

Speaker Cannon at Home.

Frank G. Carpenter Visits Him at Danville and Chats With Him About Himself and Public Questions.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

DANVILLE, ILL.—Sit down with me on the big porch of Speaker Cannon's big house here in Danville and have a heart-to-heart talk with one of the really big men of the country. That wind which fans our cheeks like a sea breeze comes from the corn-laden Illinois prairies, rustling the forest trees at our side with its song of prosperity and peace. We are away from the factions of politics, away from the struggling of every-day statesmanship; we are away from the big cities, away from God's country, where one can look at himself and the world. It is under such conditions that I have had a visit with Joe Cannon, the results of which are embodied in the conversation which follows.

The first part of our talk was of a personal nature. I had asked the speaker as to his boyhood and he replied that he could remember as far

dragged tail into your still half-sleeping eyes. After milking you came in and had breakfast, and how it did taste! "Snow balls" then were as good as apples now and every bit as sweet.

"When I worked in the country store I had to get up, make the fire, sweep out, eat breakfast and be ready for business by 6 o'clock in the morning, and I stayed in the store until 9 o'clock at night. Was it hard? No! Other boys did the same, and we had our fun, too. Many times we went out and danced till daybreak and got back ready to open up at the usual time. We may have yawned a little during the day, but the elixir of youth remedied all before night."

THE EDUCATION OF A SPEAKER.

I here asked Mr. Cannon to tell me more about his education. He is a well-read man, and in his speeches uses excellent English, illustrating his points from history and literature, ancient and modern. Mr. Cannon said: "My education was confined to the country school, to home teaching about the big log fireplace, where rather road at night, and to my own private study. While I was clerking I had more or

PRESIDENT SAID TO PERSONALLY OPPOSE GOV. VARDEMAN



There are 17 postoffices in the United States named Roosevelt, 10 in the south and one of them in Mississippi, but the Administration refuses to permit a new office in this state to be named Vardeman, in honor of Governor Vardeman. It is claimed by Democrats that the president is responsible for the refusal of the postoffice department.

lack as when he was four years old, now 64 years ago.

"It was then," said he, "that we emigrated from North Carolina to Indiana. We came over the mountains in canvas-covered wagons, sleeping in tents. We crossed the little Dan river. It was as big to me then as the Mississippi is now. I can still see the great forests, the wild flowers by the roadside and the squirrels darting from tree to tree."

HIS QUAKER ANCESTORS.

"Then your parents were southerners, Mr. Speaker?"

"They were born in North Carolina, but they were Quakers of the old stock that went from Massachusetts south and emigrated thence to different parts of the west. They were natural pioneers, always moving from place to place. My father and mother lived in Guilford county, N. C. Father taught school then in a little red schoolhouse, of which I have a picture. He afterwards studied medicine and practiced it. There were about 20 families in the caravan which went to Indiana and settled at our little town on the Wabash. It was there I got my first schooling and there I lived until I was 15, when father was drowned and I had to go to work."

"What did you do then, Mr. Speaker?"

"I clerked in a country store for five years, after which I went into an office and studied law. It took me some time to get a start as a lawyer, but I finally succeeded, and was doing when when I was first elected to Congress, about 32 years ago. With the exception of one term I have been in Congress ever since."

THE DELIGHTS OF YOUTH.

"Then your boyhood was not an easy one, Mr. Speaker?"

"Perhaps not, in comparison with that of the city boys of today; but it was like that of the other boys of the community and I thoroughly enjoyed it. There is nothing like the pleasures of youth and its glorious dreams of the future. As we grow older we are content with the present. I have not built an air castle for 30 years, although I enjoy life still."

"And yet the pleasures of my youth might be considered hardships now. In those days every boy rose at daybreak to make the fire. You went from the warm sheets out on the cold floor to dress. It might be that your boots had frozen over night, and how you did have to pull getting them on. Then if they had been thoughtful and had carried the wood before bedtime it was not hard to kindle it and to put the kettle on the crane, but if not, you had to go out and split the wood in the snow. After the fire was built came the milking, and you took two pails and went out to the barn. One pail held the milk and the other the water for the strip-milk cow. You had to watch that the old cow did not kick you, and it might be that she would flirt her be-

lieve in farm lands and other things, have made it so that I could now leave country means that they will become a part of the world dominated by our ideas and the spirit of our civilization."

SCHOOL THAT MAKES MEN.

"But schools like yours have their advantages over the colleges, Mr. Speaker," said I. "It is such schools that make men."

