

# The Journal of Commerce

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## The Journal of Commerce

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### Special Articles

The Crop Damage and the New War Loan  
By H. M. P. Eckardt.

Britain Grapples With After-the-War Problems  
By W. E. Dowding.

Conditions in the West.  
By E. Cora Hind.

The Dry Goods Situation.

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## Looking To Maine

IN former times several of the States of the American union held their elections in the early autumn, affording an opportunity, in a Presidential year, to form some fairly intelligent judgment of the drift of public opinion, and its effect on the Presidential contest to follow a few weeks later. Only to a very limited extent does this opportunity now occur. Most of the States have rearranged their election dates to coincide with the time of the Presidential contest. Maine, however, has adhered to the old system. In September, that State will elect two members of the United States Senate and two members of the National House of Representatives. Very naturally the eyes of the politicians are now turned toward this Eastern State, and the most effective campaigners of the two great parties will be sent into the State.

Usually Maine is a Republican State. Only when the Republicans are divided, or some very exceptional issue arises, can the Democrats hope to win. Such a division has occurred in late years, through the bolt of the Progressives in the Presidential election of 1912. In that year Maine gave Wilson 51,000 votes, placing him at the head of the poll, but this was really a minority of the people, for the combined vote of Taft, the regular Republican nominee, and Roosevelt, the Progressive candidate, was 75,000. In the election of Governor in 1914 the Progressives put up a candidate and though there was a notable falling off of their vote they were able to so weaken the Republicans that the Democratic candidate won the place. The successful Democrat had 62,000 votes, while the combined Republican and Progressive vote was 77,000. The political problem presented in Maine is one that arises generally throughout the nation. Can the Progressives be brought into the Republican ranks? They were not all Republicans, but the great majority of them were. If those who left the Republican ranks to follow Mr. Roosevelt can now be persuaded to follow him back to the old organization, there will be a reunited Republican party, which will carry Maine in the State contest, and in all probability will carry the nation in the Presidential election of November. Under these circumstances the Maine election becomes a most interesting one. The Progressives as a party have ceased to exist. Whatever Mr. Roosevelt and his chief associates can do to help the regular Republican ticket will be done, in Maine and elsewhere. There are some signs of Progressive revolt against Mr. Roosevelt's action, but the probability is that in most cases those who called themselves Progressives will now ally themselves with the Republicans. Maine has not been regarded as a "pivotal" State. One could not say "as goes Maine so goes the Union." Maine usually was a rock-ribbed Re-

publican Senate which could be counted on for the Republican candidate, even though the nation became Democratic. But the events of the last few years, and particularly the Progressive movement, have made the present situation in that State most interesting. If the election now in progress in that State shows that the Republicans and Progressives are now heartily united, it will not only give the Republicans once more the control of the State, but it will foreshadow such a general re-union of the Republicans throughout the country, as will go far to assure the election of Mr. Hughes in November.

With two such able and energetic men as President Wilson and Mr. Hughes representing the two parties, there will, of course, be a great battle and some doubt of the result until the vote is counted in November. But the tendency of the campaign at this time seems to favor a victory for Mr. Hughes, and the restoration of the Republican party to power at Washington.

## A Chance for Business

A VALUABLE feature of the efforts being made by British manufacturers to replace German-made goods with goods of British manufacture in the markets of the world has received much attention from the trade and technical press of the United Kingdom. The Board of Trade, in collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce of some of the larger cities, has on exhibition a varied collection of Austrian and German manufactures, numbering some thousands of samples, collected from the markets of the world. The purpose is to provide British manufacturers and merchants with first-hand information respecting the character of the goods, the market conditions and the prices. The Board of Trade has inquiries for British-made goods, similar to the classes exhibited, and manufacturers interested have thus had a favorable opportunity to get in touch with actual buyers. The value of these exhibitions is evident. The markets for these goods have already been made, and with the information afforded manufacturers are in an excellent position to do business.

The importation of German and Austrian merchandise into Canada amounted to over sixteen million dollars in 1913. These imports comprise a long list of products, including many that might be manufactured in Canada. Already our manufacturers are searching for products formerly imported for consumption in Canada to which they hope to turn their attention after the war. These goods of Austrian and German origin are distributed over a large expanse of territory, so much so that no single manufacturer is in a position to collect any considerable number of samples for inspection and analysis. But this is a feature that might