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LOOKING FOR A LEADER.

Political gossip at the national capital is all centered upon the coming leader of the Democracy. The general opinion is that if the Democratic party is to rid itself of Bryan it must develop a new leader in the next four years. This new leader, to be successful, must be able to reunite the party, for until the Democracy is again one harmonious body it will achieve no greater success than has come to it in the last four campaigns.

There are Democrats in Congress who might develop into strong party leaders; there are others recently elected Governors of their states who give much promise, and still others who are not particularly in the public eye. But there is not one among the number who is pre-eminently of such caliber as to justify him in rising at the present time and proclaiming himself the new leader of the Democracy.

The claim was made by several Bryanites that the Democracy in the late campaign was united. Such a claim was absurd on its face. Otherwise, what would account for the handful of Democratic Governors in states that cast their electoral votes for Taft? It was disruption in the Democratic party—dissatisfaction with Bryan, as much as anything else, that caused these states, or some of them, to support the Republican national ticket.

Nothing could be more absurd than to assert that the Democracy of New York state, for instance, was united in the last campaign. It was as badly disrupted as it has been since the days of Cleveland. The same situation is true in other Eastern states, and even in the South the party was far from united, as evidenced by dwindling Democratic pluralities in states that have never cast a Republican vote for President. There is proof in abundance that the Democracy of today is not united.

At a hasty glance it would seem that the most prominent men of the Democracy are not now in Congress. Glancing over the membership of both bodies, only two or three names catch the eye, and there is serious question if any among them would fill the bill—unless they develop wonderfully during the next few years. There is Senator Culberson of Texas and Senator Daniel of Virginia who were both mentioned as possible nominees this year, and either would have been acceptable to a large element of the conservative Democracy. But Culberson's geographic location was used against him last spring, and would be again; the same also was true of Senator Daniel. Yet the time may come when the Democratic party may make up its mind that it is good politics to nominate a Southern man for President. It was shown at the recent election that the Democracy, under Bryan's leadership, is losing its old-time grip on the South.

In the House there is no Democrat who is a shining example. Perhaps the most luminous Democratic member of that body is Champ Clark of Missouri, predestined to become leader of the minority. If the Democracy ever wanted an honest, plain-spoken, though somewhat crude man for its nominee, it would find such a one in Clark; and, moreover, Clark hails from the state that has twice been snatched from the Solid South. It is possible that a situation might arise making his nomination advisable.

But there are a couple of promising possibilities among the Governors chosen this fall—Governor Harmon of Ohio and Governor

Johnson of Minnesota. Both these men were considered when the anti-Bryan Democrats had hope of controlling the last Democratic national convention. In point of ability Harmon probably outranks Johnson, but the latter possesses attributes that would tend to make him a popular candidate before the masses. The chances of these two men will unquestionably be enhanced or diminished according to the manner in which the conduct themselves as executives of their respective states.

Looking outside of Congress, Judge Gray of Delaware and ex-Governor Folk of Missouri are the two most conspicuous figures in the Democratic party. Gray, notwithstanding his acknowledged worth, does not seem to appeal to the rank and file of his party; Folk is more likely to make a popular hit. He is an out-and-out reformer. Both men, nevertheless, must be reckoned on if the Democracy is to have done with Bryan and Bryanism.

PRACTICAL ROSE CULTURE.

There is no other locality in Oregon more favorable for the perfect growth of almost all varieties of roses than right here in Corvallis, and it is a source of satisfaction to know that the residents of this city both understand and appreciate this fact. Every yard, almost, has its wealth of fragrant beauties, and the outlook is for many more to be planted next spring, the hundreds of new residences built this year all having lawns ready for improvement.

In this connection an authority on rose culture has the following advice to offer, and it is worthy of careful consideration and adoption:

"It must be understood by those who plant roses, however, that the planting is only the initial step in rose growing. Of course, in this favored climate and soil rosebushes will grow and bloom even if neglected, but to get the best, or even good results, they must be fertilized, pruned, sprayed and cultivated industriously and intelligently. The woman who, while having a few minutes of spare time, pulls off, mechanically as it were, the faded rose petals and seed pods from her neighbor's rosebush, is one who may be depended upon to look after her own rosebushes and get the best out of them. Strictly speaking, it is not worth while to plant rosebushes unless one is sufficiently interested in them to take good care of them: in season, mulch them out of season and keep a careful eye on them at all seasons. No other plant responds more gratefully to intelligent care and none shows neglect more plainly than does the rosebush. Plant them, therefore, if you intend to care for them, but save your time and money and the rose lover's feelings if you imagine that planting is all, and stop at that."

