

CURRENT TOPICS

A SPECIAL TO the Chicago Record-Herald from Yellowstone national park says: "Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks risked his life to save Miss Lena Waters, a waitress at the Park hotel. While sitting on the hotel veranda the vice president heard screams from the lake, where the young lady was struggling to keep herself afloat. Mr. Fairbanks ran towards the lake, throwing off his coat as he ran. He leaped into the water and made for the girl, another following. The two men then dragged the unconscious girl to shore where she was restored to consciousness."

THIS LITTLE STORY is printed by the New York World as a Washington dispatch: "Work was suspended in the big war, state and navy building for a few minutes today following the entrance of a precocious youngster of four years. Neatly attired in a blue gingham suit, but hatless and without stockings or shoes to hide his tanned legs, he slowly walked through the building. He was spied by one of the watchmen, and when asked his business he said, with a grin: 'Oh, nuffin'; me des rubberin'.' He couldn't or wouldn't tell his name and he was turned over to the police as lost property."

O. HENRY, the story writer, is responsible for the following: "An effeminate young man daintily placed two cents on a drug store counter and asked the clerk for a stamp. The clerk tore off one and slid it over to him. The young man drew an envelope from his pocket. 'Would you mind licking it for me and placing it on here?' he lisped. 'Sure,' said the clerk, as he started to stamp the letter. 'Oh, stay!' cautioned the young man in great alarm. 'Not that way, I beg of you. Kindly place the stamp with the top toward the outer edge of the envelope.' 'Sure,' said the obliging clerk. 'But what in thunder's that for?' 'Why, you see,' confided the youth blushing, 'I'm a student in the Cosmopolitan Correspondence school, and that's our college yell.'"

THE KING of England has granted a pardon to Colonel Arthur Lynch. The story is told in an Associated Press cablegram from London as follows: "On the eve of his visit to Ireland King Edward has granted a free pardon to Colonel Arthur Lynch, who was convicted of high treason in 1902 for having fought in the Irish brigade, on the side of the Boers, in the South African war. Colonel Lynch was sentenced to death for high treason in 1903, his sentence later was commuted to imprisonment for life and in January, 1904, he was released 'on license.' While in Paris after his return from South Africa Lynch was elected to parliament by Galway City and returned to England with the intention of taking his seat in the house of commons. He was arrested on landing and conviction followed."

THE NET RESULT of the boasted investigation of the insurance business by the Armstrong committee is described by the New York World in this way: "Insurance corruption continues; Thomas F. Ryan still controls the \$434,582,375 assets of the Equitable; Perkins' brother is still vice president of the New York Life; Kingsley succeeds his father-in-law, John A. McCall, as president of the company; the Standard Oil crowd controls the Mutual; the robbery of the poor through so-called 'industrial' insurance goes on; the violations of the insurance law by Edward H. Harriman and his associates are unprosecuted; Mr. Jerome's court calendar does not include the names of the great insurance criminals; Kelsey remains superintendent of insurance. Mr. Ryan publicly promised that he would turn over the management and the assets of the Equitable to its policyholders. Instead of fulfilling his pledge, Mr. Ryan through his dummies is now arranging to turn over the assets of Equitable Trust company, in which the Equitable Life Assurance society is the largest stockholder, to the Mercantile Trust company at a valuation which will

deprive the policyholders of \$2,000,000. The new board of directors of the New York Life elected as president a man who testified in exculpation of George W. Perkins, who was secretary to the finance committee when Perkins was reimbursed for his contribution to the republican campaign fund, and who in an affidavit before a city magistrate confessed that he had failed to make any entry of the transaction in the minutes. The trustees of the Mutual Life continue as its president Charles A. Peabody, a Wall Street lackey of Edward H. Harriman, who voted to depose Stuyvesant Fish from the presidency of the Illinois Central, who is a dummy director in the Union Pacific and other Harriman corporations. The investigation of industrial insurance and the correction of its shocking evils, which the Armstrong committee recommended, have not been touched by the insurance department. The criminal prosecution of the men whose crimes the Armstrong committee disclosed has so far resulted in the reversal of the conviction of the only official who was sentenced to Sing Sing, in the \$500 fine of one insurance president who pleaded guilty and in a few indictments which have been adjourned until next fall."

LIGHT ON A recent railroad order is thrown by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in this way: "It begins to appear that the railroads linked together in the Western Passenger association are not prompted by purely benevolent motives in their sudden concession which makes the two-cent fare laws operative in interstate travel. For a time this seemed to be a case of broad-minded public spirit. But no. When the two-cent fare law went into effect in Nebraska, two or three months ago, the railroad folk up there said, as they have said more recently in Missouri, that they would delay legal proceedings until time and experience might give some actual results upon which to base contesting litigation. But the waiting promised to be disastrous. The people were quick to learn that, while they could not get the benefit of the two-cent rate on interstate travel they could still beat the game in part by buying transportation to the state's boundaries at the low fare, and there buying another ticket to their destination. Well and good. But the effect of this was to increase the showing of local travel enormously, out of right proportion to the facts. The Nebraska roads were threatened to be hoist with their own petard. Earnings within the state were 'booming,' and it was evident that, on the face of these returns, there would be no grounds for a contention of 'confiscation.' What was true in Nebraska was true also in every western state in like case. The action of the passenger association, therefore, is purely self-defensive, seeking to bring matters to a right balance by preventing these undue swellings of state business."

