

fore consist of the three: Mr. Thompson, the Republican nominee; Mr. Dever, the Democratic nominee; and Dr. Robertson, Independent.

Backing Dr. Robertson is Fred Lundin, who was the political leader when Thompson was first elected. There is now, however, bitter enmity between Thompson and his erstwhile cronies, Robertson and Lundin. Besides Fred Lundin the chief backer of Dr. Robertson is Governor Small.

Mr. Thompson has behind him former United States Senator William Lorimer, with whom Theodore Roosevelt after he was President refused to sit down at dinner because of the corruption on account of which Lorimer was put out of the United States Senate.

In his speeches Mr. Thompson announced himself as "dripping wet."

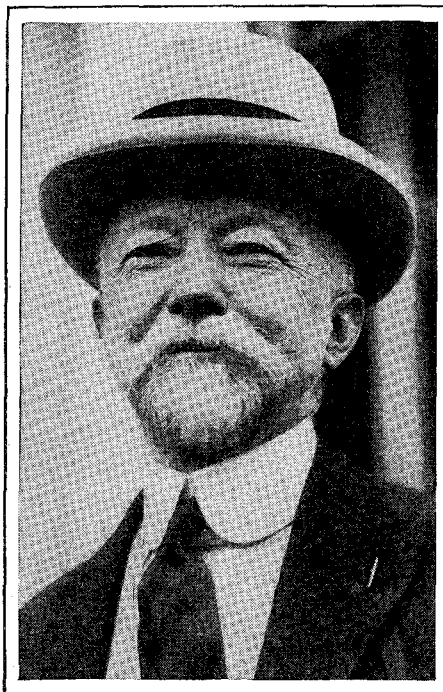
### The Issues in Chicago

**L**IKE Mr. Thompson, Mayor Dever is opposed to the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act; but, in spite of his opposition, he has stood for law enforcement. In spite of some of his controversies with the Anti-Saloon League, he has tried to enforce the law as he found it. He has thus lost the support of many "wets." On the other hand, many of the respectable and well-to-do citizens of the community who were not especially strong supporters of Mr. Dever when he was an alderman from the workingman's ward are now strong supporters of him against Thompson.

In municipal affairs, of course, the disgraceful conditions of gang-war murders and protected criminal combinations have been raised as issues against Mayor Dever's administration, particularly by Dr. Robertson's backers. At the same time, of course, there are opponents of Mayor Dever who take the view that he has been more vigorous in law enforcement than necessary. On the whole, however, Mayor Dever has commended himself to the community as a man of likable personality, decent instincts, and honest intentions.

The traction issue, too, has entered largely into the campaign. Franchises of Chicago surface transit companies expired on February 1, so that the issue as to what to do with the street railway situation is acute. The companies want an indeterminate or practically perpetual franchise. The community seems to be drifting. Before he was Mayor Mr. Dever was for years a member of the Chicago City Council, and was considered rather radical. In his campaign four years ago he talked for municipal ownership and operation. Since then, however, it has been charged

that he has not conferred very much with his former radical friends and has done nothing for municipal ownership. Some of the radicals, therefore, are supporting either Thompson or Robertson. Thompson used to talk in bitter denunciation of street railways and other utilities; but it is significant that he has



Keystone

Charles Lothrop Pack

been friendly with Mr. Insull, one of the most important utility men in Chicago, who figured prominently in Frank L. Smith's recent campaign for Senator. Mr. Insull is also specially friendly with State's Attorney Crowe, who is one of Thompson's strong supporters. The Robertson supporters are assailing both Dever and Thompson as allied with the traction monopoly. But most people seem to think that Dr. Robertson, in spite of clever political supporters, has very little chance of election. The Chicago "Tribune," Nationally Republican, is supporting Mayor Dever.

On the same day with the primaries, Washington's Birthday, elections were held for aldermen, who are chosen under the non-partisan system. In these elections the recommendations of the Municipal Voters' League were fairly successful.

### A New Development in Forest Research

**W**HAT kind of soil does a particular kind of tree—or, for that matter, all trees—require for successful growth? Nobody knows—at least, nobody in America. Research work in forest soils has been attempted only by a few scientists in Sweden, Russia, Finland, and Germany. But we are to start searching for the answer in America.

President Farrand, of Cornell Univer-

sity, recently announced the establishment of a research professorship in forest soils. The chair is endowed by the Charles Lothrop Pack Forestry Trust, and Mr. Pack, who is President of the American Tree Association, has made further provision of funds for the operating expenses of the advanced line of investigation to be undertaken.

