

CURRENT TOPICS

IT SEEMS to be generally agreed that the republican national convention for 1904 was the tamest political gathering in the nation's history. Whatever enthusiasm was displayed appeared to be provided for in advance and entirely of a "worked up" character. Opie Reed, the novelist, speaking to a correspondent for the Burlington (Ia.) Hawkeye, says: "No longer did it look like the 'jerker beef' of politics. Rich in decoration and inspired with music, there was a reminder of those days when giants fought for national leadership. Every man, though he looked as if he had prearranged what was to be done, bore the appearance of seeking to hide it from his neighbor. Thus, by silent agreement, the plot was kept hidden. Back into momentary view of the nation's winking and forgetful eye, there came the visage of many an old timer with mind stored rich with memories. But with all of its wealth of tradition, this is purely a convention of the present, commercialized by self-conscious mediocrity. Looking no matter whither could one find a place for sentiment. There was in the air no quiver of expectancy, and out of the past no plumed knight could ride, except upon the pale steed of reminiscence. Occasionally there was an outburst of applause, like an improvised waterfall."

A NOVEL reunion took place at Paris, Ill., June 18. The Paris correspondent for the New York World says: "Daniel G. Burr, aged eighty-four, a survivor of company H. Fourth regiment, recruited here June 4, 1846, for the war with Mexico, held a 'reunion' all by himself today in the Fair grounds here. As he had done annually for forty years, he called the roll of his company from the original roll he had written with a quill pen, and of which he had custody as orderly sergeant of the company. Several times in recent years he has held a reunion by himself. He is now the only survivor of his company. He reads the names, some forty in number, and when he calls his own he answers 'Here.' It is the only name to which there is a response."

RECENTLY Paul Morton, son of the late J. Sterling Morton, announced that he had joined the republican party. The announcement did not create great surprise because for many years Mr. Morton has affiliated with the republican party. Soon after this announcement was made, the Washington Post stated that Mr. Roosevelt had formally invited Mr. Morton to become secretary of the navy. It is announced that Mr. Morton will accept and he is now arranging his private business with this purpose in view.

IN THE federal court of St. Louis Judge Thayer issued a writ of habeas corpus for Charles H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners. Governor Peabody was notified by wire of Judge Thayer's action and immediately released Moyer, turning him over to the Colorado civil authorities. Later Moyer was arrested on the charge of being implicated in the Vindicator mine explosion of November last and the civil authorities of one county turned him over to the civil authorities of another county. Moyer's friends claim that Governor Peabody delivered Moyer to the civil authorities in order to escape the federal court process. The habeas corpus writ is made returnable July 5 before Judge Thayer, and the Colorado governor will have to make an explanation at that time.

THE authorities at Cripple Creek have announced that no one will be permitted to furnish supplies to the families of deported miners without permission from the authorities. Several merchants at Cripple Creek who have been providing provisions for the miners' families have been notified to cease this work. Another interesting outcome of the great strike is an organized boycott that has been commenced against the Denver News and Denver Times. It seems that the News and Times have expressed opinions that do not exactly suit the mine owners and those who sympathize with them. Consequently a number of large advertisers of Denver have withdrawn their patronage from these newspapers.

UNITED STATES Senator Patterson is the owner of the Denver News, a morning paper, and the Denver Times, an evening paper. He does not show any inclination to surrender. In an editorial printed in the News, Senator Patterson said: "The management fully understands the nature of the conflict that has been precipitated upon it. It will be deprived of many thousands of dollars' worth of business before the contest ends. It will quite likely be forced to draw upon its reserves, but, thank God, it has reserves, and after them property, and after them credit, but it has not the word 'submission' in its vocabulary. Yet it must depend upon the plain people of Denver and Colorado for strength and courage. It is fighting their battle. A free and independent press at the capital of the state is all the mining and departmental store oligarchy fears. Let the entire Denver press be muzzled, and when the time comes to drive out troublesome American Federation unions, with the militia at their command and a debauched and muzzled press, the end of the conflict cannot be obscured. The plain people of the state can render the News and the Times material assistance in the fight they are making for them. They can in part compensate for the destruction of revenue through the boycott by giving them the aid of their subscriptions. Will those who need a morning paper subscribe for the News and those who prefer an evening paper subscribe for the Times? If they will but do this the management will not fear the outcome."

REPRESENTATIVES of the mine owners have sought to make it appear that the resort to violence has been entirely on the side of the mine workers. In his News editorial, Senator Patterson throws new light on this subject. He says: "Desperate characters in the employment of the mine owners' association planned the derailment of a train and actually pulled the spikes and charged the attempt to kill a trainload of innocent people upon the Federation. The accused was promptly discharged by a jury upon which there was not a member of a miners' union, and the self-confessed villain—the employe of the mine owners' association, was soon afterward set at liberty. Never has there been a more merciless and desperate campaign to embitter public opinion against a body of men already in bad odor by reason of unpopular strikes than was this one against the Western Federation of Miners."

