

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE WASHINGTON (D. C.) Post in its issue of May 5, says: "Governor John A. Johnson of Minnesota will be nominated before the Denver convention to head the democratic ticket by Representative Winfield S. Hammond of the Second congressional district of Minnesota, the man who defeated for congress former Representative James T. McCleary, one of the republican leaders during his service in the house. Hammond nominated Governor Johnson for both his terms as governor of Minnesota, and both times Johnson swept a normally republican state into the democratic column. 'Unquestionably,' he said yesterday, 'Johnson will carry a large proportion of the southern states in the convention.'"

THE FOLLOWING is an extract from an editorial that appeared recently in the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal (rep.): "It has been informally agreed among the people here that Lincoln is to be polite and non-partisan this year. When democrats from outside came to Lincoln in 1896 and again in 1900 they found the town plastered with McKinley pictures. It was so humiliating to Mr. Bryan that he preferred to go away to see the leaders of his party rather than have them come here to see him. Now a general feeling of tolerance and good nature is in the air, and when the democratic statesmen come they will be received with toleration. A part of the change will be due to business conditions, but most of it comes from the reaction from the extreme partisanship that prevailed here eight and twelve years ago."

FORMER CONGRESSMAN Perry Belmont was much pleased at the unanimous report of the publicity bill, and said: "That the officials of the New York Metropolitan Street railway would have been indicted under the legislation enacted since the last presidential election in the state of New York mainly through the persistent efforts of the New York branch of the national publicity law organization, is proved by the action yesterday of the New York grand jury in deciding to make public the evidence before them in regard to political contributions with the statement that they deserved condemnation although there was nothing to show that a crime had been committed under the law as it existed at that time. More effectively than the petition presented yesterday to congress by our organization do these developments demonstrate the responsibility that will rest upon that body should it fail to pass the bill favorably reported this morning requiring the publication of contributions and of expenditures by national and congressional campaign committees in the coming presidential election."

FORTY-FIVE Japanese newspaper men who were making a tour of the world, called upon Speaker Cannon recently. The Associated Press tells this pretty story of the meeting with "Uncle Joe": "The spokesman of the party informed the speaker of the pleasure it gave them to meet him, and referred to their itinerary which he said would carry them to London, Paris, Berlin and other European capitals. Referring to the circumstances that there were some newspapermen in the party the speaker elicited a good deal of laughter when he inquired if their practices were like those of some American journalists. 'Journalism makes the whole world kin,' one of them remarked, while another assured the speaker that they never sent anything but 'real news,' covering what actually happened. 'If that is true,' the speaker humorously remarked, 'you can settle many international questions by founding that kind of journalism in the United States and the balance in the world.' Not quite sure that he had been understood the speaker pursued his point, saying: 'I mean do you newspapermen of Nippon write things two at once that haven't happened one way at all, so that the whole business will be fresh for contradiction the next day? Tell me.' A wrinkled forehead, then a sudden lighting of the countenance on the part of the spokesman for the visitors and he said: 'I make

permission to correct for the honorable great gentleman. Japanese newspaper men study news hard so he shall be understood excellently, then write those things very intelligent, very honest, thank you.' The speaker sighed. 'I suppose,' said he, bending a kindly eye on the intense faces of his callers, 'I ought to address you all as 'boys'? This was clearly incomprehensible. The spokesman glanced around upon his brother editors. 'Pardon me,' he said. 'I politely inform the honorable sir we are not boys—in Japan.' 'I see,' hastened the speaker, 'and I will explain. In this country we speak of all good newspaper men, all real newspaper men who know their business, as 'boys,' it's a term of compliment and—sometimes—of endearment.' The explanation straightened itself out. The compliment was accepted with exquisite grace of word and bow and the newspaper men of Nippon took their polite departure."

WILLIAM D. HAYWOOD, for many years secretary-treasurer of the Western Federation of Miners and organizer of that body, has been removed from all official connection with that organization. Shortly after the Boise trial Haywood was relieved of his duties as secretary-treasurer and was succeeded by Ernest Mills. Haywood, however, continued as a member of the executive board and as an organizer. On April 25 Vice-President Mahoney gave official notice in the Miners' Magazine that Haywood had been removed from the executive board and his services as organizer in the field terminated. Since the first of the year Haywood has been putting in his entire time making socialistic addresses throughout the country. His removal from all official connection with the Western Federation of Miners is an indication of a change of policy in the management of that organization.

