

CURRENT TOPICS

THE UNITED STATES senate has passed the ship subsidy bill. An Associated Press dispatch under date of Washington, March 20, follows: "The ship subsidy bill was passed by the senate today. It pays to sixteen knot vessels plying between this country and South America, the Philippines, Japan, China and Australia, \$4 per mile, the amount awarded by the act of 1891 to vessels of twenty knots only. The bill was amended in the senate so that twelve knot vessels will receive \$2 per mile, which is the allowance under existing law to sixteen knot vessels. Amendments were also adopted providing that though two or more lines of steamships ply from Atlantic ports to South America, under the provisions of the bill, one line shall stop at two ports south of Cape Charles, and stipulating that no more shall be paid for subsidies than is received from ship service by the government."

THE OMAHA (Neb.) Bee prints this item of news: "Of Such is the Kingdom," the little book by Richard L. Metcalfe, associate editor of Bryan's Commoner, was selected Friday by the Nebraska Teachers' Reading Circle Board managers as the 'culture' book for the teachers to read in their circle course the coming year. The board was presented with a mass of commendatory letters of the Metcalfe book, letters from Governor Sheldon, Associate Justice Harlan and educators throughout the country, all of whom spoke of the work in the highest terms. 'Of Such is the Kingdom' has already gone through five editions and this order from the Nebraska school teachers will require a sixth edition of between six and seven thousand copies. Arrangements for the publication of this large edition have not as yet been made."

THE NEW YORK democratic state committee met in New York City March 19 and adopted this resolution: "Whereas, In our opinion the welfare of the country and of the democratic party will be best served by nominating July next at Denver the candidate for the presidency and vice presidency who shall at that time and place appeal most strongly to the intelligence and judgment of the delegates gathered from all parts of the country; and Whereas, We believe that before a choice so full of importance to the people shall be made the delegates representing the different states should receive and should avail themselves of the benefits coming from consultation and deliberation with one another and should have before them the political situation as it may exist at the time of the holding of the convention. Resolved, That we, the democratic state committee of the state of New York, hereby call upon the democratic electors of the state to choose as their delegates to the national convention of the party the ablest and strongest men in their ranks, and to send them to the national convention unfettered by conditions and unpledged and uninstructed as to candidates." Mr. Connors, chairman of the committee, says that the sentiment of New York state is for Governor Johnson of Minnesota and added that the New York delegation would go uninstructed.

AN ASSOCIATED Press dispatch from St. Paul, Minn., March 20, follows: "The Minnesota democrats who have undertaken the task of putting Governor John A. Johnson in the White House have reached that stage of their campaign where they are able to present some figures. These figures, though they may not turn out to be facts, are none the less interesting. They purport to show how the first battle may be won by defeating Bryan for the nomination. After that, the Johnson sponsors assume, their task of winning the election will be comparatively easy. They base their hope of winning the nomination upon the uninstructed delegates, and they believe that these can be swung into line for Johnson when it becomes apparent that Bryan can not be named on the first ballot. There will be 1,002 delegates in the Denver convention. It is figured that the seventy-eight delegates from New York and the

sixty-eight delegates from Pennsylvania will be uninstructed. Ohio, with forty-six delegates, is expected to favor Judson Harmon as against Bryan. Delaware, with six delegates, will be for Judge Gray, who may also have the delegates from Maryland. These states, with the twenty-two delegates from Minnesota for Johnson, would make a total of 226 delegates against Bryan. Under the two-thirds rule it would be necessary to round up only 109 more delegates to prevent the nomination of the Nebraska leader and the adoption of his platform. The Johnson supporters figure that if a few of the southern states delegates could be switched from Bryan or if the northwestern states would follow the lead of Minnesota, Bryan would undoubtedly be defeated for the nomination and Johnson, as the next strongest man, would be named to head the ticket."

HERE IS AN interesting story concerning Senator LaFollette's great speech and is told by the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald: "Before Senator LaFollette appeared on the scene today Senator Aldrich sprang a surprise by reporting the finance committee's amendments to the bill eliminating railroad bonds as security for national bank circulation and retaining the provision of the present law, which prohibits the retirement of more than \$9,000,000 of circulation in any one month. It was known that Mr. LaFollette intended to attack this feature of the measure and to make it serve likewise as a basis for argument in favor of his plan for physical valuation of railroad property. 'What can LaFollette talk about now?' whispered senators, and for an hour before Mr. LaFollette got into action there was much quiet laughter among the Aldrich group. Senator LaFollette locked himself up and thought it over, and instead of showing any evidence of being disconcerted remarked, by way of preface to his speech, that the changes made in the bill by the committee made the remarks he had to offer all the more important."

