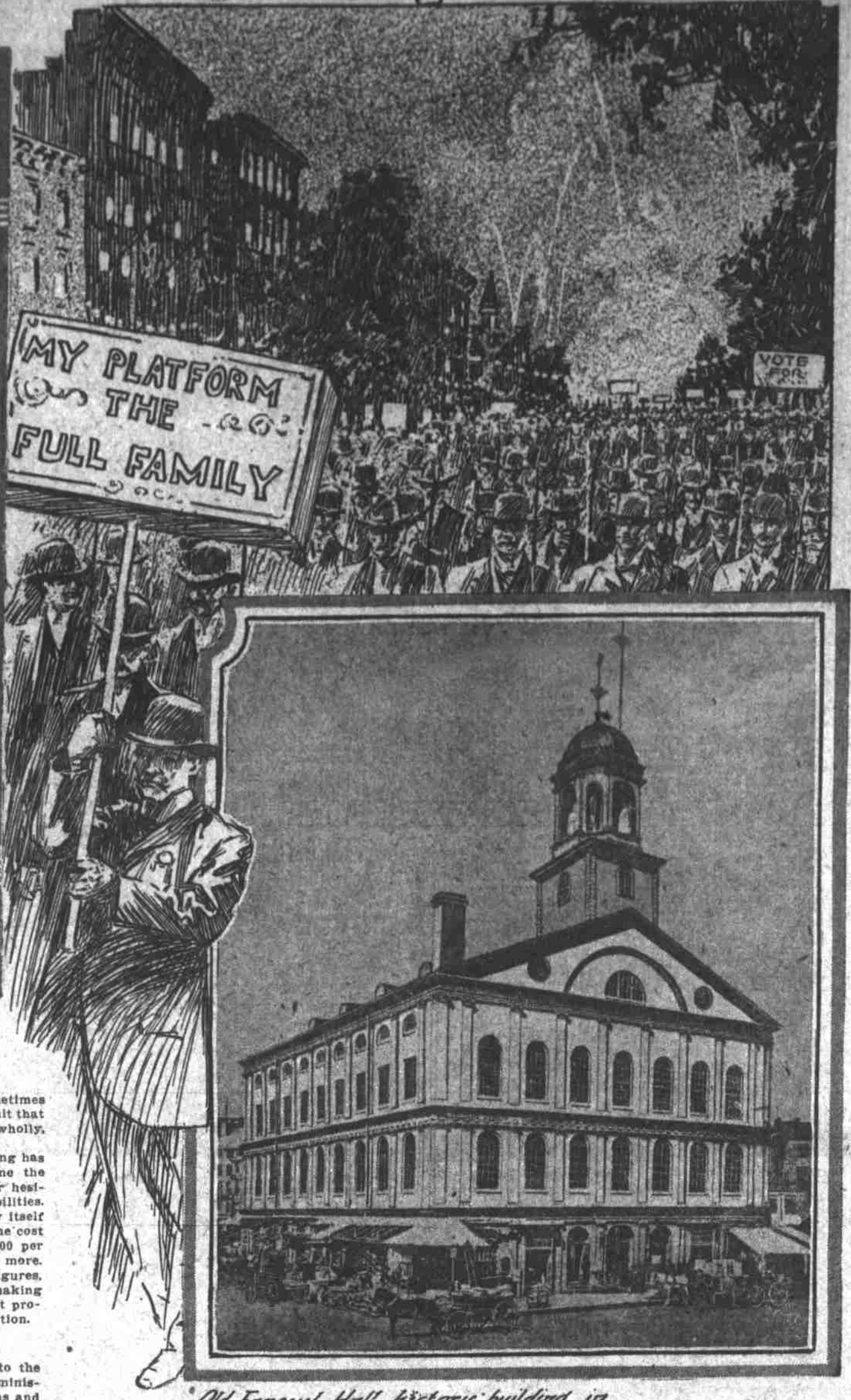


THE FAMILY for WHICH VAHEY may be THANKFUL



James H. Vahey and his family that won him the Democratic nomination for Governor of Massachusetts.



Old Faneuil Hall, historic building in which Mr. Vahey was nominated.

The Valuable Asset a Wife and Six Children Are Proving

Can a man be thankful, this Thanksgiving, just after he has been defeated for the distinguished office of Governor of a state of the Union? He can, and he is. Whatever other defeated candidates of the fall elections may think of their luck, and however small their appetites may be for the Thanksgiving turkey and pie, there is one man in Massachusetts who will sit down at the Thanksgiving table this year with the record behind him of defeat at the polls, and with an appetite for the meal before him as hearty as any he has brought to dinner his whole life long.