JESSE R. GRANT, son of the late General U. S. Grant, is, according to the St. Louis Star-Chronicle, making a tour of the south for the purpose of advancing his candidacy for the democratic nomination for the presidency. The Star-Chronicle says: "He came to St. Louis to announce his willingness to run for the presidency, if it was shown that he was wanted. He considers himself a western man, though he has lived in New York for the last eight years. He has lived in Arizona and California and owns mines out there. He says if anyone will stand for his aspirations, the people out here will, and furthermore, he says the south and west will name and elect the next president. As for Mr. Bryan, he says he is making no particular effort to put him on the shelf, but believes if the people want a fresh candidate they are entitled to have one. He does not believe in a man hiding his aspirations, he says, and thinks the way to reach a position in the gift of the American people is to say so and let them do the rest. 'I do not care to talk extensively,' he said to the Star-Chronicle in his room at the Southern hotel Monday morning. 'I am not even a possibility yet, but I will let the people say what they will have. I believe, though, that the tariff revision will be in both platforms this time, and un-

doubtedly the trusts will be an issue again.' Grant is accompanied by H. H. Childers, formerly in charge of the speakers' committee of the democratic national committee, and an old newspaper man in Texas. He was formerly a lawyer, also. 'I think Grant is a man who will take well with the people,' said Childers. 'He is conservative, amiable, a deep thinker, an extensive reader, shrewd and capable. He has made a success of his private business ventures, which should recommend him to the people. He is a lover of horses, but does not ride them over the hurdles for exhibition purposes. He is a baseball fan, but he is not the kind to gossip about it all the time. He is a quiet, even-tempered man with many of the characteristics of his great father, who engineered the destinies of the country at its crisis as a leader of armies and again during the reconstruction and carpet bagging days when times were very critical.'"

CHARLES H. MOYER, president of the Western Federation of Miners took the witness stand at Boise and an Associated Press report says he made an excellent witness. From this report the following is taken: "Moyer, with the utmost deliberation denied that he had ever discussed the explosion at the Vindicator mine as detailed by Orchard in his evidence. He admitted having met Orchard in Denver during a labor convention in January, 1904. He had also seen him at Cripple Creek in February, 1904, when he became fairly well acquainted with him. Moyer denied that at any time he had given Orchard any money or had any knowledge of Orchard having been given money by any officer of the Western Federation of Miners. Moyer detailed his trip to Ouray, Colo., with Orchard in 1904. He said Orchard was going there to get work and Moyer suggested that they travel together. This was for self-protection because of attacks on members of the organization. He described their arrangements for carrying revolvers and 'sawed-off shotguns,' which he said were secured by Pettibone. Orchard, Moyer said, bought his own ticket, but Moyer paid his expenses and hotel bill."

WILLIAM D. HAYWOOD took the witness stand in his own defense. The Associated Press report says: "The accused man was perfectly at ease as he walked to the chair and took oath as a witness in his own behalf. His voice was quite low at first, but when his attention was called to it he elevated it so as to carry to Judge Wood. Haywood was first questioned as to his family history. He said his father and stepfather were both miners, and he first began work as a miner under the latter. Haywood was born in Salt Lake City in 1869. His father was born in Ohio and his mother in South Africa—the daughter of an English army officer. Haywood said he first went to work at the mines when he was nine years old. He was married in Pocatello, Idaho, and has two children—daughters. The witness, who has but one eye, said he lost the other when a boy of seven by sticking a knife in it. The prisoner spent the greater part of his mining career at Silver City, Idaho. He joined the Western Federation of Miners in 1896. Haywood declared he never knew Governor Steunenberg and had no interest in the Coer d'Alene troubles other than as a member of the federation. The prisoner's wife, mother and young daughter were present in court this afternoon when he was called to the stand. Resolutions and discussions condemning Governor Steunenberg's course in the Coeur d'Alene, Haywood declared, were not confined to the Western Federation of Miners, but applied generally to labor organizations throughout the country. The witness was asked if he ever said to anyone, as has been testified, that Governor Steunenberg should be exterminated. He said he had not."

REFERRING TO the Haywood trial at Boise, Idaho, John I. Tierney representing the Denver News says: "The defense in the Haywood case believes it has shattered Orchard's credibility as a witness by developing a glaring