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POLITICIANS GOSSIP

Governor Hughes Presidential Ambitions.

WITH UNPOPULAR INTERESTS

Countess of Warwick Looking for an American Tenant for Historic Warwick Castle—New York's Club's Un-sportsmanlike Attitude Toward Lipton.

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—It is the talk among politicians who are "in the know" that developments of a most sensational character may grow out of the Ivinis investigation of the Ryan-Belmont traction interests in this city. Indeed, it is said that if the probe goes deep enough one of the New York's candidates for the Presidential nomination may have his hopes blasted for all time by the production of evidence tending to show that he is the political creature of certain monied interests now in excessively bad repute.

In "those dear dead days now gone beyond recall," when the game of practical politics was played for all it was worth, and the widest possible license given to all participants, such talk as one now hears in clubs and hotel lobbies would not have been fraught with great danger to the aspirant around whom the conversation centers. In those days, the statement, even if indubitably proved, that a powerful but obnoxious man of wealth, representing huge but highly unpopular corporate interests, had contributed to the election of a candidate for a great office—in those days, I say, such doings would have been regarded as a matter of course and the proposition would not have excited more than momentary comment. But in these sensitive times, when the public is fully awake to the frightful dangers that accompany the use of corporation money in politics, the mere hint that a high executive officer owes his present political altitude to such help, is apt to prove damning. And in this particular case the effect will be all the more hurtful because of the "holier-than-thou" attitude which the official most concerned has always occupied in the public eye.

In effect, the story that is now causing the politicians to chuckle is that by the appointment of a commission to investigate the street railway doings and dealings in this much burdened city, Governor Charles E. Hughes may find himself "hoist by his own petard." A large sum of money devoted by the Ryan-Brady-Belmont interests to some cause or other has not yet been accounted for—and the destruction of the books probably means that its recipients will forever remain a mystery; but a fairish indication of how such money goes was given by that eminent accelerator of public opinion, Mr. Lemuel Eli Quigg, in his testimony at the Ivinis inquiry last week. Mr. Quigg's admission that he was the tool of the Ryan-Brady-Belmont crowd in the organization of every form of demonstration for or against any

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proposition that they favored or antagonized, was no news to those people who know the methods of his employers.

When men of the ilk of Ryan, Brady, Sheehan, Belmont and McCarren go in for patriotism and civic improvement the trail of the serpent of "high" finance is very apt to be found in the immediate neighborhood of their operations. With them business is politics, and politics is business. Their keen interest and their hard cash was given to the pushing of Judge Alton B. Parker (now colloquially known as "the Belmont Lemon") towards the Presidency; and it is to be assumed that they stand ready at all times to push anybody who they think will best serve them.

Naturally the interests represented by these men and their Standard Oil and railway allies are not to be conserved by the election of a man who is pledged to the continuation of the policies inaugurated by Mr. Roosevelt, which would be the case in the event of the election of Secretary Taft. Therefore it is said that they have selected Governor Charles E. Hughes as the candidate of the Republican party who is least likely to be inimical to the great monied interests of the country; and hence that there will be no lack of money in the effort to push Mr. Hughes into first place.

In this movement, these rich alleged democrats will be aided and abetted by the Republican interests that have been antagonized by the Roosevelt administration. But it is plain that the rank and file prefer Taft, and will fight even the endorsement of another man. Puritanism in politics is as unforgivable as Phariseism; and a public counting of phylacteries on the part of an aspirant for high political honors has never yet met with popular approval.

It is whispered that Governor Hughes has declared to his intimates that he would not again be a candidate for the gubernatorial chair. Inasmuch as he has given no indication of retiring from politics, this is taken to mean that he is a candidate for Presidency. Hence the question is pertinent: Can Mr. Hughes, for many years a corporation lawyer, hope to win against the evidence which may be adduced, that his nomination and election was aided by corporation money?

The people at large are aware of corporate influences in politics, and it is not venturing too much to say that Taft will carry the public's money in the next Presidential race. Indeed, it now looks like Taft, of Ohio, and Chandler, of New York. They are both men of high character, unfainted by a connection, past or present, with corporation interests or crooked politics, both of great personal magnetism and popularity, and both are apt to draw forth the full support of their respective parties. The enthusiasm that has attended the mention of the young Lieutenant-Governor's name throughout this state, has been nothing less than remarkable. If the politically absurd sentiment for Mr. Bryan can be eliminated it looks as though Mr. Chandler will have everything his own way.

When anything of general interest is mooted in the way of legislation or administrative action, certain New York papers have a custom of submitting to prominent men throughout the country, the question of the movement's advisability. Just now the matter of the great fleet being sent to the Pacific is under inquiry by the press.

It is rather astonishing that the majority of the answers thus far have upheld Mr. Roosevelt's plans; and even many of the people adverse to the proposition admit that it is of sensational interest, and that they will watch the movements of the fleet and the developments therefrom with much interest.

The fact made most evident by these replies, however, is that the President does not seem to have lost anything of his personal popularity, or that the BEPOLITIC GOSSIP—AD . . . TO

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It is now rumored that the purpose



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building a contesting yacht under rules that the Yacht Club itself abandoned as detrimental to the sport? It is to be hoped that the governors of the club will alter their demands. If they fail to do so, the world will have a measure of confirmation of the charge already made that we do not want any race that will jeopard our retention of the America's cup.

APPEAL REJECTED.

LEIPSI, Oct. 15.—The supreme court today rejected the appeal of Karl Rau formerly of Washington, D. C., for a revision of the sentence condemning him to death for the murder of his mother-in-law, Frau Molitor. An appeal for a new trial will now be made on technical grounds.

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of Lady Warwick's mysterious visit to these shores is to find a purchaser, or tenant, for her historic residence, Warwick Castle. It seems plausible enough in view of the well known fact that the fair Countess's income has been greatly diminished by the agricultural depression that is becoming such a grave question to landlords in England.

When the rich Mr. Grace of New York took over historic Battle Abbey for a long term of years there was much popular disapproval throughout Great Britain whose denizens deeply resent the "vulgar rich Yankee's" acquirement of anything historical in their country. It is doubtful, therefore, if the Court of Chancery could be prevailed upon to sanction the sale to a foreigner—and particularly to an American—of so famous a show place as Warwick Castle, although it is said that Lady Warwick's eldest son, Lord Brooke, would offer no opposition to the abrogation of the great property's entailment. A Pittsburg millionaire is said to be dickering with her ladyship for a lease on the castle.

Visitors to Gotham will hail with delight the attempt to establish a cab service in this city that permits the use of vehicles by persons that have not yet attained to the multi-millionaire class. Heretofore so exorbitant have been the rates charged that persons of moderate means were practically debarred from using cabs without feeling that they were courting bankruptcy. Even the somewhat liberal rates prescribed by city ordinance as legal was never considered, unless the passenger chose to risk personal violence by insisting on his rights. The attempt now made by one company to furnish cab service at the rate of 50 cents for the first hour and 40 cents for each additional hour consequently seems almost revolutionary.

It has just been computed by the bonding companies of this city that no less than \$5,482,687 was stolen by clerks and officials from banks and institutions throughout the United States during the first six months of the present year. About one-half of these stolen millions went to Wall Street, and the remainder was spent on race tracks, wine and women and—automobiles!

A question the New York Yacht Club finds embarrassing to answer is: Why should that institution (which in matters of international maritime sport is representative of the spirit of the entire country) insist on Sir Thomas Lipton