

CURRENT TOPICS

CLOSE ON the report that the paper trust will be proceeded against comes this dispatch from Appleton, Wis.: "Within a few weeks, it is said, every print paper mill and sulphite plant in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, which means the entire print paper market in the middle west, will be under the control of the International Paper company (the trust), of New York. John G. Hanrahan, of New York, who has been engineering the deal, is here completing the merger. One manufacturer said that the owners, who several years ago gave options on their mills to be sold outright for cash, have now agreed to take bonds of the merger company as part payment and to accept stock in the merger for the remainder."

A PITTSBURG dispatch to the New York World follows: "James M. Guffey, oil millionaire and democratic national committeeman, for years in control of the democratic organization in Pennsylvania, will try to send an anti-Bryan delegation to the national convention." This dispatch from Chicago printed by the New York World: "Grover Cleveland, of New Jersey, and Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, is the ticket the Illinois democrats who are opposed to Bryan are endeavoring to launch. The suggestion came up in connection with the week-end political gathering which Chairman Taggart, of the democratic national committee, is to give at French Lick Springs, Ind., next Friday. He has invited not only the other members of the national committee but several democratic politicians outside of it to attend. Some days before the letter of Mr. Bryan was published ex-Mayor John P. Hopkins had been advocating the nomination of Mr. Cleveland as the only way for the democrats to get out of the wilderness. His argument has been that Bryan could not be elected, while Cleveland could."

A CORRESPONDENT for the Washington Post asked former president Grover Cleveland what he thought of Mr. Bryan's statement. The Post correspondent says: "The aged statesman thought the matter over for some time, talked a little of Jersey politics, and said he thought democracy was coming into its own again in New Jersey. Then, speaking direct to the Bryan position as published in The Commoner, he said: 'I am not surprised at all at Mr. Bryan's declaration, and I do not see that any democrat should be surprised at his seeming intention to seek a renomination. To me the question seems to be, to whom ought we look for leadership in the democratic party? In view of past experiences, what are we going to do about it? This is a question that may well command the immediate attention of the leaders. I do not think this the time to say anything more on this subject.'"

AT THE MEETING of the American Federation of Labor held at Norfolk, Va., a sensation was created by Samuel Gompers, president, in his speech replying to the attacks made upon him and other officers of the federation by the manufacturers' association. The Associated Press says: "Mr. Gompers told of an alleged attempt to bribe at the Victoria hotel, New York, in October, by a young newspaper man giving his name as Charles Brandenburg, the latter President Gompers said, having declared that he represented the National Manufacturers' Association, and was prepared to offer immunity from all exposure and make him financially secure for the remainder of his life if he would sign a certain paper and otherwise aid in the 'exposure' of the other leaders in the American Federation of Labor with the view to virtually destroying the influence of organized labor. The paper, President Gompers said, was to purport to have been signed when he (Gompers) was ill in 1895. This paper, Mr. Gompers said, he had preserved, and while death like stillness prevailed in the convention, President Gompers drew forth the original document and read it. Mr. Gompers, during his recital of the alleged attempt at bribery, called upon different dele-

gates present who were with him at the time of the interview with Brandenburg to verify his statements. This the delegates, rising in their seats, did. At the close of President Gompers' speech there was a great demonstration, even Victor L. Berger of Milwaukee, the socialist opponent of Mr. Gompers, declaring that although he had at the convention bitterly opposed the re-election of President Gompers, he will be the one this year to move to make his election unanimous with a vote of confidence, not only to President Gompers, but also to the other officials of the American Federation of Labor. 'This,' declared Mr. Berger, 'is the answer of the socialists to the manufacturers' association.' A motion offered by D. W. Ryan of Springfield, Ill., reporting that the Illinois mine-workers had voted confidence in Gompers and denouncing the manufacturers' association, received immediate consideration and was adopted amid excitement."

AN ASSOCIATED Press dispatch under date of New York, November 21, follows: "Broughton Brandenburg, president of the naval institute of immigration and a magazine writer, said tonight that he was the man referred to by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, when the latter, at the convention in Norfolk today, declared that one 'Charles Brandenburg,' a newspaper man, attempted to bribe him to take part in an 'exposure' of federation leaders. In a statement dictated tonight Mr. Brandenburg emphatically denied that he had attempted to bribe Gompers. He also stated that he had no connection with the National Manufacturers' Association and that his dealings with Gompers were solely in the interests of a publication which he represented."

