

presented the layman with the chance of proving with all his ardor that his soul is aflame with love for the Redeemer in the Eucharist in no less degree than the ecclesiastics. But, neither the Albert Hall, nor probably any other hall ever built for public meetings, would hold all who desired to secure tickets. For weeks the organisers have been flooded with applications from every district in these countries, and from all parts of Europe, and through inability to provide even standing accommodation, hundreds of pounds were returned. The Albert Hall holds nine or ten thousand persons, and the eagerness of quite a multitude to secure places was eagerly exhibited. Long before 8 o'clock, the hour appointed for the meeting, a stream of people poured along towards it from all the neighboring streets. Some—especially Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops—came in motor cars, gladly placed at their disposal by prominent Catholic laymen. Others used cabs or buses, and a vast number walked to the hall. Every seat in the building was quickly filled, and when the Papal Legate arrived there was around the doors and in the immediate vicinity a vast assemblage of men and women whose efforts to obtain an entrance had proved unavailing. Their want of success did not damp their enthusiasm. As his Eminence approached their vociferous cheers rang out again and again, and hats and handkerchiefs were waved with a degree of enthusiasm which seemed to affect every individual in the entire mass.

Cardinal Vannutelli presided, and speeches were delivered by the Bishop of Namur, the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Cambrai, the Archbishop of Melbourne, the Archbishop of Montreal, the Duke of Norfolk, and M. Brifaut, the leader of the Young Catholics of Brussels.

Thus ended the second day of the Congress.

## THE UNITED STATES

### THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

On the third of November the great electoral contest in the United States will be fought and won. The people of this Dominion and of the Commonwealth of Australia have little idea of the excitement which this contest occasions among the level-headed, practical, and progressive people of the great Republic. Business, which is unceasingly followed with, we might say, feverish anxiety the whole year round, is now almost wholly neglected, and for some time before the election stocks and shares are as little heard of as if they had never existed. The Americans are nothing, if not thorough, and this is fully exemplified by the whole-hearted manner in which they enter in the excitement incidental to a presidential election. Their action is in direct contrast to the matter-of-fact—we might say indifferent—manner in which a general election is regarded in New Zealand. There are, generally speaking, only two parties to a contest in the United States—Republicans and Democrats—and to an outsider there seems less difference in the platform of these parties than there is between the Government and Opposition in this Dominion. This is only a surface view. Behind these parties are powerful interests and factors that are using all their powers in favor of the candidate of their choice. Nothing is left undone to forward the interest of the chosen candidate of a party, and nothing overlooked which would assist in lowering the prestige of his opponent. The license of the press during election time is something to marvel at, and were the newspapers of this Dominion to treat and lampoon candidates for Parliament in such a manner as the general election there would be a crop of libel and slander actions to follow that would keep our Supreme Court judges fully occupied for the following twelve months. But, strange to say, such actions are very rare in the United States.

It is expected that over 14,000,000 voters will record their votes for the two leading candidates—William Howard Taft and William Jennings Bryan. To reach this large number of voters with arguments, spoken or written, that may change or decide their opinions, has been the work of the national committees on both sides for some months past. Besides collecting and disbursing campaign funds the party committees send out speakers, carefully distributed where they will do most good for their side, issue millions of printed leaflets, and attend to vast correspondence. To give an idea of the cost of a presidential election, it is said that each party spends no less a sum than £30,000 in postage alone during a campaign. For the preparation and management of campaign literature, a literary bureau is formed early in the campaign, usually under the direction of an experi-

enced newspaper man. This bureau makes up the campaign text-books for the use of party speakers. Every argument that may be employed to strengthen the party and confuse opponents is suggested in this book, which is closely conned by campaign writers as well as speakers. The two leading parties have different methods of preparing campaign books. It is customary for the Republicans to dwell upon the record of the party, while the Democrats denounce the results of Republican administration. The speakers' bureau of the national committee also begins work early in the campaign. A list of available 'spellbinders' is drawn up, with the merits of each man carefully noted. This one can make a good tariff argument, another is strong on finance, another is a fluent story-teller or a good debater in general. Senators and representatives in Congress usually volunteer as speakers, but most of them desire to be kept as close as possible to their constituents, especially those who are candidates for re-election. Most of the speakers receive pay for their services and go where they are assigned without question. They get salaries up to £50 a week and expenses, some being paid £10 a night. They usually travel in pairs, speaking on different subjects. The local party organisation is expected to furnish at least one other speaker. The average salary of the campaign 'spellbinder' is probably about £20 a week, not counting his expenses, which are paid by the national committee. It is estimated that the speakers alone may cost £400,000 in a national campaign.

By the Constitution the Government of the United States is entrusted to three separate authorities—the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial. The executive power is vested in the President, who holds office for a term of four years, and is elected, together with a Vice-President chosen for the same term, in the following manner:—Each State appoints, in such a manner as the Legislature thereof directs, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and representatives to which the State is entitled in Congress; but no Senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, is appointed an elector. The practice is that in every State the electors allotted to that State are chosen by direct vote of the citizens on a general ticket. The voting takes place on the same day throughout the country. The successful candidates compose what is known as the Electoral Colleges. The result of the election of these colleges decides who the President and Vice-President are to be for the next four years, and also the party—Democratic or Republican—that is to be in power. The method appears to be rather complicated, and it would seem that the simpler plan would be to take a direct vote of the people. However, the method has been tried now for over one hundred years, and has apparently given satisfaction to those most interested in the result. The election, as previously stated, takes place on November 3, but the President-elect is not installed until March 4. No person except a natural-born citizen who has attained the age of thirty-five years is eligible for the office of President. The President is Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy, and of the militia in the service of the Union. The Vice-President is ex-officio President of the Senate, and in case of the death or resignation of the President, he becomes President for the remainder of the term. It will be remembered that Mr. Roosevelt was Vice-President at the time of the assassination of President McKinley, and accordingly succeeded the latter in office. The election takes place on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, which this year will fall on the third day of the month. President Roosevelt is the 26th who has presided at the White House since 1789, when George Washington was elected.

The administrative business of the nation is conducted by eight chief officers, or heads of departments, but none having seats in Congress. They are chosen by the President, and form what is called the Cabinet. They are the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of Navy, the Secretary of the Interior, the Postmaster-General, the Attorney-General, and the Secretary of Agriculture. Congress consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Senators are appointed, two from each State, by the several State legislatures, and hold office for six years. The Senate has the power of confirming or rejecting treaties with foreign Powers. The House of Representatives is composed of members elected biennially by the citizens of the several States. Usually the electors are all male citizens of 21 years of age and upwards. The representatives for each State are in the proportion of one for 173,000 inhabitants.

The Senate is composed of 92 members elected by the various State Legislatures. A third of the number retires every two years. Each Senator is paid £1000 a year, and mileage once

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