

CURRENT TOPICS

JOSEPH G. CANNON, speaker of the house of representatives, was renominated for congress at the republican convention held at Danville, Ill. This is Mr. Cannon's eighteenth consecutive nomination. He made a strong protective tariff speech, declaring in favor of the "stand pat" plan, and said he was ready to stand or fall by the record made by the republican congress. He took issue with Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. He stated that personally he was opposed to the legislation demanded at the last session which sought to prohibit courts from issuing injunctions in any case, between employer and employe. He plainly threw down the gauntlet to Mr. Gompers and his associates. In this connection the story written by the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald may be interesting. This correspondent says that it is believed that republican leaders are deliberately courting a fight with labor leaders.

A WOMAN UNDERTOOK to approach the president in church at Oyster Bay, N. Y., with great difficulty she was removed by the secret service agents. The woman's name was Miss Asi L. Esac. An Oyster Bay dispatch says: "She presented herself early at the church today and took a seat directly behind the pew usually occupied by the Roosevelt family. When an usher requested her to relinquish this seat she refused. The usher forcibly removed her to the rear of the church and Miss Esac says he tore her gown. For this act she later applied for a warrant for the usher, but was refused. In the rear of the church Miss Esac refused to sit down. A secret service agent stood beside her, and during the service she made no less than a dozen attempts to get past him. As the president was leaving the church three secret service men surrounded Miss Esac, but she shouted: 'Mr. President, Mr. President, President Roosevelt, won't you speak to me a moment.' The president turned his head as he passed, but did not pause."

FREDERICK TREVOR HILL, writing in Appleton's Magazine, says: "There is evidence that some members of the First congress fully realized the vast importance and possibilities of the institution they had established in the supreme court, but it is probable that the majority little dreamed of the tremendous influence it was destined to exert upon the history of the nation. Certainly the earliest appointees to the bench had no reason to suspect the future glory of their court as they traveled the wide circuits throughout the thirteen states over bad roads, in all sorts of weather, living, as one of them expressed it, 'the life of postboys,' seeking business, but literally finding none. Even as late as 1801 there were only ten cases on the docket of the court, and during the next five years its calendars averaged less than twenty-five cases a year. But though the court did not at first attract any considerable number of litigants, Chief Justice Marshall early demonstrated the immense powers with which he and his associates had been intrusted. It was not without a bitter struggle, however, that the great jurist established the authority of his tribunal, and for many years his declarations in the celebrated case of Marbury vs. Madison were regarded as absurd pretensions which could never be maintained. In this case, which was of no particular importance in itself, Marshall initiated the doctrine that the supreme court might and would invalidate any law which in its judgment violated the provisions of the United States constitution."

BUT POWERFUL AS the United States supreme court is, its power, according to Mr. Hill is after all that of public opinion. Mr. Hill says: "Those who doubt this and cherish a belief that the court is omnipotent can dissipate their illusions by a glance at the records, which clearly demonstrate that even this mighty judicial body has not always been able to enforce its own decrees. In the case of Chisholm a creditor of Georgia sued the state in the supreme court and recovered a judgment in violation of what was then considered the essence of state sovereignty.

Thereupon the legislature of Georgia retorted with a bill prescribing the penalty of death for any one who attempted to realize upon such a judgment, the plaintiff prudently forbore to press his claim, and the court's retreat was covered by the adoption of the eleventh amendment to the constitution, which virtually ousted it of jurisdiction. In the Cherokee case, involving the relation of an Indian tribe to the local and national governments, President Jackson disregarded the mandate of the court, coolly remarking, 'Marshall made the decision, now let him enforce it,' and public opinion not approving it, the decree was never executed. Again, in the Merryman case, President Lincoln declined to honor a writ of habeas corpus issued after he had suspended it, and Chief Justice Taney, finding himself without popular support, was compelled to let the proceedings drop."

THE TERMS OF fifteen democrats and fifteen republicans, who have seats in the United States senate expire on March 3, next. The democrats are: Bacon, Georgia; Bailey, Texas; Berry, Arkansas; Blackburn, Kentucky; Carmack, Tennessee; Clark, Montana; Dubois, Idaho; Foster, Alabama, re-elected; Gearin, Oregon; McLaurin, Mississippi, re-elected; Martin, Virginia; Morgan, Alabama; Patterson, Colorado; Simmons, North Carolina; Tillman, South Carolina. The republicans are: Alger, Michigan; Allee, Delaware; Benson, Kansas; Burnham, New Hampshire; Crane, Massachusetts; Cullom, Illinois; Dolliver, Iowa; Dryden, New Jersey; Elkins, West Virginia; Frye, Maine; Gamble, South Dakota; Millard, Nebraska; Nelson, Minnesota; Warren, Wyoming; Wetmore, Rhode Island.

