Many interesting but no new facts have been been elucidated by the legisr lative inquiry into the so-called Sugar Trust It has long been known, for example, that the profits of the American Sugar Refining Company generally exceed \$20,000,000 annually; that its dividends average 12 per cent; that its capital stock is mostly "water," and that it absolutely controls the sugar trade of the United States. Some facts no less interesting, but not more povel, have not been brought out, such as that the Trust debauched the Senate and obtained insertion of what it wanted in the Wilson bill; that it has dominated the courts whenever that was necessary; that is has roised many thousands of people, and that the Havemeyers, Searles and Parsons have inggled the stock on the Exchange to their enormous enrichment.

Only one fact having an appearance of novelty has been elicited by the investigation. That is, as the Trust's advocates put it, that before the formation of the Trust the entire sugar business of the country was in the hands of fewer than one hundred men, where as to day more than 9,000 persons are interested as owners. The deduction the Trust's friends make from this is that this Trust, at any rate, has not concentrated in the hands of a few the necessities of life and made unjust profits from the people.

But that this deduction is dishonest and misleading may be seen upon consideration. Though it may be true that 9,000 persons own shares in the American Sugar Refining Company. only a half dozen of them have any voice in its management. The Trust is are, to all intents and purposes, one man-Harry O Havemeyer As the representative of the 9,000 stockholders, be exercises a monopoly of the supply and distribution of sugar in this country On the other hand, the 100 persons who formerly controlled the sugar trade were stockholders in fifteen distinct corporations, and these corporations were competitors with one another It is the number of competitors that is important, not the number of persons; and while formerly there were fifteen competitors, there is now no compe ition at all worth mentioning. ? e sugar consumed by 65.000,000 pers _a every day is furnished by one corporation, which exacts so high a price for its product that it makes more than \$20,000,000 a year on an actual invested capital less than that sum -N. Y. Journal.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

The statesmen who made the constitution of the United States had to provide for a country of vast extent. To carry news from New Hampshire to Georgia was then a matter of weeks. The dispatch which announced the opening of the war at Lexington was carried by expresses, who thought to show their patriotism by the swiftness with which they rode. And this dispatch was 21 days old when it reached the patriots in Savannah.

But the inventions of the railway and the telegraph have changed all this. A man may now easily travel from Portland to San Francisco in less time than Sam Adams needed to ride to the continental congress from Boston to Philadelphia. And when the traveler from Maine arrives in San Francisco now he finds the news he brings with him is already six days old. The telegraph had told San Francisco that he had started before he was well out of the Portland

It is all the more curious, therefore, that the prudent arrangement made for an electoral board by the constitution should be really better adapted to the present condition of affairs than it was to the times of Franklin, Sherman and Gerry, who made it. The system which places electors between the people and the president whom it chooses and history was changed. which makes them the deaf and dumb slaves of the people has long been regarded as the most serious defect in the working machinery of the constitution. It is so. And yet it is easy to imagine conditions now in which it would work much more happily than it -did in the conditions in which and for which it was made.

The real electors of today are the delegates to the rival conventions. On the persons appointed to attend those conventions depends the choice of the next president. They know this, and the people who choose them know it. Unfortunately they are elected with hardly any supervision of law or any provision for the count of votes which elect them. But, all the same, the delegates wield in the conventions the moral power of the states which they represent.

It is one of the infelicities of such a system that a state which has no power in the national election appears in the convention as the equal in rights of auother state sure to give its vote for the successful candidate. Thus in the Republican convention, Alabama will be rated as having as good a right to vote as Vermont, though Vermont will certainly give a Republican vote and Alabama will not, and though every one knows this. In the Democratic convention will be observed the same deference to the courtesy which makes one state the equal of another.

To the makers of the constitution any such convention, even, was a flat impossibility. For half a century after 1789 the choice of candidates was practically left to congressional caucuses of the one party or the other. Until Mource went out this was of the less importance, because Virginia was so good as to take the whole contract of governing

the country. Since that system was abandoned the convention system has gained more and more precision of movement, with more and more power.

But suppose, today, a deadlock in one of the conventions, or, better still, in both. Suppose that we owed it to the good offices of silver or gold, of protection or tariff, or all these together, that each convention adjourned without a nomination. In that case each of the great parties would be forced back on the plan of the constitution. And it

would work exceedingly well. Each party would name, in each state, the strongest possible electoral ticket it could name, of men commanding the public confidence, for on such men everything would depend. In Maine Reed men would be chosen by the Republicans, in Ohio McKinley men. In New York the Democrats would vote for Whitney men, in Tennessee and Kentucky for Carlisle men. Forty-eight hours after the November vote would tell the country whether a Republican or a Democratic majority had been gained in the 45 state boards of electors.

No one would care much for whom the minority party gave its votes. But the electors of the successful party would meet at Washington or at some other central point and determine in convention who should be their candidate. Here we should have a convention representing majority states, and those states only. The members would have been chosen by all the people, not as now by a few eager partisans. The convention could sit for one, two or even three weeks before the members need return to their state capitals to give the formal vote which is required under the constitution.

