

POLITICAL ISSUES OF 1892.

"THE Political Issues of 1892" is the subject of an article in the September *Forum* by Henry Cabot Lodge. This gentleman though recognizing the uncertainty of political prophecy, yet ventures to assert that the dominant issue in 1892 will be the question of the free coinage of silver. The Democrats may say that this silver problem is put forward by Republicans in order to divert public opinion from the tariff. Mr. Lodge says this cuts no figure at all in the matter, because issues are not made by party leaders, but public questions naturally arise and either create new parties or compel old ones to accept them. However, he is of opinion that if Republicans could shape issues, there would be no necessity to dodge the tariff, because it is an easier and safer issue for them than that of silver coinage.

On the question of tariff Mr. Lodge says the Republicans are now safe. They have already suffered as much as is possible politically from the passage of the McKinley bill. The benefits of this tariff are now becoming apparent, while any mistakes embodied in it can be remedied by its friends. Mr. Lodge, however, admits that the unwritten tariff law is always the most popular.

In 1888, the Democratic party passed the Mills bill in the House, and the Republicans made their campaign specially against that measure. The Democrats were forced to defend the bill in detail, while their opponents fought only for the general policy of protection. This gave victory to the Republicans, but they had to reduce their principles to law. They were last year in the same position that the Democrats were in 1888. The Republicans were forced to defend in detail, while their opponents dwelt on the necessity of tariff reform. In the next House the Democrats may formulate a tariff law, which like the Mills bill, might enter into the 1892 campaign, again making a Waterloo for the Democratic party.

Mr. Lodge thinks that the conservative instincts of the people will be aroused to sustain the McKinley bill, and to make protection a national principle of American political doctrine.

He cites many reasons why the silver coinage issue will come to be the leading question of 1892. He is positive that the next Congress will not touch a free coinage measure. Even if the House and Senate passed such a bill the President would veto it "in the interest of sound finance and sound business methods." This would throw the question into the campaign of 1892, while the position of the parties upon it will have been sharply defined by the action of Congress and of the administration respectively. The nature of this issue is such that one party must sustain and the other oppose it. Both parties cannot take the same platform in regard to it, however mixed those parties may now be. In fact he thinks that the silver question has already assumed the dignity of a party issue.

He says that in the last Congress all the Democratic senators but two voted for free silver, while in the House the Republicans who voted for free silver,

a small minority of less than thirty, were almost exactly balanced by the Democrats who voted against it. The Republicans, as a party, took a position of resistance to free coinage. The Democrats, as a party, proved themselves by an overwhelming majority, to be the friends of the free coinage of silver; and they have control, by a very large majority, of the next House of Representatives. Many Democratic leaders believe, also, that free coinage, if advocated and sustained by the Democratic party, means a Democratic president next year, and they will, of course, force the fighting on that issue so far as they can, from political interest if from no other motive.

In addition to the free coinage of silver as the leading issue in 1892, Mr. Lodge thinks that the tariff, ballot reform and immigration will also enter into the campaign as prominent questions.

THE FALL OF BISMARCK.

PRINCESS BISMARCK confesses to a friend in London that the health of the ex-Chancellor is so far broken down that a collapse would not be a surprise any day. She finds consolation, however, in the fact, that "there is much truth in the French accounts of the doings on board the imperial yacht 'Hohenzollern.'" That this sentiment concerning the alleged crazy spell of young Emperor William is only an echo from the inward feelings of Chancellor Bismarck there is not the slightest doubt. His expressions and recent conduct testify that no calamity that could by any possibility befall the young man would quite satisfy the old man's hatred of him. It is reported that the Emperor is on his mind perpetually, and that he never tires of talking about him.

This is one of the most pitiful cases of the downfall of greatness that princely ambition has afforded. Here is the shrewdest statesman of the age, after having virtually created one of the most powerful governments on the earth, crowded from his station of authority by a resentful boy who in point of intellect is only slightly removed from an imbecile. And so after performing some of the grandest diplomatic achievements that the century has witnessed, this man from the acme of ministerial power is made to grovel in the mire of malice, scorn, vindictiveness and morbid hate so overwhelming as to be little short of intellectual darkness.

As things now appear the mighty Bismarck's day of power is closed. And if he does not drop off pretty soon he is liable, along with his influence, to lose even the poor condolence of well-meaning friends, save his immediate family, so full of bitterness has he grown since his exile from power. And so if he does not first go mad with his increasing jealousy he will stand in his last hour as one entirely alone in the midst of the mighty empire of which he was for many years the virtual ruler. It is beyond the capacity of this century to produce two such spectacles, and the world, it is hoped, will never behold another.

United States Senator Cameron is worth \$8,000,000.

NOTES.

The Hawaiian race has been steadily dwindling in numbers.

More people born in Vermont reside out of the State than in it.

Las Vegas, N. M., is to have a rifle-shooting match between a lady and a gentleman.

Emperor William has joined the Farmers' Alliance, and will now proceed to raise a crop of whiskers.

Africa has nearly seven hundred languages, and this fact presents great difficulties to missionary effort.

The railroad yards of Kansas City are blockaded with grain from Kansas. There is such a demand for cars that it is feared a car famine will ensue.

The chair used by Garibaldi in the legislative chamber at Rome is adorned with a laurel leaf, and out of respect to his memory, has not been occupied since his death.

Paris, with a population of about 2,500,000, has fewer than a hundred negroes within its limits. It is claimed that the colored population of all France is less than 550.

Miss Elizabeth Bisland, who was sent by the *Cosmopolitan Magazine* on a flying tour around the world, is soon to marry Mr. Charles W. Wetmore, a New York business man.

The government officials now have got Mrs. Astor's dresses and Mr. Vanderbilt's steam yacht on their hands for unpaid duties. This is quite an embarrassment of riches.

Europe seems to be stirring up once more. Austria is playing at sham warfare. So is France and England. Russia is always prepared. Is the day big with the fate of empires close at hand?

Frank Melbourne is said to be successful in his rain-producing achievements at Cheyenne. He is coming to Salt Lake to attend the irrigation convention as a delegate from Wyoming.

A man fishing in Jersey, England, was caught by the rising tide, and a boat had to be put out to rescue him. The next day a magistrate sentenced him to eight days' hard labor "for the trouble he had caused."

J. Howard Vincent, Secretary of the United Empire League, recently made a trip to Canada. Steps will be taken throughout the Dominion to bind more closely the ties between Canada and England.

Mrs. Beecher, the widow of the great Brooklyn preacher, was 79 years old August 30th, and the day was duly observed at her Brooklyn home. Mrs. Beecher is a native of Sutton, New York, and was married in 1837.

There are more high peaks in the Rocky mountains and in the Sierra Nevada range by a proportion of twenty to one than there are in the Alps. There are at least fifty peaks in this country that are within 500 feet of an altitude of 14,000 feet.

It is announced that Sir William and Lady Gordon-Cumming have taken passage for America next month. Sir William is probably destined to be met immediately on his arrival by sundry and various interviewers, who will want to know how he likes America. He may as well prepare for the emergency.