

CURRENT TOPICS

IN ITS ISSUE OF September 17, the New York World prints the following dispatch from Mexico City: "It is generally understood that one of the principal objects of Finance Minister Limontour's trip to Europe is to bring about the acquisition of the Mexican Central railway by the Mexican government, and this supposition is strengthened by the fact that Vice President Richards, of the Central, has also gone to Paris. The acquisition of the railroad would have great political significance, as it is believed here to be the only way that the railroads can be regulated in order to avoid discrimination in the matter of rates."

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY in Colorado is in a bad way. The convention nominated William H. Gabbert, now chief justice of the Colorado supreme court, for re-election. Six years ago Gabbert was elected as a populist and it is charged that he has been a faithful servant of the corporations. Philip R. Stewart, whom the convention nominated for governor, has declined to accept the nomination because of Gabbert's nomination. Many of the republicans have urged Gabbert to withdraw, but he refuses to do so. Referring to the plight in which the republican party finds itself the Denver News says: "The present situation is but the culmination of years of corporation dabbling in political affairs. It was an alliance of corporations that elected Peabody. It was the same band of corporations that dictated the unspeakable outrages of his term of office. It was corporation politics that saddled Colorado with the costly rhetoric of Sherman Bell. It was corruptive politics that dictated the re-nomination of Peabody. It was corporation politics that plunged Colorado in the long-drawn crime that ended in the theft of the governorship, the crime that stole the senate, packed the supreme court and placed in the governor's chair a man who was never even a candidate for that office. These things were corporation work."

A NEW YORK stenographer writing to the Herald of that city says: "In a restaurant today there was a group of stenographers who were commenting with surprise on the fact that, with the exception of a small paragraph in one paper, the New York newspapers gave no space to the death of James Munson, author of the system of phonography used by at least half a million shorthand writers today. Munson was really a great man, and every stenographer, whether he used his system or not, will revere his memory. There are 50,000 stenographers in New York alone who use his system, and yet the papers do not even give him a line of obituary. As one young man sarcastically remarked: 'If Mr. Munson had robbed a bank, run away with another man's wife or got into some real scandal he would have received a nice notice from the papers, with a big picture of himself, the bank he robbed or the woman he ran away with; but, as it was, Mr. Munson did a tremendous work for humanity quietly and unostentatiously. Therefore, the papers can not see anything in him.' I think there is a great deal in this conversation which I overheard, and I thought it wise to send it to you."

ON SEPTEMBER 15 Mr. Bryan spoke at the Radford fair, Radford, Va., and the next day, Sunday, was spent at Hollings Institute, Lynchburg, where his daughter, Miss Grace, will attend school. In the afternoon Mr. Bryan addressed the students. September 17, Mr. Bryan spoke in the afternoon at Raleigh, N. C., and at Greensboro at night. On the way from Raleigh to Greensboro, Dr. Charles Duncan McIver, chairman of the Greensboro reception committee, died of apoplexy. Between Raleigh and Greensboro Mr. Bryan spoke briefly at Durham and Burlington. September 18, short addresses were made at Winston, Salem, Kenville, High Point, Lexington, Salisbury, Concord and Charlotte, N. C., the address at Charlotte being the most extended. September 19, Mr. Bryan spoke at Columbia, S. C., the meeting being held on the state university

campus. After the speaking a reception was held in the capitol building. September 20, Atlanta, Ga., was visited and a large audience addressed. Mr. Bryan was introduced by President Lamar Hill, of the Young Men's democratic league. September 21, a great audience at Birmingham, Ala., was addressed, and on the 22d Mr. Bryan reached Jackson, Miss., where he spoke in the evening and remained over Sunday. Monday, September 24, Mr. Bryan addressed a large audience at New Orleans, La. In the afternoon of the 25th he spoke at Nashville, and in the evening at Memphis, Tenn. From Memphis Mr. Bryan went to Little Rock, Ark., where he spoke on the 26th. September 27, 28 and 29 will be spent in the Indian Territory, and on September 30 Mr. Bryan will close the present tour at Kansas City, returning from there to his home in Lincoln.

THE REVOLT IN Cuba has been shaping itself for more than a year. A correspondent for the New York World says that President Palma is the most thoroughly hated man in Cuba; that the president has surrounded himself with old time Spanish sympathizers and the islands feel that as president he was forced upon them by the government at Washington. The World correspondent says: "To understand the present revolt and the strong feeling against Palma and his administration one must go back to 1902, when Palma was first elected president of Cuba. The occupation of the United States had been tedious, and to the Cuban mind Palma was the Washington government's choice for president of Cuba. Had all his acts been Solomonic in their wisdom he could not have escaped Cuban resentment of what they felt was the imposed choice of an alien power. His services in the ten years' war of the '70s against Spanish dominion, his capture in 1876 and imprisonment in Morro Castle, and then the final confiscation of his properties and banishment from Cuba for life, were forgotten. A new generation had arisen which knew nothing of all this. For twenty-four years he had been an exile in an obscure village in the United States; and Cuba had lost touch with Palma and he with Cuba. Any other man under these conditions would have been as heavily handicapped. Palma is the most bitterly hated person in Cuba. The rebels against Spanish rule have no recognition in his administration, no hope of relief through elections. Palma, an ultra-conservative, is surrounded by the old pro-Spanish influence. His own private secretary was, up to the Spanish evacuation in 1898, judge-advocate in the army of Spain—the man who prosecuted the Cuban patriots in the field. Their lives and liberties were in the hands of this Spanish prosecutor, and today no old Cuban fighter can gain access to the president without permission of this man. Imagine the feeling of these hardy, bitter old campaigners as they seek permission from the man who has ordered their comrades out with a file of soldiers at dawn or turned the keys of the dungeons of Morro."