"That may be true," was the reply. "There are greater disadvantages than having to work one's way through life. Such work brings out the man and hardens his character. Those who are doing things in the world today, are largely men schooled as I was. They come from the middle walks of life. They have had to fight their way upward and through fighting they grew. I learned much in that country store. It taught me exactness, industry and the value of the nickel. Only the fewest people ever learn that 20 nickels make a dollar. In that store the accounts had to be exact. I remember we sold a calico dress for a dollar and it then took just eight yards to make a dress. We measured it off with the yard stick—just eight yards, not a quarter of an inch more or less. Eight yards of calico were sold for a dollar, and I learned to measure out just eight yards. I think we put the paper on the scales first. Another common article we sold was tobacco, which cost 40 cents a plug, but which was usually sold in 5 cent cuts. I learned to cut a plug in eighths and put the other seven-eighths away in a glass jar for future customers. All this taught me to be exact."

CANNON'S FIRST FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

"It must have taught you to be economical as well."

"Economical!" exclaimed Mr. Cannon. "Ye gods! how economical I was then! A nickel looked bigger than a double gold eagle does now, and I am not extravagant today. I wanted to study law and get ahead, and I saved every cent. How closely I saved you may know when I tell you that for that five years I received \$1,000 in wages, an average of \$4 a week, and I saved just half of that. The result was that I had \$500 when I stopped clerking. I lived upon that while I studied law."

"That saving taught me the uses and value of money," continued Mr. Cannon. "It gave me habits which enabled me to pay the debts incurred in the dull season of my law study and early practice. It caused me to invest my surplus thereafter, with the result that when I went to Congress I had what was then considered a good income outside my salary."

"Could you not live upon your salary while in Congress?" I asked.

"I have not done so," was the reply. "I have lived well, although not extravagantly. My expenses have been about twice as much as the amount received from the government. Nevertheless those investments made in the days of my law practice, owing to the

UNCLE SAM AND HIS HEMISPHERE.

The conversation here turned to public questions, and I asked Speaker Cannon his opinion as to the future of the United States. He replied: "The future of this country is the future of the world's civilization. This is the great breeding ground for the best of the human race. It is the source of that element which does things, controls things, creates things. We have 80,000,000 people now. Within another hundred years we shall have 300,000,000, and will have spread beyond our borders on the north and south. By the close of this century we Americans will dominate this continent and this hemisphere. We will have passed beyond Mexico, Central America and the isthmus of Panama, and will have inclosed all South America in the grasp of our influence."

"By this I do not mean that we will undertake the political government of the South American republics. I do not mean that we will hold them as colonies, nor even as Cuba, which is to some extent a dependency of ours. But I do mean that American capital and Americans will have so settled themselves in our sister continent that the day of revolutions and non-progress will have passed away. In the Monroe doctrine we have established the fact that no European power shall ever acquire any new territory in South America. That doctrine will always prevail. There may be European immigration, but those Europeans who go to South America must

PARKER'S POLITICAL MENTOR.

"I know we are rich Mr. Speaker. But are we not growing too rich? Are you not alarmed at the growth of the great American fortunes?"

"No. Most of our great fortunes have been small beginnings. They are the result of the brains and industry of the men who own them, and when their owners die they will soon disappear. I know many of the multi-millionaires of today are dependent upon the life of a single man. When I first saw him he was a boy clerking in a store. He is worth many millions now, John Rockefeller, who started life poor, is said to be worth hundreds of millions and the same is true of Andrew Carnegie and others. When those men die they cannot carry a dollar away with them. Naked came they into the world, and naked they shall depart from it. That fact exists today as it did in the time of the Scriptures."

"Yes," said I, "but the fortunes still remain in the families."

"Not long," replied Mr. Cannon. "It is an old saying that it is just three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves. It is impossible to tie up fortunes so that they will remain long in the hands of one's descendants. You may remember the case of old Thulene, who died about 200 years ago. That man was enormously rich for his day and he willed his fortune so that it should be kept intact, and invested and re-invested for generations, and at the end divided among his heirs. His will was contested again and again, but in the end it was found that the English parliament made a law that no man could dispose of his property for longer than the lives of his descendants in being, and after 21 years thereafter. That law has been adopted by nearly every other country. It is a part of the laws of every one of our states."

TAXES FOR THE RICH.

"Such things, however, are, after all, in the hands of the people," continued the speaker. "It is they who make the laws regulating the accumulation of our fortunes of wealth. In many of our states there are now inheritance taxes graded according to the size of the estates of the deceased. There may



ON THE BIG PORCH OF SPEAKER CANNON'S HOME AT DANVILLE. Frank G. Carpenter, the Noted Newspaper Correspondent, Interviewing Him for the Deseret News.

have cost the nation millions of dollars and brought me everlasting disgrace."