He is James H. Vahey, who received the Democratic nomination for Governor on the platform of six good-looking children, and practically nothing else in the way of political assets, unless his handsome wife be counted in at the high valuation her husband holds her. The figures of the election show that the half dozen children have counted for 51,000 votes, or at the rate of 8,500 votes per child. In fact, if Mr. Vahey had only had two more children—if he'd had only one and a half more children—he would have been elected.

The case is the most remarkable one in the history of American politics and will rank as something altogether exceptional, both on election and Thanksgiving Days.

THESE statements, so boldly and amazingly made, have all the earmarks of exaggeration and statistical twisting. The facts of the Massachusetts campaign bear them out as being simple verities. In the first place, Mr. Vahey, with his family of six—plus the handsome wife—strictly relegated to the privacy of the home, was last year so emphatically beaten by Eben F. Draper, that his political aspirations looked as though a couple of steam rollers had been tramping over them. He was a Democrat, and earnest old Massachusetts came piling down on his gubernatorial candidacy with 60,000 majority for Draper, who was renominated this year, after serving a term which left his popularity where it was when he won last. Yet at the fall elections Mr. Vahey, renewing his candidacy with only his beloved half dozen children added to his platform, reduced that first overwhelming majority to a scant 9,000, thus transforming Massachusetts politics into the simple equation:

Let Vahey = 60,000 Draper, Let Vahey = 9,000 Draper = 60,000 Vahey = 69,000 Draper = 69,000

No those half dozen children to whom Mr. Vahey gives the bounty-helpers represent 5200 votes each, probably the highest rating for children known in the United States. It was an '08 year, and Governor Draper did antagonize organized labor, and the Republican convention did straddle the income tax amendment. But Vahey was the one that drew away those 51,000 votes from the big Republican majority. It was this way: Mr. Vahey's fight began with the dominating conservatism in historic old Faneuil Hall, in Boston, where he was opposed by John T. Coughlin, Mayor of Fall River.

his claims to the nomination. "I have mediated between capital and labor and have brought together contending factions. I have been the head of \$50,000,000 invested capital. I can win 20,000 independent Republican votes." "It rejoined Mr. Vahey, "am a married man, with six children. He is a bachelor. What?" Whereupon the convention nominated him with loud cheers and a heart and a half. Now, if Mr. Vahey had conducted his subsequent campaign on the usual political lines it might have been contended that he came so near his election through other arguments. But he went right into the fight on the basis of the relations which, he asserted, exist between a working man's family and his earnings. That is the way he put it. "It is the duty of every man to get married, and, after marriage, to give his best efforts and the best part of his time to his family. Marriage ennobles man and lifts him to a higher plane. Nature certainly intended every man to mate, and the man who does not miss the inspiration such as only a true wife and helpmate can give. "I certainly believe for the most part in our illustrious ex-President's views on race suicide, and I have done my part in living up to them, as you can see for yourself. I have a family which is dearer to me than anything else on earth, and any success that may have come to me I can truthfully say I owe to my wife and family. Without them life would be a dreary desert and scarcely worth living. "I believe every young man's first duty is to consider his future wife and, on attaining anything like a reasonable salary, to take unto himself a helpmate. I view with great regret the seeming tendency in these

times on the part of young men to defer, sometimes forever, the marriage state, although I must admit that the trusts and the tariff are a good deal, if not wholly, to blame for it. "As the saying is in Massachusetts, 'Everything has gone up but salaries, and I can scarcely blame the young man and the young woman of today for hesitating to take upon themselves marital responsibilities. The statistics furnished by the Republican party itself shows that, thanks to the trusts and the tariff, the cost of living has advanced in the last few years 100 per cent, and in some cases and some sections much more. "In Massachusetts, according to Republican figures, it has advanced 8 per cent, since last August, making the cost of even a mere existence for one almost prohibitive, and marriage absolutely out of the question. "While other questions undoubtedly enter into the causes of the admitted decrease in marriages, ministers, sociologists, settlement workers, statisticians and investigators of all kinds who have studied the subject are practically agreed upon the fact that today a dollar will scarcely go as far as 50 cents ten years ago, and that this is by far the most important factor in keeping our young men and women single. "That the blame is upon the Republican party, and the 'interests' it so sollicitously cares for, there is no doubt; and yet this is the party that a few years ago became so virtuously indignant when the 16-to-1 crase proposed to debase the dollar to one-half its value. "They have done the same thing themselves, only in another way; and so I say, aside from the moral and social aspects of the case, if you want to see our young people enter upon the marriage state, the only sane