These investigations will undertake to co-ordinate studies in several fields of science and to apply what is learned to the special soil problems involved in the business of growing healthy forests. They will deal, necessarily, with the chemistry and biology of soils; with heredity in tree growth, particularly as it should help to solve the problems of adapting certain varieties of trees to particular soils; and with plant pathology in so far as it grows out of soil conditions.

The work is designed to be of especial service to the Northeastern hardwood area, extending over the Middle Atlantic States and as far west as Illinois, where proper forest care depends very largely upon an understanding of soil conditions.

Charles Lothrop Pack, whose generosity makes this work possible, has made other large gifts for the promotion of education in forestry at other American forestry schools, including Yale, the University of Washington, and the New York State College of Forestry.

### The Palm Canyons of California

**N**OWHERE in America, perhaps nowhere in the world, can be found more picturesque desert scenery than in Palm Canyon and Andreas Canyon, in southern California. Veritable Gardens of Eden in the desert wastes, they lie fifty-five miles southeast of Riverside, not far from the little village of Palm Springs, nestled on the edge of the desert at the base of Mount San Jacinto. In these canyons, and in those adjacent to them down the course of Palm Springs Valley, which is the extreme southwestern arm of the Gulf of California of yesterday, grow scores of the beautiful Washington palms, the only native palms of California. Palm Springs Valley of to-day is a barren desert some three miles wide and seven miles long, with a flat valley floor a mile and a half wide its entire length.

The road to the canyons starts due south from Palm Springs. It leads to a scenic arabesque of towering cliffs, of falls and cataracts, of crystal water meandering among huddled palms, of trails guided by tortuous rock barriers, of ultimate outlooks to the valley far below—to the east the Chocolate Range and the Colorado Desert with its allur-





Native California palms in one of the canyon-oases which a Los Angeles group are seeking permission to develop for vacationists

ing appeal, soon perhaps to become a second Imperial Valley by the harnessing of the Colorado River; to the north the Little San Bernardino Mountains; the San Jacintos to the south, which before long would be wrapped in the chilly pink they wear for those few seconds before the sun drops from sight. These scenic luxuriances are embodied in Tahquits Canyon, Dry Canyon, Little Dry Canyon, Andreas Canyon, Palm Canyon, and Murray Canyon.

The dry, grassy "skirts" of the palm trees have been burned numerous times by the Indians of the Agua Caliente Reservation in connection with certain rites. Fortunately, the ceremonial fires do not seriously injure the trees. But many of the most choice palms are being cut down and carried away for various purposes; it is very desirable to take steps to preserve the unique growth.

Within the past seven years lovers of the desert have brought pressure upon Congress in order that these desert canyons might be safeguarded for future generations, as well as that they might be made accessible for the enjoyment of the present. The result was a law making of them a National monument, provided the people of California purchased them from their owners without expense to the Government. Most of this terri-

tory lies within the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation Number 2, and the necessary procedure was that it should be purchased from the Cahuillas, who are in actual possession. The rest of the land was the property of private owners, who have evinced a desire to release it for a nominal sum. Now a group of nature lovers, headed by Dr. George P. Clements, of Los Angeles, has been formed for the purpose of preserving the canyons. This semi-philanthropic body is endeavoring to obtain a ninety-nine-year lease on Palm Canyon, Andreas Canyon, and three others, to create a National monument under Federal control. It proposes to stabilize the water supply of the Indians, build them a church and a school, provide adequately for any increases in population, and in addition give them \$25,000 annually for keeping up their community, in return for the privilege of opening the entire territory as a resort district comparable to the National Parks. The plan has received the approval of the Indian Defense League and the Secretary of the Interior; but completion of the plan has been delayed because of the reluctance of the Government to permit a lease for longer than twenty-five years. The body seeking the lease in turn objects to that because there is no assurance of an op-

tion for renewal at the end of that period. That is the way the matter stands.

### The Air Tragedy in Argentina

**D**ISASTER descended suddenly upon the expedition of the United States Army aeronauts who are touring South America with an unoratorical message of Pan-American good will. Four of the five planes had just been received cordially, jubilantly, in Buenos Aires and had taken the air again and flown out toward the Palomar airdrome. The Detroit swerved and came into contact with the New York; both planes, entangled, spun heavily to the ground. The two officers who were flying the New York took to their parachutes and landed safely. But Lieutenant John W. Benton, of the Detroit, fell free of his plane and was killed, and Captain Clinton F. Woolsey died in the flames after the machines had struck the ground.

Of course the flight is continuing, despite the extreme shock of its loss. Buenos Aires was the southernmost point of the 20,000-mile route. The two surviving planes are flying north, joined by the fifth plane, which had lagged behind in Chile. The bodies of the two gallant airmen are being carried to New York by steamship.

The Argentine nation was acutely