A DISPATCH TO the Cincinnati Enquirer under date of LaFayette, Ind., November 18, follows: "William Jennings Bryan spoke here today before one of the largest gatherings in the history of Indiana democracy. The city was thronged all day with thousands of visitors. It was the 'Bryan Day' celebration of the Jackson club of this city. A banquet was given tonight, at which eight hundred guests were seated, while four thousand others looked on. Wherever Bryan appeared he received an ovation. This morning Bryan delivered an address to Purdue students on 'Faith,' and was greeted enthusiastically. He told the students the government was all right, but that it would be much better when senators were elected by direct vote of the people. Bryan later was the guest of honor at a luncheon at the Lafayette club. Millard F. Dunlap, of Jacksonville, Ill., former treasurer of the democratic national committee, sat beside him, and James K. Risk, district democratic chairman was the host. At 1:30 o'clock a conference of democratic editors and county chairmen of the state was held at the Jackson club rooms, where Bryan delivered an informal address before an audience of several hundred scribes and chairmen."

THE NEW YORK World calls upon the southern states to prevent the nomination of Mr. Bryan by the democratic national convention. The World says "that New York will send an anti-Bryan delegation to the convention seems almost certain." Over the signature, "Rev. Silliman Blagden," of Boston, the World prints a letter from which these extracts are taken: "Mr. J. P. Morgan would make us a most desirable and grand president because he is one of the greatest and most successful financiers, not only in our country but also in the world, as many well-informed business men will bear witness. He is remarkably level-headed, long-headed, wise, discreet and conservative. He has no fads or foibles, but is a man who strictly attends to business. He is a quiet, self-respecting and unobtrusive man, very different from those self-assertive, discouraging and disgusting men who with brazen face push themselves forward and, mirabile dictu, self-nominate themselves for public office, thus at once showing that they are unfit for such high public

office, because always and invariably 'the office should seek the man and not man the office.' Mr. J. P. Morgan is a gentleman, a man of the world and a man of affairs, and he has the knowledge, business acumen and ability to guide our ship of state and government into the safe and deep waters of financial prosperity once more; he is not a man to 'go off at a tangent' and suddenly do unwise and foolish things. He is of the old school and old-fashioned in all ancient customs and good ways and manners which we wish to retain and hold fast to—as we fain would to the first and everlasting 'faith once delivered to the saints.' He is a man of many private and public benefactions. He recently gave \$100,000 to the church at the Episcopal convention just held at Richmond, Va., and I believe he gave a very large sum lately to help on the completion of the Episcopal Cathedral in New York City, and everybody is thrilled with admiration over his magnificent contribution of \$25,000,000 in the recent Wall Street stock market slump to help our country. Few men have the wealth to do these noble deeds, and few men if they had such wealth would possess the faith and grace to make such charitable gifts and praiseworthy expenditure of their hard-earned money. The more one studies Mr. J. P. Morgan's life and character the more one becomes aware of the fact that in very many ways he strongly resembles the Father of Our Country, George Washington. Should Mr. Morgan become our next president and should our country need it, I believe he would give the very last cent of his many millions to save the United States from disaster. This gives a fair idea of his splendid patriotism."

MONCURE D. CONWAY died in Paris November 16. A writer in the Cincinnati Enquirer says: "Moncure Daniel Conway was born near Falmouth, Va., March 17, 1832, where his father was county judge and his mother a lineal descendant of Thomas Stone, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He graduated from Dickinson college in 1849 and studied law, but early abandoned a legal career to enter the Methodist ministry. In early life he was a champion of the institutions of the south, but his political, as well as his religious, beliefs underwent a change. He entered the Unitarian Divinity School at Cambridge, Mass., from which he was graduated in 1854. He then became pastor of the Unitarian church in Washington, D. C. His anti-slavery sermons occasioned much discussion, and by a narrow vote he was requested to resign his charge. This he did in 1857 and removed to Cincinnati, where his views were more welcome. When the civil war began he settled his father's escaped slaves at Yellow Springs, Ohio, and visited England to lecture in behalf of the anti-slavery cause. During his trip he accepted the invitation to become a minister of a London congregation of his church, and it was several years before he returned to this country. He was an active journalist and author as well as clergyman, and was a member of many learned societies in Europe and America. Among his published work are 'Tracts of Today,' 'The Rejected Stone,' 'The Golden Hour,' 'The Earthward Pilgrimage,' 'Idols and Ideals,' 'Demonology and Devil-Lore,' 'Thomas Carlyle,' 'Emerson at Home and Abroad,' several volumes on Washington and a life of Thomas Paine."

CONGRESSMAN George Prince, republican member of the house committee on banking and currency, gave to the Associated Press correspondent at Galesburg, Ill., a statement condemning the republican administration's course. Mr. Prince's statement follows: "We owe \$900,000,000 of interest bearing debt. We have today in the hands of national banks, and drawing no interest for the government, \$240,000,000. The present policy of the secretary of the treasury is to all intents in times of peace adding to the interest bearing debt of the people \$150,000,000. It is not justifiable under existing conditions. I think that the \$50,000,000 needed for the construction of the Panama canal should be taken out of the \$240,000,000