

CURRENT TOPICS

A WASHINGTON dispatch carried by the Associated Press follows: "Announcement was made at the White House today that President Roosevelt had signed the bill directing the restoration to gold and silver coins of the motto, 'In God We Trust,' ordered by him stricken from the gold coins some months ago, on the ground that the law did not authorize its use. The law becomes effective thirty days from May 18, but the dies with the additional words have already been prepared. In the meantime the coinage of \$20 and \$10, gold pieces minus the motto, will continue, according to Director of the Mint Leach."

THE FOLLOWING dispatch appeared in the New York World under date of Montgomery, Ala., May 15: "It's a landslide for Johnson Monday. In an experience in Alabama politics covering more than a quarter of a century, I have never seen anything like it," said Chairman A. G. Smith, of the Alabama committee for the nomination of John A. Johnson for the presidency, today. Smith bases his statement on reports received from all over the state regarding the Johnson movement. "Its growth is the most wonderful demonstration of sound sense of Alabama voters that I have ever seen," he continued. "No political movement has every before approximated it in Alabama. It is a ground-swell. The only question now is the amount of majority in the state. I am told by a great many well informed men that there is a great sentiment for Governor Johnson in Montgomery county. Our friends are so impressed and so enthusiastic over this sentiment that they are confident of carrying the county. The Johnson strength in Montgomery is acknowledged by all classes of voters. We hear exactly the same thing from every section of the state. From many quarters we get even better reports. We get hundreds of letters daily and they are uniformly of an encouraging nature. Each correspondent tells us that the Johnson sentiment in his particular community is splendid, but that he fears for other parts of the state. But everybody writes the same thing. Each man's community is in excellent shape. So we are constrained to believe from the splendid enthusiasm that the Johnson campaign is confined to no one quarter, but that it is widespread over every section of Alabama." The same view is taken by Walker Percy, one of the leading fighters for the governor. "We are sure to carry the state," said Percy. "The fight for Johnson has shown that the people are weary of Mr. Bryan and are ready to try another man." That was four days before the primaries.

A DISPATCH TO the Louisville Courier-Journal under date of Chicago, May 17, follows: "The hopes of Governor John A. Johnson, of Minnesota, for the democratic nomination for the presidency depend wholly upon the result of the state-wide primary in the state of Alabama Monday. Governor Johnson was in Chicago for two hours today, on his way home from the conference of governors at Washington. He was in thoroughly good spirits and on the presidency he made this significant remark: 'I will be back in Chicago Tuesday. By that time Alabama will be on record. Then we will know where we stand.' William Jennings Bryan and Governor Johnson were in town at the same time. Both came from Washington, but not by the same train and they did not meet en route or in Chicago. Governor Johnson met with his campaign manager, F. B. Lynch, and Orva G. Williams who is at the head of the movement to secure the support of the Illinois delegation for the Minnesota governor despite the Bryan instructions."

THE FOLLOWING is from the Sioux City (Ia.) Journal: "The result of the primary in Alabama confirms the accuracy of a recent newspaper poll indicating that the south continues solid for Bryan. The opposition to Bryan has been contending that the south is for Bryan only in the absence of any other creditable candidate. The Alabama primary gave them a chance to demonstrate this proposition. Gov-

ernor Johnson's name was placed on the primary ballot, and every democratic voter was given a chance to express preference between Bryan and Johnson. The Johnson candidacy was advocated by some prominent Alabama democrats, including Senator Johnston. There was enough campaign to awaken the electorate to the fact that a fight was on. Bryan carried the primary, three to one. In advance of the showdown in Alabama politicians said the outcome would be of large significance. If Johnson carried Alabama against Bryan it was contended there would be no further hope that Bryan could get a two-thirds majority at Denver. On the other hand, it was said, if Bryan carried Alabama it must be accepted as proof that the Nebraskan is still solid down south, and there would be little excuse for continuing the campaign against him. Under the circumstances it would seem that the Johnson boomers really staked their all on the cast of the Alabama dice and have lost it. To help along that conclusion South Carolina lined up for Bryan without argument. California, claimed by the Johnsonites as doubtful, came into camp on the same day with a delegation instructed to vote as a unit for Bryan. The score today shows that Bryan has about two-thirds of the delegates selected, while Johnson has Minnesota's twenty-two votes, and Delaware's six are instructed for Gray, who says he doesn't want them. No doubt the anti-Bryan propagandists will keep up their cheerful talk, but votes are required to make a nomination. Bryan continues to get the votes."

