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The flag symbolizes our purposes and our aspirations; it represents what we believe and what we mean to maintain, and wherever it floats it is the flag of the free, the hope of the oppressed; and wherever it is assailed, at any sacrifice it will be carried to a triumphant peace.—Wm. McKinley.

Congressman Caldwell, of Springfield, will probably be the democratic nominee for governor, as Carter Harrison seems to have lost all desire since Governor Tanner withdrew.

The conditions in the republican party in Illinois to-day are good. Cook county wants the governorship and the country districts want it also, but there is no great bitterness. Reeves is by far the ablest man in the crowd and there is no doubt of his having the people with him.

The country editors will flock to Chicago in a bunch early in February. The Illinois Press Association will meet at the Lexington, Feb. 7, 8 and 9. The republican Association will meet at the Grand Pacific, Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 3 p. m. and in the evening, and the Democratic Association will meet at the Sherman house, Feb. 6.

Since Doc Jamison's trick to get an early convention has been discovered, and that he misrepresented the facts about delegates having to be elected sixty days instead of thirty before the national convention, for a purpose, it is possible that the date of the state convention may be changed to about thirty days later or about May 15.

The question has often been asked since the love feast: "Is Hanecy Tanner's candidate?" The Chicago papers reported the next day after the love feast that the names of Hanecy and Busse were both considered from Cook county at the Big 4 conference, for governor and treasurer, and that the governor was asked about it and he said he didn't want Busse on the ticket. People generally can draw their own conclusions from that.

Representative Josiah Kerrick, of Minonk, who defeated his democratic opponent, Robert West, of El Paso, by a handsome majority for a seat in the lower house of the Illinois legislature, a year ago, was in Wenona Tuesday last. Mr. Kerrick takes rank as one of the most careful and upright legislators in the house and is a staunch republican. When interrogated regarding the gubernatorial situation he gave his auditors to understand that he was a radical Reeves advocate from the word go.—Wenona Index.

At the "love feast" Friday one of the important features of the program was ten minute speeches by representatives of each of the congressional districts. The spokesman for this, the eleventh district, was W. H. Stead, from Ottawa. Of all the responses for the various districts of the state, that of Mr. Stead attracted the most attention. He was eloquent and witty and none of his state-



FOR GOVERNOR, WALTER REEVES, M. C.

ments or remarks were of that class which leave bad after effects. Mr. Stead is a very able gentleman, and the time is sure to come when he will be an important factor in the affairs of the state.—Streator Free Press.

Col. Frank L. Shepard's name has been mentioned as a probable candidate for attorney general. Mr. Shepard is a resident of the big twelfth ward in Chicago, and first assistant county attorney of the big county of Cook, and one of the ablest young lawyers in Illinois. To his ability is much of the success of the Illinois income tax law due. Mr. Shepard came to Chicago from his father's farm in McHenry county a few years ago, and after graduating in law was admitted to the bar, and by persistency and remarkable ability has built up a large practice and has a high standing among the members of the bar and the people generally. If he should decide to enter the race, he would make a popular candidate in the city and state alike.

At the recent love feast at Springfield there were about three thousand loyal republicans assembled and there was the best of feeling. Of course there were many candidates striving for supremacy, but all in a manly way. The love feast part of the program seemed to be in the unanimous agreement on national affairs, and also the business management of state affairs. At the same time the many were feasting over the good times, it is quite likely there was no very great amount of love lost or love-feast between the candidates. It is a fight to a finish. Hanecy has the backing of Lorimer, Pease, Hertz and Smyth, of Chicago, and probably quite a number of the Tanner appointees about the state, but a large number of the workers and the people are with Reeves and Yates. The Cook county Big 4 are for Hanecy but the voters are not with them and the fight will be to a finish in old Cook as well as all over the state. Don't ever be so foolish as to think things are settled yet.

Hon. Fred Busse, of Chicago, who was said to be counted out of the race for the republican nomination for state treasurer, at the meeting of the Cook county "Big 4"—Lorimer, Smyth, Hertz and Pease—at Springfield last week Thursday night, is an able, honest influential man. He undoubtedly has a larger following than any one of the "Big 4," and he has an opportunity at the present time to be leader politically in Cook county. The people outside of Cook county do not object to Judge Hanecy particularly, but they want the governorship and they further object to four men getting together in star chamber session three months before the convention, and after distributing the patronage, leaves and fishes, etc., coming out and telling the people of the great state of Illinois what they have

decided they shall do, and that there is nothing left but to follow suit and for the people to take their medicine. Hanecy had been told by the big four and Lindley that they owned the city and country alike, and Hanecy evidently believed it all, if one is to judge by the speech he made before the love feast. Not only the people of the country, but the people of Chicago and most of the workers of the party are sick of such absolute dictation in politics, and all that is needed in Chicago is some leader with moral courage enough to come out and make the fight. The man who does this will win the fight and be the most popular republican in Illinois at the state convention in Peoria.

