when the subject of the hour was introduced—namely, the demand for an expression of opinion by the Association on the Mc-

Fadden Branch Banking Bill, now before Congress—opposing factions quite clearly braced themselves for a supreme effort.

The McFadden Bill, it will be remembered, provides that in States the laws of which permit branch banking the National banks shall be accorded the privilege, at present denied them, of establishing branches within the corporate limits of the location of their head office. The American Bankers Association has already indorsed the McFadden Bill, but the controversial issue raised at Los Angeles was precipitated by what is known as the Hull Amendment. This amendment provides that in States where branch banking is not permitted National banks shall never be permitted to establish branches, even though the State should change its law.

Supporters of the McFadden Bill attacked the Hull provisions as unfair and unjust to the National banks and calculated to force them to denationalize and operate under State charters. They also contended—a point especially stressed in *The Outlook* article—that this deflection of banks would destroy and crumble the Federal Reserve System.

Debate on the subject ran high, with the result that in order to clear the matter out of the way and prevent what threatened to be a serious split in the Association, a special meeting was called to discuss the question and finally settle it one way or the other. The meeting was held in the evening, and some time before its scheduled opening thousands of bankers, our correspondent states, had assembled in the capacious Philharmonic Auditorium. It was not until one o'clock in the following morning that the question was settled. By a vote of 413 to 268 the Association went on record as favoring the McFadden Bill without the Hull Amendment.

The outcome was, of course, a victory for the National Banking group; but the Hull constituents appear to be reluctant to accept the verdict of the Convention, and under the leadership of Otis Wingo, of Arkansas, Chairman of the Currency and Banking Committee of the House of Representatives, are expected to carry their fight to Congress.

Southern Business

THE Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States recently was in session in Nashville, Tennessee. This is the first time

that it has met in the South; and it devoted its attention particularly to conditions and problems of business in that section. The effect of those conditions and problems both sectionally and Nationally were considered. Now the conditions and problems of business in the South are much the same as they are in the rest of the country; but Southern business has none the less its peculiarities, good and bad. The recognition of its good peculiarities and the correction of its bad peculiarities would be of service to the Nation. That an effort is making to understand them Nationally augurs well, not so much for better business, perhaps, as for better business understanding.

Shortly before this meeting was held in Nashville the National Association of Manufacturers held its annual meeting in New York, and elected as its President for the sixth consecutive time John E. Edgerton, of Lebanon, Tennessee. Mr. Edgerton is a manufacturer of woolens, mainly of blankets, in a small way in a small Southern town. He has exerted for a number of years among the manufacturing interests of the Nation an influence wholly out of proportion to the size of his business. His service has demonstrated the fact that the manufacturers of the country, in their organized capacity, are not dominated either by large manufacturers or by the large manufacturing centers. Some of the beneficial peculiarities of Southern business have been recognized in the repeated election of Mr. Edgerton as the chief executive of this powerful National organization.

At the meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers the principal speaker was Finis J. Garrett, a Representative from Tennessee and Democratic leader in the House. He characterized the claim of Coolidge economy in Government expenditures as "bunk." That was politics. But he said: "We can work some economies if we will stop thrusting the Federal Government into purely local functions and let it reach forth its powerful arm to only the things that are National, as the Constitution contemplates." That was the expression of a Southern peculiarity, tenaciously held while the rest of the country scoffed at it, but which latterly has been adopted by leaders of other sections—perhaps most notably by the very man

whose economies Mr. Garrett characterized as "bunk."

Faster Trains East and West

EVERY so often California arouses herself to demand a reduction on the time occupied in the journey back East and out West, which has remained pretty much the same for the last thirty years.

No fewer than half a million people paid excess fare to ride between Chicago and New York on the 20th Century Limited in 1925. The train ran with more than 20,000 sections and earned \$10,000,000 gross for the New York Central Railroad. The remarkable patronage of the train is due entirely to the fact that it saves from four to five hours over other trains in a one-thousand-mile trip. What would be the result if the railroads running between Chicago and the Pacific coast put on trains, as they well could do, which saved from twelve to eighteen hours on the three-day trip from Chicago? At present the Overland Limited reaches San Francisco from New York at eleven o'clock in the morning. With what satisfaction would those who have to make the journey frequently contemplate arriving in San Francisco some twelve hours earlier with the snowsheds of the Sierras behind them, and before them a comfortable bed in a comfortable hotel instead of a lower two or an upper six.

As one writer has well put it, the success of the 20th Century Limited is due to the fact that it is a twentieth-century train. Between the coast and Chicago the railroads are still working on nineteenth-century ideas.

A Burbank Foundation

PARTICULARLY interesting news is contained in an air mail despatch from our Pacific coast correspondent to the effect that the long-discussed plan for perpetuating the work of Luther Burbank in the field of plant development has reached a definite head with the announcement by the President of Leland Stanford University that Stanford proposes to take over and operate the world-famous experimental farm at Sebastopol and the Luther Burbank gardens at Santa Rosa.

A widespread effort will be made to raise any part of \$1,000,000 for the

establishment of a Luther Burbank Foundation.

In accordance with the wishes of Burbank, his widow has offered to the University the thirteen acres of the Gold Ridge Rincón, the Sebastopol farm, with all equipment, land, and buildings, for the purpose of enabling the school authorities to continue the work of the great pioneer in plant breeding. The property contains 6,000 separate experiments and innumerable varieties of trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers, some of them complete and ready for release to the growers and many of them in the final stages of development.

In addition to the Sebastopol property, Mrs. Burbank is prepared to hand over the beautiful gardens at Santa Rosa, retaining for herself only that portion of the property, so familiar to the motorist along the great north road, known as the Old Homestead, on which are the original home and farm and the grove of elms which shadow Burbank's last resting-place.

The actual value of these properties it would be difficult to estimate. As President Wilbur, of Stanford, very justly insisted in a statement announcing the scheme, "the plant experimenter is one of the great pioneers of the future." To take only two instances, the development of the long-fibered cotton has changed the whole tire problem for automobiles, and new forms of wheat that are resistant to cold and drought have opened up a new empire in western Canada. Raw materials and food supplies of all sorts have become the chief concern of modern nations, and Luther Burbank was well in the van of those devoting themselves to the solution of this problem.

The news that his great work is to be perpetuated will be received with satisfaction throughout the world.

Baseball's Big Week

IT is commonly said that there is no sportsmanship in professional baseball; that the teams are out for the money and the rooters are out to see their city get the championship. Yet at St. Louis in the World Series the local fans, notorious for fierceness and vociferousness, "booed" their own pitcher when he "walked" Babe Ruth. As Heywood Broun tells the story, "But yesterday they cheered a stranger [Babe