

Political Comment.

The Scandal Factories.
The rumor manufacturers concerned in the Panama scandal racket have narrowed their charges down to this: "If there was really nothing understood in the purchase of the canal rights the whole matter was at least dubious."

And this is all the tangible support they present to back up the accusation. It turns out that many attempts have been made to start a scandal of the sort ever since the time came under the control of the United States. The first to pour forth their immodious were those who had set their hearts upon the government taking up with the Nicaragua project. It was a gloomy disappointment to them that the other and shorter route was selected. It is history that Senator Morgan never did get over it until the day of his death. Then from time to time there were re-runs of the "story." The New York World lifted it out of the pages of the past for the purpose of confounding the administration during the campaign. The Indianapolis News picked it up because it was easier to express its bitterness over the failure of the party to name Vice President Fairbanks as the Presidential candidate. It is too bad that so much fudge should be made on charges reiterated by a newspaper which had only a few days before com-piemently admitted it had lied in the use of the interview with the German Kaiser.

William Nelson Cromwell, who arranged the transfer of the canal from the French owners, says:

"I am also positive that not a man in public life in America, in or out of Congress, ever had the least pecuniary interest in the Panama Canal. I do not know and never have known of an American citizen who has ever dealt in any of the shares of the new Panama Canal Company or the shares or bonds of the old company. A further instance of the unwarranted attitude of the Indianapolis News and of other journals repeating the statement, is furnished with respect to Mr. C. P. Taft and M. Douglas Robinson. The introduction of these gentlemen in the Panama affair is like the creation of a character in a work of fiction. They did not exist in the sense of having any relation to the canal master."

The President's hint that the responsibility for the falsehoods might be fixed in the courts should be welcomed by the country with jubilation, in particular by those journals which hold to the path of decency and honesty in the face of competition of the policy of which is mendacity and shamelessness— *Toledo Blade*.

Canada's Wheat Supply.
American farmers who have prospered under the protective tariff of the past twelve years, enacted and maintained by the Republican party, should take notice of the fact that a recent report issued by a leading mercantile agency, shows that, while the total available supply of wheat in this country about the close of September was \$75,000,000 bushels less than at the same time last year, the Canadian supply was 3,500,000 bushels more than a year ago.

This statement indicates the great importance of keeping the American market for the American farmer and of building up the home market so that any loss of foreign demand on account of Canada's increasing supply may be more than offset by the American consumer.

One of the great principles of the Republican party, as every farmer knows, is to build up the home market and protect the American farmer and wage earner. The mercantile agency item quoted above proves what a Democratic tariff revision would mean for the American farmer in putting him at the mercy of Canada and Argentina. Republican revision of the tariff would safeguard the American wage earner from injurious foreign competition—*Louisville Herald*.

Capital Spankings.
Another difficulty about giving the President a rebuke is that he might not care to receive it, and then what?—*Washington Times*.

Somebody is almost sure to complicate the situation to a degree still more terrible by daring the secret service people to tell all they know.—*New York Commercial Star*.

Getting into a controversy with the President is still another hazardous occupation.—*Detroit Free Press*.

Something is very likely to happen when Congress attempts to carry out its relentless program of slapping President Roosevelt on the wrist.—*Kansas City Star*.

Over in England objection is made to the President's message because it contains too many copy-book maxims. There are critics who find much more serious faults than that in it.—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

An Annual Gift.
Although the Rev. Mr. Carter knew that the senior deacon of his new church was a thrifty New Englander, he was not entirely prepared for some of the evidences of Deacon Getchell's peculiar thrif: "I don't know if I favor your exchanging with the Harberville minister more than once in the year," said the deacon, shaking his head at Mr. Carter's suggestion of a second change.

"I thought you all enjoyed his preaching," said the minister, with surprise. "I had understood so."

"That's not the point," and the deacon's chin took on the look so familiar to his family and friends. "The point is that we pay five dollars and twenty cents more a Sunday for our pulpit than they do over at Harberville. So when you go over there it's just the same as making the Harberville a present of that sum, and what I'm saying is that once a season is enough for us to contribute to their support."

What He Needed.
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Talking in Large Figures.

In recent years the idea has been familiarized that the United States is a billion-dollar country. Within a few days conventions have been held in Washington that necessarily discussed questions on this scale, for the subjects in hand relate to waterways, the conservation of natural resources, and the development of Southern commerce and industry. These are matters touching the production of the American people and the possibilities of their great domain, which, for the most part, is in the opening stage of its utilities. The spirit of the people in taking hold of vast improvements could have no better example than that at Panama, where this country is putting a quarter of a billion into a short cut for the ships of the world, with a saving of thousands of miles of travel to all races concerned in ocean traffic, and this embraces practically the entire population of the earth. Americans are "getting their hands in" at Panama. With such a start, and valuable experience, internal improvements on a suitable general plan are sure to follow.

A notable beginning has been made in Illinois. The city of Chicago, at its own cost, has completed a strip of ship canal. At the recent election the voters of Illinois approved the issue of \$20,000,000 State bonds to extend the ship canal to the head of navigation on the Illinois River. Thus the first 100 miles of the lakes-to-gulf channel for ships will be constructed by the State of Illinois and its chief city, without calling on the national treasury for a cent. But much more than inland navigation for seagoing vessels is proposed, as Gov. Denison has just pointed out at one of the Washington conventions.