THE BUFFALO (N. Y.) Times says: "The returns from the democratic primaries in Alabama indicate that William J. Bryan will be supported by the state's delegation to the Denver convention. The result is important. For a long time the opponents of Mr. Bryan have been working to capture the Alabama delegation, employing all means at their command to accomplish their purpose. With Alabama against Mr. Bryan and more work of the same kind they figured that they might create a considerable anti-Bryan sentiment throughout the south, and then with Alabama leading the roll-call in the convention and continued use of their peculiar methods they might sweep the convention. The state has been overrun with agents of the interests which desire the elimination of the national leader of the democracy from the race for the nomination and the methods peculiar to them have been used to create an anti-Bryan sentiment. What they have done has gone for naught. The returns from California, Washington and Honolulu show that the states and the territory will instruct their delegates for Mr. Bryan. The Bryan sentiment is overwhelming. The opposition forces must by this time realize that they can not withstand it."

SENATOR ROBERT L. TAYLOR of Tennessee, delivering his maiden speech in the senate, talked on tariff and currency legislation. Senator Taylor drew a parallel between the solar system regulated by centripetal and centrifugal forces and the government, the federal power being the centripetal and the states' power the centrifugal force. He declared that as the confederacy was an emphasis of the force seeking disintegration, the federal power, representing the other extreme, now is endangering the rights of the state. Discussing the president he said: "The system is as surely out of balance today as it was in 1861, and what is the difference to us whether we leave our orbit and go cavorting among the stars to freeze to death on the outskirts of creation or whether we are drawn the other way to be converted into fuel for the sun? What is the difference whether we go the secession route or the centralization route? They both mean destruction of the union. I do not pretend to be a great constitutional lawyer, but if that instrument means anything it is that all power not expressly conferred upon the federal government is reserved to the states. In these imperial days when concentrated wealth is entrenched under the dome of the capitol and centralized power is enthroned in the White House, what can be expected but the gradual encroachment of the federal gov-

ernment upon the reserved rights of the states? How can the equilibrium be preserved under the reign of a big stick and a bag of gold? Are not concentrated wealth and centralized power dictating the policies of the party in power and controlling the legislation of congress? I would not reflect upon the chief executive of the nation. On the contrary I would praise him for the noble things he has done during his incumbency, chief of which was turning on the light and revealing the enormity of the crimes his party has committed. But our peerless president reached the limit when he seized all the best reform planks of all the democratic platforms of the past and planted himself squarely upon them. Was there ever a grander spectacle of coup d'etat than this in the history of American politics? The question for you on the other side of this chamber is: 'Are you going to put his reform policies in your platform at Chicago? If you are, why don't you indorse Bryan and be done with it? If you are not, you will repudiate your president.'

IN THE SAME speech Senator Taylor said: "Our financial system is the Siamese twin of the tariff system, and while the financial system is the weak brother of the pair, yet they are bound together by the cartilage of federal protection. This is an axiom of millions of ordinary mortals and 6,000 banks. The party in power sees only the six thousand. This is a nation of many millions of consumers and a few thousand corporations. This is a nation of many millions who work for their daily bread and a few hundred millionaires, but the party in power only sees the millionaires. The corporations and millionaires furnish the sinews of war for the campaign and the party in power furnishes the laws to pile up the fortunes of those who furnish the 'sinews.' In the midst of this great panic I saw the distinguished senator from Rhode Island, Mr. Aldrich, chairman of the committee on finance of the senate, stand upon the troubled waters with an emergency bill in his hand, and with a loud voice he cried to the howling storm: 'Peace be still.' But there was no peace. And the tempest-tossed crew in the golden boat walled their eyes toward Almighty Rockefeller and prayed; and they beckoned to Morgan, the king of corporation power, to throw them a life line. But the two omnipotent financiers could not leave the game on Wall Street to go into the life saving service. Have not the policies of the party in power dragged the country to awful depths when the president finds it necessary to warn both houses that the republic is in danger of being overthrown by the machinations of concentrated wealth, which is the legitimate result of republican policies? Is it not time for the country to wake when we are admonished by a republican president to put the bit in the mouth of centralized corporation power to prevent it from trampling under its hoofs all that is left of liberty and free government?"

THERE IS considerable criticism in republican circles because the national committee chose Senator Burrows to be temporary chairman of the national convention. Senator Burrows was chosen, so Walter Wellman of the Chicago Record-Herald says, by Chairman New. In a Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald Mr. Wellman says: "Why did New choose Burrows? Who put the idea in his mind? Who had prompted the young chairman of the national committee to make a selection regarded by every one as unfit as to type of man and the significance of it as to national politics? What fine Italian hand worked this blow at the administration, at the President? Why did Mr. New not take Senator Foraker and be done with it? Why choose for sounding the keynote at the end of the Roosevelt administration and upon the eve of nominating a man pledged to carry out the Roosevelt policies a senator who had never been a supporter of those policies and who had no part whatever in the really important events of the last four years? These are questions which are being asked in administration circles, and to which as yet there is no satisfactory answer. Unsuitable