

STRUGGLING FOR CONTROL.

The political status of the next United States Senate is a matter that is attracting a great deal of attention and causing considerable comment now-days, and the interest in the subject increases as the uncertainty becomes more pronounced. It is a subject of much more importance than some people would ascribe to it, the mere matter of political supremacy being the smallest part of it. It seems, among other things, that if the Republicans retain control of the upper house for the next two or four years, the responsibility for all legislation which the Republicans conceded with something amounting to glee to the Democrats and which the latter were willing to assume, would not exist, and furthermore that the policy endorsed so strongly by the people in the late election could not be carried out. Under any circumstances the Republicans could accomplish nothing of their own, nor could the Democrats; it would be a continuous see-saw with nothing accomplished but a string of compromises, whereby both and neither would be accountable.

This is hardly what those who did the voting expected and not exactly what they ought to have. If there is any meaning at all in the "voice of the ballot," it is that the Republican policy was disapproved and that of the Democrats was to be given a trial. On the face of the returns it seemed as though this had been fully accomplished. There never was such an avalanche in time of peace as that which bore Mr. Cleveland upon its crest to victory; at the same time his party was given more than a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives, and it seemed as if with the aid of the fusion movement enough legislatures of states which have Republican senators whose terms expire next March had been captured to change the upper house from its present political bearings; these were New York, Wisconsin, California, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming. The first two are secure enough and the third is reasonably so, but these are not enough, making the Senate stand Republicans 44, Democrats (counting Kyle, S. D.) 43, and People's 1; in this count Stewart of Nevada is classed with the Republicans. It was not expected that Democrats would be elected in the remaining states, excepting Montana and Wyoming, either one of which would give them complete control with the aid of the Vice-President's casting vote; but if they were all taken from the Republicans and given to the Populists it would at least place the former in the minority without giving the Democrats the ascendancy; in other words, the opposition to Republicanism would rule all along the line as the people undoubtedly intended, without, as was also expected, making the Democrats exclusively responsible.

All at once the Republicans seem to have concluded that a slice off the loaf is better than no bread at all, and to that end are preparing to avail themselves of the chance seemingly held out to them of electing the senators in

the four doubtful states, and great is the indignation in Democratic circles thereat. A council of the clans was held recently and doubtless the law will be called upon and exhausted to avert the Republican plan, and all the methods of the politician will be brought to bear as well. In Wyoming the Republicans have patterned after the Democrats in Montana by throwing out votes where to do so is to change the apparent complexion of the legislature. In Kansas the control hung upon the issue in one legislative district where the vote was a tie; this the Republican canvassers proposed to settle by lot, but the opposition would have none of it, and the board went ahead and alone, the result being naturally, as the other people would say, that the Republican candidate was declared chosen. All these cases will certainly result in contests whichever way they may go, and as the Senate is the sole judge of the election and qualification of its members, it is easily understood that the party which has *prima facie* control on the fourth of March next will have absolute control thereafter for two years at least.

This is the way the situation stands at present. In both Montana and Wyoming the canvassing has been deferred pending legal proceedings, the object of the interruption in either case being to compel the canvassers to count and certify up the vote as cast. This it done in both cases will make the next Senate Democratic—that party gaining a senator from Wyoming and the Republicans holding on to the one they already have in Montana. There is no telling, however, what the outcome may be; if the Democrats can prove all they claim to be able to in Montana, they would seem to have a good enough case there; but the loss of both Montana and Wyoming would settle the matter against them so far as separate control of the Senate is concerned.

THE NEW SOUTH.

The new South is fairly bounding along on the highway that leads to prosperity and greatness; and with politics as a disturbing factor removed for a time at least, that favored section may be expected to take on yet higher honors and be the recipient of still greater rewards. The industrial status, after being the subject of years of fruitless discord, is pretty well settled now, the whites and blacks moving along together in concert and unity. Formerly the work in the cotton fields was performed by the negroes under a duress which they could not escape nor, through their humble origin, narrow life and dense ignorance, comprehend; naturally enough their idea on being freed was that freedom meant exemption from toil instead of greater toil than most of them had ever really experienced before, and their conception of the right of suffrage was too often looked upon by them as the right to "rule the roost" to the exclusion of their former masters. Experience aided by such education as they have been able to acquire has effectually dissipated the former delusion; and that instinct in

man which makes him sooner or later yield to the inevitable has about won the negro over from any desire or hope he ever entertained as to the possibility of "running things" or any considerable part of them in Dixie land. As a result both races have drawn closer together and each has some—and a growing—regard for the other's welfare. This is as it ought to be and is itself an eloquent exposition of the cause of the wonderful and advancing prosperity of which we are advised.

We learn from the *Baltimore Manufacturers' Record* that the advance of two and a half cents per pound in the price of cotton during the past nine weeks means a gain to the southern planters of \$87,500,000 in the actual cash value of a single staple crop. The increase in the sugar crop of this season will give to the South \$2,250,000 in bounty alone more than was received last year. The rice crop of this season is the largest ever grown in the South. The 2,500,000 acres withdrawn from cotton this season have been planted with food crops, chiefly corn, thereby making the South more self-reliant and increasing the cash by keeping it at home instead of sending it west for food. Bankers, merchants, manufacturers, farmers and the newspapers speak with one accord of the prosperity that not only awaits the South, but already is present. Confidence never was greater; business conditions never were more favorable.

The population of the South is by no means crowded; five times as many could obtain homes and fields of employment without overdoing the thing in the least. In Texas ten times as many as are there now could do finely so far as room is concerned. It only, therefore, remains for things to go ahead as at present, and the future of the South will be a glowing theme for those who live to see it.

THE NICARAGUE CANAL.

From two points of view the construction of an isthmian canal is a greatly needed work: the practical enforcement of the Monroe doctrine by keeping America under American control, and the commercial consideration. Either would seem enough, but together they should be irresistible. The question and perhaps the only question in the way of the commencement and rapid prosecution of the work to a successful consummation is that of ownership and control; shall the government do the work and own the enterprise to the exclusion of private capital, or shall the latter do it and receive the protection if not the support of the former? That one or the other or both will have to take up the scheme and push it to a successful conclusion is no longer a matter of controversy; it is a pressing and an inevitable issue.

The proposed canal is designed to cut a great circuit out of eastern and western navigation by making the straits of Magellan no longer the shortest route from the Atlantic to the Pacific and vice versa; to that end a continuous trench is to be constructed from a point on the Caribbean coast nearly east of the southern end of Lake Nicaragua and connecting with that body as nearly as possible, gaining which,