THE PRIME OF LIFE AT SIXTY-EIGHT.

"You are too young a man, Mr. Speaker, to think of retiring. You seem to be in your prime."

"If a man is as old as he feels," said Mr. Cannon, "I am still in my prime. I am 68, but I have never felt better, physically or mentally. I work more easily and can handle men better than in the past. How long this will last I do not know, but there are many men in public life older than I who are still doing good work. Senators Freys and Proctor are 73; Cullom, the chairman of the foreign relations committee of the senate, is 74; while Allison and Hoar are each 75. All these men are more efficient than they have ever been. The length of a man's working life is largely a matter of individual constitution. Some are older at 30 than others are at 60. If the Lord should give me three more or even four more years of working life I shall be glad. I should like to remain on this earth as long as I can be useful to myself and my fellows, and no longer. When I begin to fail I want to retire. I don't want to cumber the ground."

THE GREATEST FACTORY ON EARTH.

"I suppose you look upon the United States as pretty well filled now?"

"Not at all. We have only 80,000,000 and by intensive cultivation we could support 10 times that number. It is said that Texas alone could feed the United States. And then our mineral resources. The country has not been scratched and we do not know what we have under the soil. We are already the greatest manufacturing nation of the world, producing more than Germany, France and England, our three greatest competitors. We send only 3 per cent of what we make abroad, but that 3 per cent forms 25 per cent of our exports. We are the greatest exporting nation on earth. Indeed, we make one-fourth of all the factory goods made by the world."

"The basis of our manufactures is our home market," continued the speaker. "I want to see this protected in every possible way, for it is the foundation of our prosperity and of our enormous possibilities. There is no market like this. We have more wants than any other people, and spend more money to satisfy them. We consume three times as much per capita as the people of Europe. Our eighty millions in that respect are equal to the 300 millions of Europe. We are equal as consumers to two-thirds of all the people of Europe. This market we must keep to ourselves, and the tariff must be so adjusted that there will be no danger of losing it."

GREAT FORTUNES AND THEIR DANGERS.

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THE CAMPAIGN OF 1904.

The conversation here turned to the presidential race, and I asked Mr. Cannon if he thought the Republicans would have a "walk over."

"There are no 'walk overs' in our presidential contests," said the speaker. "The house of representatives is too evenly divided. Indeed, a change of 2 per cent in the vote will almost always throw the election to one party or the other. I think that the Republicans will win both the presidency and the house of representatives, but they will not do it on a walk. They will have to fight steadily from now until the election. The Democrats have a permanent asset in the solid south, and this gives them the odds at the start."

"Who would you not consent to be a candidate for the vice presidential nomination, Mr. Cannon?" I asked.

"Why should I wish to be?" replied the speaker. "I am a member of the house of representatives, and in my opinion the weakest and least eligible member of that body has the vice presidency of the United States."

be no tax at all on the first \$25,000, one per cent on the second \$25,000, two per cent on the third, three on the next four on the next and five per cent on all of the estates above \$100,000. The people can if they will increase the amount of taxes paid according to the bulk of the property owned by the individual tax payer. I do not say that they should do so, but they have the power, and if at any time great fortunes become dangerous some way will be found to reduce or distribute them.

"Do not misunderstand me," said Mr. Cannon, "I do not deprecate great fortunes. So far I think they have been for the good of the people. It requires great capital to do great things, and the masses are enormously benefited by the enterprises of the rich. I am only saying that the people have the power, and that, after all, the future is in their own hands."

THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS EXPENSES.

"It seems to many, both rich and poor, Mr. Speaker, that from taxes are very heavy now. Are you not alarmed at the increasing expenditures of the government?"

"No. We spent last year in round numbers something like 70 million dollars, or over two million dollars for each working day of the year. The sum is enormous, but you must remember that this is an enormous country, doing

MR. CANNON AND THE SPEAKER-SHIP.

"How do you regard the speaker-ship?"

"It is a very important office, and one of great power and influence. It ranks next to the presidency among the public offices, for the speaker is the head of the house of representatives, which is the chief originating, creating and working branch of our national legislature."

"Do you like the place?"

"Yes. I feel honored by the confidence expressed by electing me to it."

"But does it not worry you? The pressure of public business must be enormous."

"Yes, there is plenty to do," replied the speaker, "but I have always been a busy man, and I think I was more busy at the head of the appropriations committee than I am now as speaker. As to

TAMMANY'S REAL CHOICE FOR GOVERNOR.



CHARLES W. GOODYEAR.

