

licans in the Presidential contest. When Senator Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania, the most sagacious and powerful of all the Republican "Bosses", was asked to say if the party had such a huge campaign fund as its managers were alleged to have collected he cynically but courageously asked another question, "Isn't it worth a hundred millions to the country to get rid of Wilson?" Mr. Penrose is too wise a man to have uttered any such sentence unless he were soundly convinced that a good many people shared his opinion. A statement by Mr. Taft is illuminating as revealing the causes of the business revolt against the President. He says in a contribution to *The Yale Review* for October: "Mr. Wilson has appointed many persons of socialistic tendency to office and power. The Assistant Secretary of Labour and the Commissioner of Immigration at New York were of this kind. His selection of Mr. Herron and Mr. Bullitt to represent him in Russia with the Bolsheviki was another instance. The support which the socialistic *New Republic* gave Mr. Wilson until he went to Paris and his preferment of individuals from the group who guide the course of that periodical were another. His improper interference in the Mooney murder case and in that of another anarchist murderer in Utah, and both at the request of radical labourites and Socialists, is another instance of his acting under socialistic influence. Beginning with the Adamson law, Mr. Wilson has created the impression in the country that he was largely influenced by Mr. Gompers, and the control exercised by the latter in the Labour Department confirmed this view. The frequency of strikes, the failure of unions to keep their agreements, the excessive demands for wages, and the inefficiency of labour at the highest prices have roused the indignation of the business and farming communities, and this has made them sensitive to what they have deemed the subservience of the Administration to labour-union domination."

It remains to be seen how far organized labour will respond to the appeal of Mr. Gompers and other Union leaders to cast their ballots against the Republican candidate and the Chicago platform, but apparently the Republican managers believe that their gains among the farmers will offset any losses they may sustain among the organized workers. It is significant that nearly all the more extreme advocates of railway nationalization in the last Congress have fared badly in the Primaries and that in Maine where the Republicans had an unprecedented majority advocates of nationalization were overwhelmingly defeated. In contrast with Canada public opinion in the United States seems to have gone decisively against public operation of railways and although Mr. Wilson sanctioned the restoration of the railways to the private companies the country seems likely to hold the Democrats responsible for an unsuccessful experiment in nationalization. It is remarkable, too, that *The New York Times*, perhaps the most powerful of all Democratic newspapers, opposes nationalization as strongly as do the Republican press and the Republican leaders and is as unfriendly to the Labour extremists with whom Mr. Taft alleges the President had too intimate relations.

A straw vote taken through 8,000 Rexall drug stores gives Mr. Harding 182,491 votes and Mr. Cox 117,601. Of these votes women, for whom separate ballot boxes were provided, have cast 72,928, or 47,216 for the Republican and 25,712 for the Democratic candidate. Mr. Cox has failed to secure a majority in any State outside of the South and even in the South Mr. Harding has 24,428 votes against 42,107 for his opponent. In New York, which the Democratic managers hope may go to Cox, the straw vote is two to one in favour of Harding. All the signs, therefore, foreshadow a sweeping Republican victory, and a signal personal defeat for Mr. Wilson and the policies of his Administration. One feels, however, that Mr. Wilson will remain a great figure in