The fashion coat is long, form-revealing, but not tight fitting, hipless in effect, with small sleeves and some touch in the form of buttons or revers to suggest the directorate.

Crystal beadwork is found upon very dressy evening frocks, but the style is not so well received as satin flower decorations. Persian bandings are used under slashed waist stems.

A reaction is already taking place against the much-trimmed tailored suit. The cut is still in the hipless effect, but trimmings are omitted, the collar is manish and the sleeves suggestive of those of a man's coat.

A Puzzling Question.
"What is going to become of all the unmarried business women when they are too old to work?" was the rather startling question propounded at a meeting of a woman's club in New York.

"A business man, member of a leading publishing house, said to me: 'Have you ever noticed that a lot of nice old maids there are in our employ? What will finally become of them?'

"These women are 'nice.' They are usually in receipt of a good salary, but they haven't saved anything. Improvident? No, not necessarily.

"They live in accordance with the American standard of living, and they can afford to live in that way with the money they earn, besides it is required of a woman in a good position to dress well. If they were saving, 'provident' you would call it, how could they save, at the best, enough to secure them from want for the rest of their natural lives? Their business usefulness ends at 50 years of age, say. Some firms generously pension women worn out in their employ, but these are few. Something will have to be done to meet this emergency. Proud, independent, superior as they are and so many of them!"

"There should be a day for thinking about marriage," suggested a member of the club. "Just as there are Labor day and Memorial day and others. Men in the cities are too busy, their lives are too strenuous to think about marriage. If there was a day set apart for thinking about it and a parade of all the nice men and women, who would in that way see each other in the light of candidates for matrimony, something might come of it, and this growing celibacy be put to a stop to which threatens to depopulate the world, and these fine women would not then be left to a lonely dependent old age."

"This question is not one to be treated with levity," remarked the first speaker with a frown. "It has not been obtruded itself upon the students of social economy as it will do. Splinterhood was never so general before as it is becoming. Just run your mind over the women of this class whom you know."

"Mark my words, this question is bound to become the foremost social and economic question of the next ten years."

A White Closet.

It was a sensible woman who had the large closet under the hall stairs painted in white and the floor covered with white oilcloth. On the wall were hung black iron dress hooks, which could easily be found, and the most convenient article in it was an electric light bulb on a long cord, which could be taken in hand when looking for boxes packed under the lower steps. These boxes were all white, the nature of the contents being shown by a printed label across one end in black letters. Over the door was hung an old portiere, which was hidden by the closet door, but it kept out considerable dust. The shelves were painted white and the books that were stored away were all wrapped neatly in white paper and packed in boxes.

Guest and Host.

To one who is in the role of host there can be no more bitter rebuke than to have any guest, or even chance caller, go out from the portals with the feeling that he is sorry he came—that he is depressed rather than uplifted, saddened rather than gladdened, and in a mood of discord rather than harmony.

Why women of this particular age should make more successful marriages than those who fall victims to love's young dream is fairly obvious. When a woman marries between 30 and 40 she either does so for companionship, choosing her mate accordingly, or from need, in which she also chooses a certain amount of care. She has no wild dreams of unloved bliss.

Never Had Money Enough.

An Irishman who complained of high prices in the United States, says high prices. Governor Ladd of Rhode Island, was asked: "Why do you stay here? Why not go back to Ireland, where every thing is cheaper?" His reply was: "Oh, at home I could not earn money to buy cheaper goods." Similarly an Englishman commented unfavorably on the higher cost here of the better grades of wearing apparel. "Why," said he, "at home I could buy a dress suit for half the money." "But was the suit as good as that which you pay double for in this country?" "I don't know whether it was or not," was the frank reply. "I never had money enough over there to buy a dress suit." Those who abuse protection because of high prices might learn something from these two incidents.

Of More Importance.

"And now that you are of age," said the anxious father, "I want to give you a few pointers on how to keep money." "Say, dad," rejoined the son of his father, "hadn't you better begin by giving me a few pointers on how to get it?"

Not Promising.

"He said he felt greatly encouraged because you turned the gas down low when he was calling on you."

"Well, he needn't feel encouraged. It takes a dark room to develop a negative, you know!"—*Philadelphia Press*.

His Idea of Trimming.

"Tom—Well, well, is that your new idea?"

"That's not the point," and the deacon's chin took on the look so familiar to his family and friends. "The point is that we pay five dollars and twenty cents more a Sunday for our pulpit than they do over at Harberville. So when you go over there it's just the same as making the Harberville a present of that sum, and what I'm saying is that once a season is enough for us to contribute to their support."

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His Idea of Trimming.

"Tom—Well, well, is that your new idea?"

"His Sister—Oh, it has to be trimmed you goose."

"Tom—Too large, eh?—The Catholick Standard and Times."

Evil.

Elderly Uncle—Diddle, how do you like the little story book I sent you last week?

Diddle (aged 7)—Uncle Rufus, it's punk. They don't marry.

Men of Yesterday and To-Day.

In our great-grandfather's young days a man was usually not only considered, but really was, elderly at 40, old at 50 and a gouty, flamed swathed wreck at 60.—*London Tribune and Country*.

One way to keep your credit good is to pay your debts promptly.

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