

POINT OF VIEW

For the President's Chair

WHO the next President will be is the topic of greatest concern to the United States people just now. The fact that it is a topic recurring every four years does not at all detract from its interest, and double exercise is given to the national imagination by the uncertainty, first, as to who will be nominated. Half the battle is fought when the two men who are to run for White House honors have been finally decided upon. This year an added touch of liveliness was given by the campaign of W. R. Hearst, the New York yellow journalist and multi-millionaire, who announced his desire to run for the presidential chair, backed by unlimited funds. He proposed, in short, to buy his way to office, and preposterous as it was, his self-nomination was not without support. The Hearst boom, however, was not taken seriously by the country and the selection of candidates was proceeded with as usual.

The hope of the Republican party rests upon President Roosevelt, whose popularity with the masses raises him to the position of almost a hero. His enemies are the machine politicians, who would prefer one of their own kind in office, but Mr. Roosevelt's hold upon the popular fancy, at least of his own party, is too strong to oppose. The Democratic choice has not been so certainly defined. Mr. Bryan's day is gone, and while numerous nominees were named by some of the individual states, the first man to receive anything like general approval was Judge Parker, a New York jurist of repute. It is expected that his nomination will be confirmed in June, and if so his supporters are hopeful of carrying his own state at the polls. New York is the critical state, and it looks now as if it is to furnish both of the presidential candidates.

The Cause of Peace in Europe

A FEW years ago the prophets were foretelling a long and terrible period of war in Europe, the result of which would be nothing short of universal upheaval. The map of the continent was to be completely changed, old powers falling and new ones rising to dominate the world in future years. The prophets now have another tale. For many a year the prospects for peace in Europe have not been so good as they are at the present time, though in Asia a war is raging which in times gone by would already have involved some of the European powers.

The reasons for this more cheerful prospect are the new agreements between a few of the leading nations. An alliance between France and Russia, in force now for several years, was not thought to be a guarantee of peace, but rather otherwise; but France's *entente* with Great Britain was a decided step in advance. To have all differences between these two nations settled by a court of arbitration is a distinct gain for the cause of peace. And now France has made terms with another power. President Loubet has concluded an arrangement with Italy, which provides a satisfactory settlement of several long-standing disputes between the two countries, and France and Italy are now in the most friendly relations. Popular feeling in both countries heartily approves of the action thus taken by the two governments.

It is thus very apparent that France has changed since the days of the great Napoleon. Instead of being the war-maker of the nations she is now the peace-maker. Her influence is strongly for peace, and that she has been able to conclude such favorable agreements with three other powers advances considerably the likelihood of European peace. The outlook is also