THE CUBAN ELECTION machinery is explained in this way: "Under the Cuban election laws the mayor of a community appoints the registration board of two members for an election district, choosing from the voting lists one of the oldest and one of the youngest voters. After the millenium, perhaps, some merely human mayor may appoint one from each of the opposing parties. At present he does not—they are both of his own political complexion. This, however, is regarded on all sides as perfectly fair, for the mayor himself is an elected official and his bias is presumed to at least represent the majority of the community. The president has the right to remove a mayor on charges and appoint a new one for the remainder of the term of office. Here in Havana Juan Ramon O'Farrell was elected mayor in the November elections of 1904. He was a liberal and against the Palma administration. In the August following Palma removed him and appointed as mayor Eljio Bonachea, a partisan of Governor Nunez of Havana province and a firm supporter of Palma and the moderates. The registration boards are appointed in September.

Two months ago Bonachea and the president disagreed, Bonachea was removed and Julio Cardenas, a tory from the Spanish days of Governor-General Blanco, was appointed mayor of Havana."

THE BITTERNESS OF feeling aroused by the appointing to office of these men and many others who were royalists when Cuba was a colony are likened by the World's correspondent to the situation that might be imagined after the American revolution of 1776, Washington or Adams appointing to high cabinet and judiciary positions the men of Philadelphia and New York who entertained, sympathized and dined with the British forces and even served with them during the hardships of Valley Forge and the bitter work in the trenches of Yorktown. This correspondent further says: "Rafael Montoro up to 1898 was secretary of the treasury under Governor-General Blanco. For the past two years he has been Palma's minister to England, France, Spain and Germany, and was the Cuban delegate to the Pan-American congress at Rio Janeiro last July. Antonio Govin was secretary of justice and the interior under Blanco up to 1898. For two years he has been president of the criminal branch of the supreme court of Cuba, one of the highest of the courts of Cuba."

A MILWAUKEE DISPATCH to the Chicago Record-Herald follows: "Twenty years ago, when W. H. Timlin was just a plain every-day lawyer, an agent of the Equitable Life Assurance society sold him a \$1,000 policy which, he says, was guaranteed to pay \$1,106 at the end of twenty years, provided all premiums were kept up. Now Mr. Timlin is judge-elect of the supreme court and the policy has come due. When demand was made for the \$1,106 promised, the reply came, he says, that the policy was worth only \$241. Judge Timlin responded by bringing suit today to secure the payment of the amount he was promised, asserting that he has kept his portion of the contract."

THE INTERSTATE Commerce Commission has made public its interpretation of several important provisions of the railway rate law. The commission holds that nothing but cash may be received by the railroad company in exchange for transportation, and while this destroys the free pass it will also do away with what is known as newspaper mileage or railroad transportation to newspaper men in exchange for newspaper advertising. The commission also holds that joint rates between two connecting carriers are legal and that any change shall require thirty days' notice to the commission; that on new lines of road, including branches and extensions of existing roads, individual and joint rates may be established, in the first instance, without notice, on posting a tariff and filing a copy with the commission; that excursion rates limited to three days may be established without further notice than the posting of a tariff one day in advance in two conspicuous places where such tickets are said to be sold and the mailing of a copy to the commission; that on excursion rates for a period longer than three days and up to thirty days three days' notice of a similar character is necessary, and that on excursion rates extending over a period longer than thirty days the full statutory notice is required.

JOHN P. GRUET, former secretary of the Waters Pierce Oil company, recently brought suit against H. Clay Pierce, chairman of the board of directors, for \$25,000, which Gruet claims to be due him as back salary. On the witness stand at St. Louis on Saturday, September 15, Mr. Pierce testified that he had obtained Gruet from the Standard Oil offices in New York more than sixteen years ago. In February, 1905, Gruet was dropped from the company and later appealed for re-employment. He was given a clerical position with the Pierce Investment company. "Immediately after Mr. Gruet's employment, effective April 1, 1905," said Mr. Pierce, "Mr. Gruet came to see me in New York. I told Mr. Gruet that the affairs of the Tennessee Central Railway company, the Tennessee Construction