UNCERTAIN GAME LAWS.

Every session of the Oregon Legislature sees a multitude of bills introduced for the purpose of amending the game and fish laws in one way or another to suit the ideas of people who think existing provisions are not as they should be. As a result of frequent and sometimes careless amendment the laws have become quite uncertain in some respects, as indicated by the fact that in his last edition of the game laws the Secretary of State found it necessary to print a foot note after some sections saying, "This section seems to have been repealed by implication by section

Whenever a game bill comes up for consideration there are always a number of members of the Legislature who ask to have their counties excepted from the provisions of the law. As a result it sometime takes a great deal of search to determine just what

the law is as applied to all counties, and an effort will be made at the coming session of the Legislature to pass a uniform state game and fish law.

PRESERVATION OF FORESTS.

The Old Bay State is Now Taking the Initiative.

The preservation of the forests is a problem second to none in present importance and in its outlook toward the future. Without trees our country would be a desert, and the rapid denudation of our New England hills is already beginning to have its effect upon our streams and rivers and upon our water supply. The invention of wood pulp paper and the rapid extension of the industry throughout the country, together with the increase of newspaper circulation, have stimulated the destruction of the forests to such a degree that steps are already being taken to preserve them before it is too late.

Congress has attempted to take a hand in the matter, but so far with little avail, and it now remains for the individual states affected to see what they can do. The first step would seem to be the development of paper making from some rapidly growing and annually reappearing substance, such as cornstalk fiber, instead of from the slowly rising tree which cannot be replaced except after years of renewal and growth.

As was to be expected, Massachusetts is taking the initiative. To the governors of the other five New England states Governor Guild has sent out a request for a conference, and it will be held at the Algonquin club in Boston on the 14th of September. The six governors will then confer and deliberate over the best means to be taken for the preservation of our forests, and it is probable that arrangements will be made for the calling of a New England business conference at some time immediately following the presidential election. If it should be held, says Governor Guild in his letter, it should come at that time "in order that its work might not be confused with the politics of the presidential campaign." One of the especial objects of this meeting of the governor



GOVERNOR GUILD OF MASSACHUSETTS.

with his associates will be to devise means whereby a greater uniformity of action may be secured in the legislation among the several states in the Union. But the greatest result should be in the stimulus it will give to public opinion and in its awakening of us to the fact that the forests must and shall be preserved.

The First Potatoes.

Sir Walter Raleigh, who shares with Sir Francis Drake the honor of first introducing the potato in England, lived at Brixton, England, near Elizabeth's House. Formby, in Lancashire, also claims the honor of being the site of the first culture of the potato in that country. They are said to have been grown there by a Formby man who sailed with Sir Walter.

The earliest cultivation of the potato in the British islands was probably at Youghal, on the south coast of Ireland, where this great navigator had an estate.

It has been generally accepted that the potato was taken to Europe from Virginia and that it was cultivated there by the natives. Sir Joseph Banks and De Condelle both lent the weight of their authority to this view, but it has been ascertained that the Indians of Virginia, though they used a number of tuberous roots, did not know our potato.

One of these was the plant sometimes grown as an ornamental climber in our gardens and called by botanists Apios tuberosa. The Indians called the roots potatoes, and the French Canadians knew them as pommes de terre, and our potato, being a native of South America, was scarcely likely to be known to the Indians of Virginia.

Yet the potato was undoubtedly introduced in England as part of the cargo of one of Sir Richard Grenville's ships and landed at Plymouth, and the ship had gone direct from Virginia and called nowhere on the way. On the voyage home, however, it had encountered and captured a Spanish ship from Santo Domingo. The potatoes were a part of the cargo of the latter vessel.

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