THE LOVEFEAST.

The political situation in Illinois since the recent gathering at Springfield, from a republican standpoint, is decidedly mixed. The only feature at the lovefeast which has any particular bearing on the final result was that Governor Tanner decided not to be a candidate. He had looked over the situation very carefully and decided that his candidacy would handicap the party to a certain extent, and as he is an uncompromising republican and would not do anything to detract from republican success he decided not to be a candidate for re-election. There is no doubt of the success of his administration, and the republican party has nothing to apologize for.

There were fully three thousand representative republicans present. The candidates for the nomination for governor were Congressman Walter Reeves, Judge Elbridge Hanecy and Hon. Richard Yates. Each had hundreds of friends present.

Mr. Reeves had friends present from all over the state and especially strong was southern Illinois represented among them.

Judge Hanecy brought about two hundred shouters from Chicago, and Mr. Yates had a big crowd of earnest workers from the sixteenth district.

Thursday afternoon Governor Tanner decided not to enter the race and that night the "Big 4"—Lorimer, Smyth, Hertz and Pease—who claim to carry Cook county in their vest pockets, got together in conference and decided to make Judge Hanecy governor, and came out from their star chamber conference and announced that Cook county had decided that Hanecy was the next governor and the people must submit.

There were, happily, other things to be taken into consideration. There were several gentlemen from Chicago who were candidates and others who were not, who said that Cook county people had had enough of the so-called Big 4, and that they didn't propose to be delivered, body and soul, on any political proposition any longer, and they will not. There were also more than nine-tenths of those present from the

country districts, good, able determined men, who refused to submit. They refused to submit because they do not believe the governorship ought to go to Chicago, when they realize it will always stay there if it does, but at the same time are willing to play fair with Cook county and give them one or two good places on the state ticket. Another reason was that they consider either Mr. Reeves or Mr. Yates better fitted for the office, both having had experience.

The morning of Friday, after it had been announced that the big moguls of Chicago had agreed on Hanecy, quite a number of politicians of the band wagon stripe put on Hanecy buttons and got into what they at first considered the brightest painted band wagon, but when they began to think that maybe it was possible that the Big 4 didn't own everybody in Cook county and that two-thirds of the delegates in the state convention were from the country, a decided change took place. Especially was this true after the candidates appeared before the two thousand people in representative hall.

Mr. Hanecy was the first candidate called upon and it was plain to be seen that he was nearly scared out of his wits or he is a very weak man, for he certainly made a most ridiculous attempt at a speech. He did not show the least modesty becoming a man aspiring to any high office. He inferred that he was already nominated (the Big 4 had told him so) and told how he would distribute the offices, and said Cook county would not get all of them (which was very kind of him but was not cheered by the Cook county crowd.) He praised McKinley and Tanner but never forgot Hanecy at any time. He talked a lot of nonsense about letting Reeves and Yates come in to see him when he got to Springfield. When he got through, about half a dozen from Cook county cheered him.

The next speaker was Mr. Reeves, and it was several minutes before he got a chance to say a word. The contrast was noticeable—Reeves, the dignified scholarly man. There was not a thinking man in that great audience but what knew he was the man who ought to be governor. His speech was that of a statesman. He spoke of the splendid business qualifications of the republican party by referring to the recent action of congress in passing the gold standard bill in one week, before the holidays, something never known before. He spoke, of the splendid administration of President McKinley in war and peace. He believed the Philippine islands should be held for all time to come, not only because they were gained by the valor of American soldiers, but for commercial reasons. He called attention to the fact that it is the well known policy of the strong nations of the earth to control all the territory possible to maintain trade, and he believed our country, the greatest of them all, must maintain her rights along commercial lines as well. He believes so-called "imperialism" should scare no man who is interested in the future of his country. He closed by saying he had faith in the great republican party of Illinois, and that the voters would see to it that no set of men could dictate nominations. He would gladly support the nominee of the party.

He was followed by Mr. Yates, whose appearance was hailed with a storm of applause by his friends. He made a good, patriotic speech and proved himself a worthy son of a most noble sire, the loyal war governor of Illinois.

After the speaking there was no doubt of the sentiment of those present, and hundreds of men crowded into Mr. Reeves' headquarters and congratulated him, and among them were many who were at first attracted by the Hanecy fairy band wagon. Many Hanecy buttons were taken off and Reeves buttons put on. Since the love feast the unani-

mous sentiment expressed by the Chicago papers is that it is a sure thing that Hanecy cannot carry Cook county anywhere near solid, and that there will be an organized fight all along the line against the Big 4.

Mr. Reeves has spent the week visiting in about thirty cities in southern Illinois and no man ever received a warmer reception or more sincere pledges of support in Egypt than he has.

The man is mighty weak-kneed who allows himself to think this contest is settled, simply because four men in Chicago have got together and said so.

There are others.

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