IT IS FREELY charged in republican circles that the administration is using the federal patronage to advance the interests of Mr. Taft. For instance, the New York Evening Post says: "It is a somewhat unhappy coincidence that, on the very day when the Oklahoma convention declared for Taft, the senate should have refused to confirm the nomination of Grant Victor to be United States marshal for the eastern district of Oklahoma. The ground alleged was that the office had been promised to Victor to induce him to drop Fairbanks and go for Taft. The man's actual conversation was quoted; he was poor; he needed the money: 'I've been offered the marshalship by Hitchcock, and the place pays well.' Of course, such things have been done before. For certain senators to stand aghast at this unblushing use of federal patronage, is a little too ridiculous. They have done the same thing, and would do it again. But the sorrowful part of the exposure of this particular employment of the spoils system is that it is in conflict with the president's strong assertion in his letter to Mr. Foulke. He denied with indignation the charge that appointments had been made or promised in order to secure delegates for Taft. Here is a seemingly clear case of it. It only shows how easy it is for Mr. Roosevelt to be imposed upon. The least he can now do is to send Mr. Hitchcock a sharp rebuke for making the president appear to say one thing and do another."

THE IOWA republican state convention instructed its delegates-at-large to vote for William H. Taft. The convention also endorsed Senator William B. Allison, the Allison resolution being adopted by a vote of 683 to 500. The Associated Press report of the meeting said: "The Allison people dominated the convention from its opening to its close, and had things their own way throughout. The Cummins people, although defeated in the convention, took especial delight in having, as they declared, forced

the standpatters to indorse a plank calling for a revision of the tariff and they made a point of frequently reminding the Allison people of the fact. The latter insisted, however, that there are as many revisionists in their ranks as with the Cummins men and declare that the vote in the convention today showed conclusively the relative popularity of the two men throughout the state. When the chairman of the committee on resolutions read the plank declaring that Senator Allison had served his party and his country well, a delegate from Polk, the home county of Cummins, interrupted with, 'and the railroads.' When the platform announced that the senator possessed strength for all emergency, another delegate from the same county, asked sarcastically, 'Then why don't he use it?' The Allison men were as quick to retort as the Cummins men were ready to jibe and the witty sallies that passed from one side to the other set the convention in frequent roars of laughter, irrespective of factional feeling. It was generally expected before the final session of the convention that there would be a majority and minority report on the tariff and the Cummins men had prepared to make a strong fight for the adoption of the Ohio plank. When the committee was actually settled down to work, however, it was evident that the Allison people were determined to indorse the plank themselves and the only fight that was made on the report of the committee on resolutions was against the indorsement of Senator Allison. Aside from the vote on this question and one on the report of the committee on credentials the convention was unanimous and all selections for delegates and alternates at large were made by acclamation."

ON THE TARIFF question the republican state platform adopted at Des Moines, Iowa, March 18, says: "We have faith to believe that the republican party, under the guidance of the people, will meet just public requirements in the future as in the past. We declare unequivocally for protection as the cardinal principle of the republican party and we affirm our unalterable purpose to maintain it. Events have confirmed the wisdom of makers of the national platform of 1904 wherein the party pledged 'readjustment of rates of duty only when conditions so change that the public interests demand their alteration.' In accordance with this declaration of four years ago, the republican party of Iowa endorses the declaration of the Ohio republican platform of this year in behalf of revision of the tariff by a special session of the next congress, insuring the maintenance of the true principle of protection by imposing such custom duties as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to the end that without excessive duties American manufacturers, farmers, producers and wage-earners may have adequate protection."

IN THE DISTRICT court at Caldwell, Idaho, Judge Wood imposed the death sentence on Harry Orchard, confessed murderer of former Governor Steunenburg. The Associated Press report says: "Stating that he believed that Harry Orchard, in his testimony in the trials of William D. Haywood and George A. Pettibone for the murder of ex-Governor Frank Steunenburg, told the exact truth, attempting to conceal nothing, Judge Fremont Wood, in the district court, today recommended that the state board of pardons commute Orchard's sentence of death to imprisonment in the state penitentiary. The sentence of death was pronounced in accordance with the plea of guilty entered by Orchard Tuesday of last week, when arraigned. Judge Wood presided at both the Haywood and Pettibone trials. In sentencing Orchard and recommending the commutation of his sentence, Judge Wood reviewed the case from the time of the killing of Frank Steunenburg to the present, including the arrest of Orchard, his confession, the arrest of Charles E. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners; William D. Haywood, secretary-