NOT ALL heroes receive medals, nor do all heroes have monuments erected to them. Too often the heroism of every day life goes unmentioned, and too often heroes in overalls are overlooked in our anxiety to pay tribute to heroes in military trappings. The Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette tells of a hero in overalls, but through a regrettable oversight fails to mention his name. Two men, both members of the same brotherhood, were employed under a local agent on an Arkansas railroad. When the recent financial flurry was on in full force the agent was told to discharge one of the men. One employe was unmarried, and he was entitled to the job by reason of the longest service. The other man had a wife and four small children. The agent called in the two men and explained the situation. "I must discharge one of you," he said. "All right, Bill," said the unmarried man, turning to his comrade. "It's you for the job, 'cause you've got a wife and a houseful of kids. Me to the road, 'cause I've got nobody but myself to take care of, and I can tramp it to another job." Then this hero in overalls shook hands with "Bill," drew his time and walked away, jobless and homeless, just as if he had performed the most common act in the world instead of having put into practical effect a great lesson in brotherly love and helpfulness.

SPEAKING IN the United States senate, Senator Culberson of Texas charged that the railroads intended to put into effect a general increase of freight rates and that President Roosevelt and the interstate commerce commission had approved of the plan. A Washington dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald says: "Senator Culberson laid the matter before the senate with the intimation that the move to increase rates in the circumstances had attained the character of a scandal. He said it was being charged that the president and the interstate commerce commission had agreed to a huge, wholesale installation of the anti-trust law and of the new railroad rate law. 'On February 10,' said Senator Culberson, 'I introduced a bill to give the commission power to suspend proposed advances of rates pending inquiry. The bill has been in committee ever since and there

is no sign of action. I have here newspaper articles charging that with the assent of the president and the commission rates are to be raised all over the country. Here is an account of the meeting of the Eastern Trunk Line association at its office in Liberty street, New York, yesterday, at the end of which a statement was issued that arrangements were perfected for putting advances into effect. All these articles, which I wish included in the record, intimate the consent of the president. Chairman Knapp of the interstate commerce commission is said to have said in a recent address that this proceeding would be attained. Such a series of advances, agreed on by the railroads, would be in violation of the Sherman law. One of these articles says the advances will take hundreds of millions annually out of the pockets of shippers. The Illinois Manufacturers' association and great numbers of shippers' organizations throughout the country have protested against the advances. There has been no denial of the alleged plan, either from the White House or the commission. In view of these things I invite the attention of the commission on interstate commerce to the necessity of early action in favor of the bill which I have introduced, aiming to give power to prevent such things."

M. R. HARRIMAN'S recent deal in Erie is well illustrated by a little story recently started, and which has traveled so rapidly that its authorship has been left behind. The story goes: "Is Blank a shrewd business man?" asked Jones. "That's what he is!" replied Smith. "Blank can buy a porterhouse steak, incorporate it, pay the butcher in common stock, sell the preferred stock, hypothecate the bonds, and then eat the steak." If there is any better illustration at hand of Mr. Harriman's Erie deal it has not been given to a waiting public.

IN AN ARTICLE printed in the Chicago Record-Herald relating to an interview with Judge E. H. Gary, chief of the steel trust, William E. Curtis says: "Judge Gary tells me that the United States steel corporation did a business of \$757,014,767 during the year 1907, with net earnings of \$160,964,673, compared with \$156,624,273 in 1906 and \$119,787,658 in 1905. These are stupendous figures. They are almost incomprehensible. They surpass the transactions of the government of the United States and, I believe, every other government on earth. After deducting the usual allowance for depreciation, replacement and other charges the net profits of the company were \$133,244,929, of which \$35,385,727 was paid out as dividends on the preferred and common stock. The sum of \$18,500,000 was set aside for the new plant at Gary, Ind., and \$35,500,000 for additional property, new plants, improvements, etc., elsewhere. The total production of the company in 1907 was 10,367,722 tons of finished steel, 1,733,814 tons of rails, 13,099,548 tons of ingots and 10,818,960 tons of pig iron. The pay roll of the company amounted to \$160,825,822 in 1907, which was divided among 210,180 employees. This shows an increase over 1906 of \$13,000,000 in the pay roll and 7,723 in the number of employees. The profit-sharing plan of the company was taken advantage of by 24,884 employes, who purchased an aggregate of 50,075 shares of the company's stock at a price of \$87.50 per share."

THE AMERICAN Newspaper Publishers' association in session in New York City, April 22, adopted these resolutions: "The American Newspaper Publishers' Association, comprising representatives of daily newspapers published in every section of the country and gathered in annual convention, protests against the subterfuge just designed by Speaker Cannon and Representatives Payne and Dalzell, creating a committee on paper inquiry, and thereby blocking the Stevens bill for free paper and free pulp. We charge that this device was inspired in bad faith. Since early in December, 1907, a committee of this body has been clamoring at the doors of the ways and means committee for an opportunity to show the power of illegal combinations of paper-