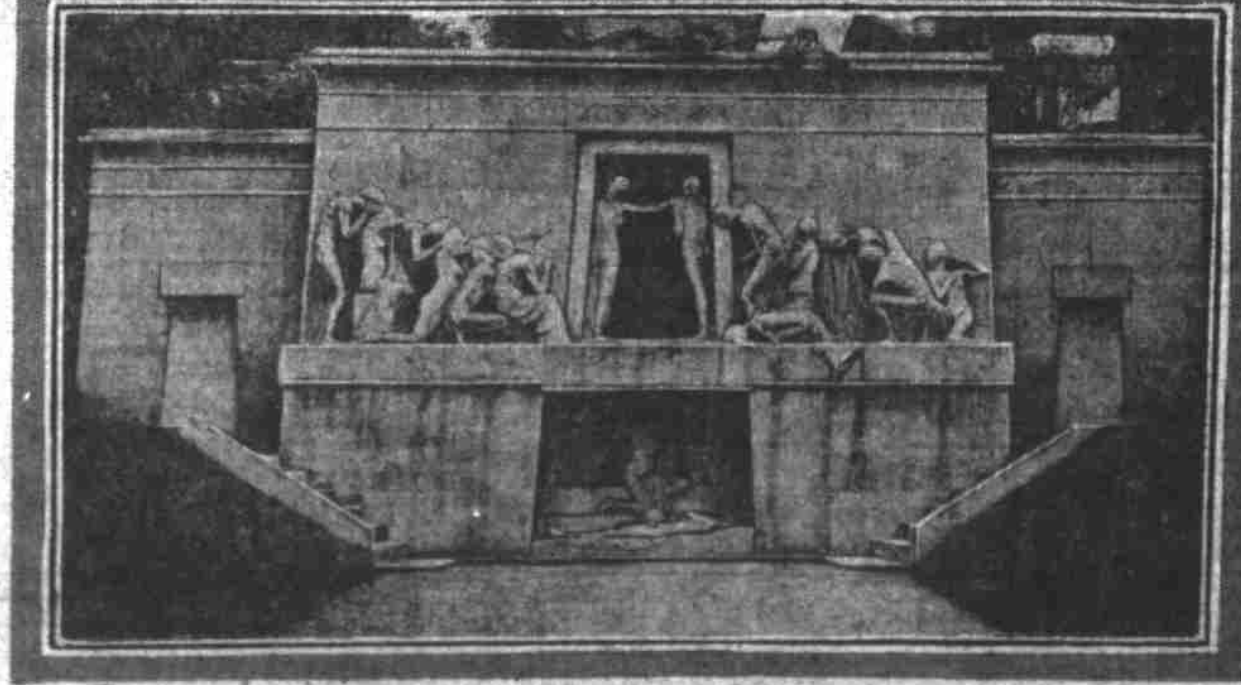
WANTS YOUTHS TO MARRY

and natural way to live, the thing upon which our national salvation and the foundations of our nation rests, the Republican party and all that it stands for, the fraudulent tariff, the trusts, the 'interests,' the 'plunderbund' must be defeated and the cost of living reduced to a normal scale. "Thus were those half dozen children of the happy Vahey home capitalized into votes, by connecting their hungry mouths with the working man's wages. It was as cultured Boston remarked, with more than academic approbation, the argumentum ad hominem,

Where the Dead Pay Rent

IN PARIS they have a novel way of providing skeletons for the market. According to the French system of burial, you don't buy a cemetery lot outright. You simply hire a grave for a certain term of years. A recent legal inquiry into the disposition of corpses the leases on whose graves had expired led to a most startling disclosure. It was found that these corpses were being turned over to a skeleton factory, where bones were cleaned by boiling, reassembled and sold at great profit. Oscar Wilde's rent ran out several weeks ago and the bony form of the celebrated bard himself might have been disinterred to grace a platform in some medical lecture room had not a kind friend come forward with the money necessary to have the lease renewed. It seems strange that no one ever took the trouble before to find out what became of the dead tenants. It is equally surprising that such an industry could have flourished in the very heart of the French capital without an inkling of it reaching the ears of the authorities.