A VERY important point is made by Senator Patterson when referring to the dynamiting of the Independence depot. It will be remembered that the mine workers say they are not at all responsible for this disaster and they have openly charged that the depot was dynamited by detectives in the employ of the mine owners. On this point, Senator Patterson says: "The public will recall that for a month and more before the fatal June 6, when news of the Independence dynamite horror was flashed throughout the country, there was a state of almost profound peace in Cripple Creek and Telluride—except for the Telluride deportations. Many of the papers of the state commenced to speak hopefully of a settlement. Above everything else, the federation wished a settlement. A settlement of any kind short of the destruction of their unions would have been received as a happy deliverance from its dilemma. The supreme court was about to render its decision in the Moyer case. The federation's attorneys never doubted that the decision would be in Moyer's favor. It is no exaggeration to say that four out of every five lawyers in the state believed that Moyer would be set at liberty. If that should be the decision then military rule and the bullpen would end and a settlement of some satisfactory nature would be reached. Who can deny that this was the situation up to 2 a. m. on June 6, when the horror occurred? To believe that the Western Federation would under such circumstances, with such hopes to buoy them up in their campaign of non-resistance, with prospects of some satisfactory settlement if the court's decision were to be in their favor, which they did not doubt, would countenance, much less plan and carry out the wholesale murder of non-union miners by such an explosion, or otherwise, is to charge that they were devoid of reason and had

degenerated into a mere pack of prowling human wolves ready to jump headlong to their own destruction. It is not claimed that some federation miners may not have done the deed, yet it may not have been."

IT IS explained by Senator Patterson that it may have been, for wholesale murder was not intended and that some one not in sympathy may be guilty. He admits that everything must be conjectured until the proofs, if any are gathered, are given to the public; but he contends that the fact that the federation as an organization is charged with the deed surpasses all human credulity. Senator Patterson concludes: "However that may be, the citizens' alliance and mine owners' association and the military in the district were prompt to take advantage of the terrible frenzy that followed the deed. Everything was directed to a certain end. With the public mind in the state of acute hostility to which the newspaper campaign had brought it, it was easy to guide it for the end that the mine owners' association had announced from the first was the only possible settlement—the driving out of the unions and the complete obliteration of the Western Federation from the district. How unerringly that campaign has been conducted! Co-operative union stores were looted and dismantled, democratic officials were forced to resign at the threatened peril of the hangman's noose, and the revolver. The appointment of officials thoroughly in sympathy with the association's avowed purpose, the arrest of federation miners by the hundreds, their deportation from the state by the hundreds, the detention of scores in military prisons, the arrest and incarceration of the local attorney of the federation just as he was about to commence proceedings that might stop the enforced exodus, the destruction of the office of the federation's newspaper organ, and finally the signing of the pledge of the entire business community of the district that under no circumstances would a member of any union in sympathy with the Western Federation be employed in any business or calling were some of the fruits of the campaign inaugurated."

UNTIL recently, the Pennsylvania Railroad company had on its pay rolls about 113,000 men. The Philadelphia correspondent for the New York World says that this number has already been cut down until it is well within 100,000. He adds that President Cassatt has issued an order laying off at least 5,000 more men and he quotes one of the vice presidents of the road as saying: "It is the purpose of the Pennsylvania railroad to reduce its working force to keep pace with the reduction in the volume of freights throughout the system. When the scalding-down process will stop we cannot tell; we hope it will be soon, but we see no reason to be hopeful. For the present, the situation means that we must make an additional reduction to the force by at least 5,000 employes."

THE republican national convention for 1904 was in session for three days. The New York Globe says: "The longest convention in our history was that which nominated Douglas in 1860. This met first in Charleston, S. C., and after ten days of fruitless wrangling and balloting adjourned to meet later in Baltimore. On reassembling, it consumed four days in nominating Douglas. The next longest conventions were those of the republicans which nominated Garfield in 1880 and Harrison in 1888. Each of them was in session six days. In the former, four days were spent in the preliminary arrangements and in discussion over the unit rule, which Senator Conkling wished to have adopted to aid him in his effort to nominate Grant for a third term. The convention met on Wednesday and did not nominate till the following Tuesday. The convention of 1888 met on Wednesday and nominated on the following Monday. Next in length of sitting was the democratic convention of 1868, which met in Tammany hall and nominated Horatio Seymour. This assembled on the Fourth of July, which was Saturday. It began balloting on Tuesday and nominated on Thursday. The convention which nominated Harrison for a second term sat four days, as did that which nominated Blaine in 1884.