This condition of things will not come about this year, nor, perhaps, at any election within the next decade. But it is more and more probable with every election, and when it does come about people will be extolling, as they should, the wisdom of the fathers who made a managed by these half dozen men, who preparation so elastic and so admirable in any contingency. We are led to consider the resibility of such contingency by the curious closeness of some of the presidential elections. The celebrated election of 1800, which really changed the policy, not to say the constitution, of the national government, seemed to waver for months. It was decided at last in Jefferson's favor in a house of representatives in which the Federalists had a large majority. .
There were then really four modes of

choosing electors. They were chosen by the legislature, and some legislatures voted by concurrent vote and some by joint ballot, or they were chosen popularly, by general ticket or by districts. Massachusetts and Virginia had abandoned the district system. In Virginia the people voted by general ticket. In Maryland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina the Federalists controlled the senates and the Democrats the other houses of assembly. Different arrangements w out of this complication, resulting in a division of the votes of these states. Pennsylvania chose seven Federalist electors and eight in opposition. North Carolina had eight in opposition to four Federalists, and Maryland was equally

The great decision was made by what may be called, roughly and with exceptions, the general rule of the politics of the first 60 years of the century-namely, the union of the southern states with New York against the rest of the northern states. At the very last the doubtful point was South Carolina. The election was in the legislature. So doubtful was it that the opposition members even offered to compromise by agreeing to vote for Jefferson and Pinckney, giving the vote of the state to one Democrat and one Federalist. The Federal ticket through the country was Adams and Pinckney. Had the South Carolina Federalists agreed to this proposal, Jefferson and Pinckney would have had an equal number of votes for the highest office. As Pinckney was a South Carolina man there was naturally a local temptation to the South Carolina Federalists to accept this offer. Had it been accepted, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney would have been the third president of the United States and Thomas Jefferson would have been the vice president. Very much to the credit of the South Carolina Federalists, they declined the proposal. Jefferson was chosen president by the house of representatives, and by that election the course of American

EDWARD E. HALE.

The Plausible Lie.

We resent calumny, hypocrisy and treachery because they harm us, not because they are untrue. Take the detraction and the mischief from the untruth, and we are little offended by it. Turn it into praise, and we may be pleased with it. And yet it is not calumny and treachery that do the largest sum of mischief in the world. They are continually crushed and are felt only in being conquered. But it is the glistening and softly spoken lie, the amiable fallacy. the patriotic lie of the historian, the provident lie of the politician, the zealous lie of the partisan, the merciful lie of the friend and the careless lie of each man to himself that cast that black mystery over humanity through which we thank any man who pierces, as we would thank one who dug a well in a desert. Happy that the thirst for truth remains with us, even when we have willfully left the fountains of it .- John

The Measure of the Man.

When a man says he is satisfied with his lot, you may be sure of one of two things-either he is a very enterprising and cunning specimen of humanity or he is a liar. - Up to Date.

Another Bolt. "What was the trouble between Jibs-

ley and his wife?" "Oh, the common story-they couldn't agree on the money question.'

"Say! It is too bad that politics"-"Who said anything about politics? The row began because Jibsley insisted that he ought to have at least a third of | their meetings at the Masonic Temhis salary to spend on himself."--Indianapolis Journal.

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Beu'ah Chapter, No 25, R. A. M. Meets on First Tuesday of each

L. S. CARSON, High Priest. F. M. SPANN, Secretary.

Gamecock Lodge, No. 17, K. of P.

Meets every Monday night at 8 o'clock, except fifth Monday night. H. B. BLOOM, C. C.

R. WALSH, K. of R. & S.

Sumter Lodge, No. 1077, K. of H. Meets every First and Third Monlay nights'at 7 o'clock.

W. J. DURANT, Dic.

H. C. Moses, Rep'r.

Fidelity Lodge, No. 251, K. & L. of H. Meets every Second and Fourth Monday nights at 7 o'clock.

J. S. Huenson, Protector B. J. RHAME, Secretary.

Sunter Council, No. 649, A. L. of H. Meets every Second and Fourth Tuesday nights at 7 o'clock.

W. F. RHAME, Com.

J. N. CORBETT, Sec.

Sumter Lodge, No. 1, A. O. U. W. Meets every First and Third Thurs day nights at 7 o'clock. H. C. Moszs, M. W

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Cocahontas Tribe, No. 16, I. O. R. M. Meets every Friday's Sleep at the

R O PURDY, Sachem.

B. C. WALLACE, C. of R.

Sumter Council, No. 7 Jr. O. U. A. M Meets on Second and Fourth Tuesday nights of each month at 8 o'clock. WM YEADON, Councillor.

B. C. WALLACE, Sec'ty.

Holly Wood Camp, W. of W. Meets every Third Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

E. W. HURST, Con. Com R. S. HOOD, Clerk.

Carolina Council, No 515, C. B. L. Meets every Second and Fourth Wednesday in Monaghan Block. NEIL O'DONNELL, Pres

A. H. EBERHART, Sec.

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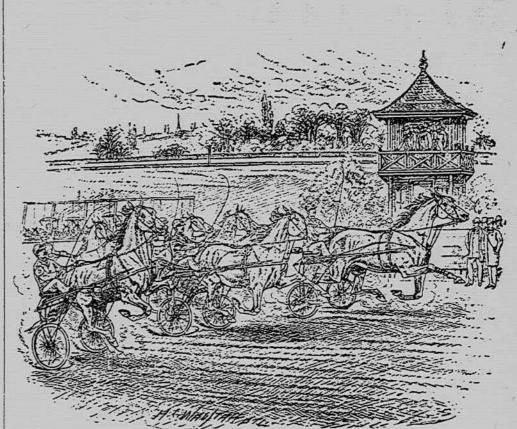
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