THERE are about six different classes of burials in Paris, varying in magnificence and display according to the size of the fortune possessed by the decedent. The popular term of rental is seven years, although burials of the first, second and third classes are usually for a longer period. If the lease be not renewed at its expiration, the body of the occupant is speedily removed to make way for that of some new tenant. The investigation brought to light the fact that many of the bodies thus turned out were finding their way to a skeleton factory located in the Rue Albert. The factory is a large wooden shed inclosing a huge vault, above which a tall brick chimney rises to the roof. As soon as the bodies arrive the employees, three in number, carry them up a foot ladder to the top of a steaming cauldron and drop them in to stew awhile. About 500 pounds of human bones are treated this way daily, and the pot is kept simmering all the time. It is said that too much boiling spoils the skeletons, so they are taken out of the cauldron just as soon as the bones have been



Entrance to Pere-Lachaise Cemetery in Paris

freed from any ligaments, skin or dirt that may have been sticking to them. After being thoroughly cleaned the bones are taken to another establishment to undergo the finishing process. They are given a good soaking in a preserving fluid and rearticulated by means of fine wire. The skeletons turned out by these ingenious Parisians are said to surpass all others in quality. They are in great demand for use in anatomical museums and medical schools in all parts of the world, especially America. It seems almost unbelievable that such a state of affairs could exist in Paris, for the residents of that city are noted for the respect they pay to the dead. Not a funeral passes along the street but all pedestrians remove their hats and stand almost like soldiers at attention until the cortege has gone by. To make the matter still more inexplicable, most of the bodies have been taken from the celebrated Pere-Lachaise cemetery, one of the largest and most generally used in all Paris, from the number of

celebrities interred there, it is almost a second Westminster Abbey, and is visited by great numbers of tourists from all sections of the world. Among the famous men and women who rest in this cemetery are LaHarpe, Beaumarchais, Moliere, LaFontaine, Helme, members of the Rothschild family and the princess of Oude. The ground itself was a gift of Louis XIV to his confessor, Father Lachaise, who converted it into a burial ground, for which it has ever since been used. Two of the most impressive sights of the place are the great monument of the dead, which is on the main avenue, and the tomb to the memory of Abelard and Heloise. Really, every one in Paris has been taken by surprise by the astounding revelation. The idea that a place almost sacred should be converted to ghoulish-making of the most despicable sort never seems to have entered any one's head until the scandal was exposed by the municipal authorities.

meaning an argument of that brand which ships your opponent home on a shutter. Yet, even after the enormous reduction of the Republican majority, there were those among the political witscrates of Massachusetts who sought to find all sorts of explanations other than the Vahey brood. They hastened to go into the returns with their microscopes, analyzing here and disputing there, in the effort to discover the remote reasons for the change. The more they analyzed and disputed the more obvious became the importance of Mr. Vahey's human arguments. Governor Draper came out of the towns, which are the Republican strongholds, with 27,000 plurality, while Mr. Vahey carried Boston by some 16,000. In the outside cities, many of them pronouncedly identified with manufacture, there was a general rally to the Vahey standard, some of them making a complete overturn of their normal majorities. Fall River and New Bedford, which Governor Draper carried last year by small majorities, Vahey captured this fall by a corresponding excess. When the vote in various districts was classified on a percentage basis, it was seen that, in localities like Fall River and New Bedford, Draper lost about 22 per cent, and Vahey gained about 19 per cent. In the towns, Draper went back about 17 per cent from his record of last year, while Vahey advanced some 5 per cent. Draper lost 10 per cent in Boston and Vahey gained about 4 per cent. There may be other defeated candidates, who, finding their prosperity fall in carrying them across a cross-street 40,000 ballots wide, would be inclined to initiate that crusty old woman who lived in a shoe, and, taking the whole half dozen across the parental knee, give 'em a good spanking and send 'em to bed. But Papa Vahey isn't that kind of a loser. "Another helping of the white meat, children? That will be his way of handling them, next Thursday. And, since Massachusetts elects a Governor annually, and only a couple more youngsters would be needed to win him a substantial majority, and he 'certainly believes in our illustrious ex-President's views on race suicide'—well, who knows?

Reptiles as Pets

HOW strange are many of our prejudices! To illustrate this in common affairs, what boy is there who shrinks from picking up a frog? Moreover, most young fisherman hesitates to dig worms for bait, or handle them? Yet these same youngsters will shrink with loathing from a small snake. The first impulse is to kill the reptile as a horrid thing. But the little brown or green snake of our country roads is cleaner and nicer to handle than a frog or an anglerworm. He is usually harmless also, and if gently treated will make an amusing plaything. This prejudice is the result of custom and education. In some nations such reptiles are not dreaded. Lizards and snakes are tolerated as well as butterflies, and are even used as pets. If you catch a butterfly and give him a taste of a bit of moistened sugar on your hand you may release him. He will not fly away, but will remain perched on your finger and continue to feed. Toads may be tamed to take slices of millers from your hand, and so may the little gray lizards which abound in some portions of the country. Kindness will work wonders with many of the inferior creatures which we hate or despise. Yet the prejudice against them is hard to root out. Often it exists unconsciously.