Charles W. Goodyear is said to be worth \$20,000,000. He is a railroad owner, a coal mine operator and a small sized lumber king. He is very popular in Erie county and Grover Cleveland has publicly announced his pleasure at the announcement of Mr. Goodyear's candidacy for the governorship of New York.

THE PRESIDENTIAL BEE.

"I should like to ask you, Mr. Speaker, if you have any ambition to go higher. Would you not be glad to be president of the United States?"

"Glad to be president of the United States," said Mr. Cannon, "of course I should be glad to be president if the people wanted me and thought me fit for the election. There is no American capable of filling that place who would not be glad to have it. The president of our people ranks higher in my mind than any monarch who sits a throne, and as things go today he has more power than any ruler on earth. Any one would be glad to be president."

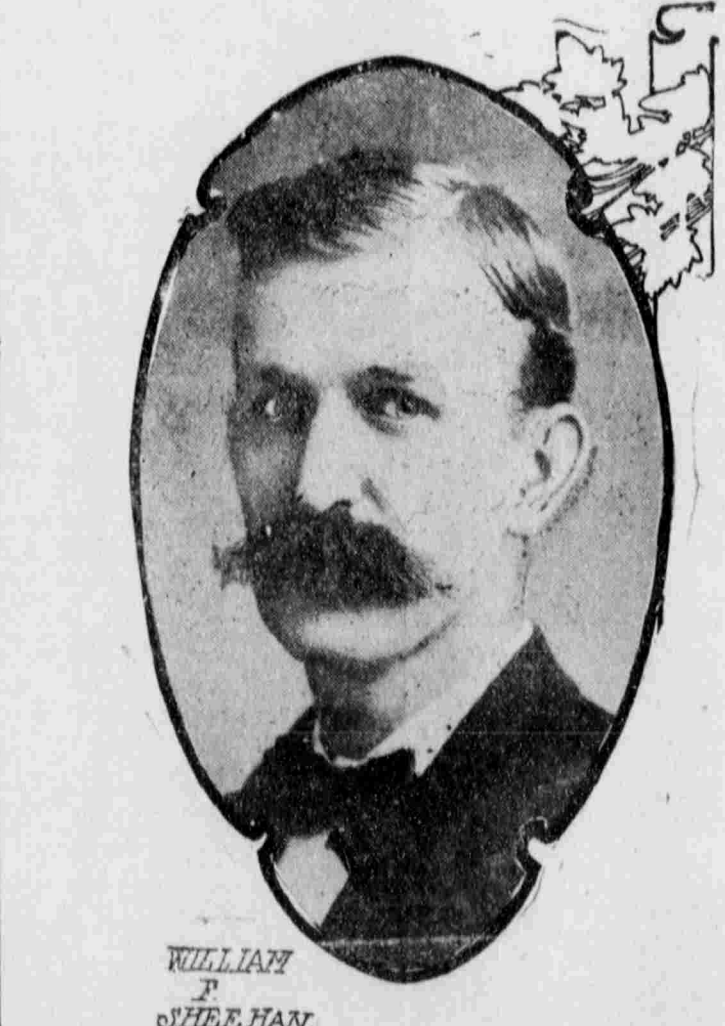
"I do not mean by this that I am tormented with such an ambition. I think God that the presidential bee has never hummed about my head. Its poisonous sting has never inoculated my veins and I hope it never will. I have known many politicians who have been so stung. Some are dead and some are living still. None, however, ever recovered. The blood of the man so attacked becomes contaminated, and he carries the attendant ambitions, anxieties and disappointments with him to the grave."

WAS 'WASTING AWAY.'

"I had been troubled with kidney disease for the last five years," writes Robert R. Watts, of Salem, Mo. "I lost flesh and never felt well and comforted with leading physicians and tried all remedies suggested without relief. Finally I tried Foley's Kidney Cure and less than two bottles completely cured me and I am now sound and well." During the summer kidney irregularities are often caused by excessive drinking or being overheated. Attend to the kidneys at once by using Foley's Kidney Cure. F. J. Hill Drug Co.

EXCURSION RATES.

Via Oregon Short Line.
St. Louis and return, \$4.50
Chicago and return, \$4.50
Chicago and return via St. Louis, 50.00
St. Louis and return via Chicago, 50.00
Through Pullman sleeper via the U. P. & Wabash line.
Limit 60 days. Transit limit ten days in each direction.
Tickets on sale Tuesdays and Fridays each week. Stop overs allowed.



WILLIAM T. SHEEHAN.

William T. Sheehan is probably the only man aside from Parker, who really knows all of the judge's political opinions. The Democratic candidate relies on Mr. Sheehan almost wholly for advice on the purely political features of the campaign.