A BULLETIN SENT OUT by the democratic congressional committee says: "Some of the democrats have already been re-elected and others nominated by popular vote. Berry will be succeeded by Davis, Blackburn by Paynter, and Carmack by Taylor; Gearin will be succeeded by Jonathan Bourne, a republican. The states of Montana, Idaho and Colorado are doubtful, so the democrats have lost one, and three are in doubt. In the republican list the states of Delaware, Kansas, Illinois, West Virginia and Rhode Island are doubtful, five in all, but the chances favor the republicans in most of these states. The new state of Oklahoma will elect two senators and the outlook there is favorable to the democrats. If a democratic tidal wave should overwhelm the republicans this fall three or four other states now counted as surely republican, would elect democrats."

THE WASHINGTON correspondent for the New York World, under date of August 13, says: "The greatest fleet of modern warships ever assembled under the American flag will rendezvous off Oyster Bay and be reviewed by President Roosevelt on September 3. It will be the strongest fleet in tonnage and number of guns ever assembled in American waters. Orders for the formation of the Atlantic fleet, as this assemblage of warships will be known, were issued at the navy department today. The Atlantic fleet will consist of forty-five vessels, representing all classes of the up-to-date navy, mounting 1,178 guns, commanded by 812 officers and manned by 15,235 jackies. Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans—'Fighting Bob'—has been designated as the commander-in-chief and his flagship will be the Maine, which will head the first squadron of the first division as it passes in review before the president, who will be on board the Mayflower."

THE LAST NAVAL review at Oyster Bay was in August, 1903, and according to the World's correspondent, cost the government in the neighborhood of \$250,000. This correspondent says: "The review next month will far exceed the one three years ago, both in number of warships, armament and cost to the government. Basing an estimate of the cost on that of three years ago, the present review will tax the people in the neighborhood of \$500,000, counting, of course, the deterioration of vessels and ma-

chinery. This cost would have to be figured on, no matter where the warships were, but under ordinary circumstances the deterioration would be offset by the additional knowledge the officers and men received as a result of attending strictly to the naval routine. In addition to giving the president an opportunity to review the warships the review will be a great thing for Oyster Bay from a commercial viewpoint. Great quantities of supplies will be bought by the warships, thousands of visitors will be attracted to the village, and every boatman for scores of miles about Oyster Bay will be able to get fabulous prices for the hire of his boat for two or three days. Thousands of shots will be fired from the six-pounder guns in salutes, and each charge cost forty cents a shot. In the last review 2,604 shots were fired from the six-pounders, and because of the increased number of ships the number will be nearer 5,000 this year. The usual wear and tear on battleships is estimated to be \$9,000 a week, while cruisers deteriorate at the rate of \$3,000 a week. In proportion to their cost torpedo boats deteriorate more rapidly than any other class. It is estimated that the machinery and hull of these boats deteriorate at the rate of \$1,200 a week."

SOME ONE HAS discovered that Dolly Madison was a poet. Appleton's Magazine offers a sonnet addressed by Dolly Madison to Lafayette. This sonnet is published in fac-simile from the original manuscript for the first time. It is signed "D. P. Madison" and dated April 25, 1848.

"Born, nurtured, wedded, prized within the pale
Of peers and princes high in camp—a court—
He hears in joyous youth a wild report
Swelling the murmurs of the western gale,
Of a young people struggling to be free.
Straight quitting all, across the wave he flies,
Aids with his sword, wealth, blood, the high
emprise,
And shares the glories of its victory.
Then comes for fifty years a high romance
Of toils, reverses, sufferings in the cause
Of man and justice, liberty and France,
Crowned, at last, with hope and wide applause.
Champion of Freedom! well thy race was run!
All time shall hail thee, Europe's noblest son!"

SENATOR WARNER of Missouri is wondering if the size of men's heads averages larger in the west than in the east. Senator Warner, who wears a 7 3/4 size hat, tried to buy a new headpiece in Washington just before he started home. He says: "In Washington I made a tour of every hat store there of any size and within reach, and in Philadelphia, where they make the things, I tried to get a lid to fit me. Going afterwards to New York, if I tried one shop I tried twenty. Not a place had a 7 3/4 hat. My itinerary took me to Cleveland. I was thoroughly ashamed of my old hat by the time I struck that place, made famous by Cassie, and once more I started out to find a 7 3/4 hat. Nary one. I did not make much of an effort in St. Louis, because by the time I got there I was almost without hope. However, I managed to screw up courage enough to go into four places. They all had up to 7 1/2, but nothing bigger. Now for the odd part of the experience: The very first shop I went into in Kansas City resulted in this hat. I guess there are more 7 3/4 heads in this neck of the woods than further east."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN of the interior department, acting for his superior, Secretary Hitchcock, gave out a statement in which he criticized Senator Warren of Wyoming, charging that Warren sought to graft upon the Oklahoma statehood bill an amendment affecting mineral lands in the territory. In this statement it is claimed Secretary Hitchcock defeated the Warren amendment and, as the statement says, saved the school lands containing oil and minerals, which were estimated to be worth between one and two million dollars. The Washington correspondent for the Denver News, referring to this statement, says: "The Warren amendment related to mineral leases and, according to Hitchcock, was urged upon congress by attorneys rep-