



A news item in the New York World follows: "Ten thousand persons, unable to gain entrance to the church of St. Rita of Cascia, College avenue and One Hundred and Forty-fifth street last night, where a Novena is in progress, knelt in prayer on the sidewalks and roadways about the church, remaining there for hours. St. Rita is the patroness of the temporal wants, sometimes called the saint of good luck, and the Novena is held for nine days, preceding the feast of the saint."

At a New York dinner Governor Fort of New Jersey charged that the New Jersey senate was in the control of the corporations. The senate has appointed a committee requesting the governor to appear before it and he will be called to account.

Mathew D. Doss surrendered to the Chicago police claiming that two years ago he poisoned his wife at Washington, D. C. It has always been believed that she committed suicide.

An effort to wreck the Homestake mine at Lead, S. D., was frustrated.

Thomas F. Walsh the famous mine owner of Denver died at his apartments in Washington City.

Democrats of Iowa held a successful banquet at Des Moines, April 8. An Associated Press dispatch from Des Moines says: "Certain defeat for the republican party in Iowa next November is the prediction of the democratic leaders gathered in Des Moines today from every corner of the state. Tonight's annual dinner of the Jefferson memorial banquet club furnished the ostensible object of the roundup of the party leaders, but the true reason for the unusually large gathering of the faithful is found in the general desire for a party conference to discuss the early plans for the coming campaign. Chairman Price and all of the members of the state committee were in attendance. The democrats profess to regard the outlook for their success next fall as unusually bright. Their hopes are based largely on the serious dissensions in the republican ranks. Iowa is now regarded as a 'progressive' state. Her senators took the lead in the tariff fight, and were backed by insurgent congressmen from several districts. It has been practically settled that an effort will be made to elect insurgent republicans in congressional districts represented by standpatters. But whether a fight shall be made on governor and other state officers has not been definitely determined. It is believed by many progressives that they should keep hands off state offices. Perhaps just as many insist that a campaign should be made to oust Governor Carroll, who, it is conceded, will be a candidate for re-nomination before the June primaries. Leading democrats are of the opinion that if the factional warfare of the republicans extends to the state offices a democratic victory is certain to result. The democratic ticket will be named at the state convention to be held in Ottumwa the last week of July. The republican convention is to meet in Des Moines one week later. At the democratic banquet here tonight Governor Shallenberger of Nebraska was the principal speaker. If the democrats who met here in conference today have their way about it, their state ticket

will include Judge Martin J. Wade of Iowa City for governor and Senator E. G. Moon of Ottumwa for lieutenant governor. Early this evening at a conference of many of the most prominent members of the general conference of yesterday it was decided that Wade and Moon should be urged to make the race in the interests of the democratic party of the state. Difficulty was anticipated in including Judge Wade to make the race, as he has steadfastly declined to enter politics for office since his retirement from congress. S. H. Bashor of Waterloo already has filed his nomination papers, doing it on the eve of the conference."

A San Juan, Porto Rico, dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "William J. Bryan, who is touring the island, took occasion today to deny certain reports which have reached him as to his intentions on returning to the United States. He smilingly declined to say what he would do, but declared himself on some of the things he would not do. He said he would not start a prohibition paper, and he would not be a candidate for the senate. The change in the rules committee of the house of representatives, he added, 'pleases me.' Mr. Bryan will be a passenger on the steamer Caracas, which sails for New York April 13. He has been greeted by large crowds at the various towns in Porto Rico, through which he has passed. Last evening he delivered a lecture at the municipal theatre here, the proceeds of which will go to charity."

On April 8 at 2 o'clock in the morning two masked bandits attempted to hold up the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad "Pioneer Limited" train from Chicago to St. Paul. An Associated Press dispatch says: "The men boarded the train at New Lisbon, Wis., getting in by way of the forward vestibule of the front sleeper, which had been left open when the conductor took his orders to the engineer. The men passed through the front sleeper into the rear vestibule of the car, locking both doors of the vestibule. When Conductor Shumway passed through the train he was stopped by the locked vestibule door. Unlocking the door he was instantly confronted by revolvers held by two masked figures. Conductor Shumway leaped at the larger of the bandits. A tussle followed in which the railroad man was overpowered. One robber then reached down under the steps and cut the air connection, stopping the train. The men then jumped off and fled. The men escaped into the swamps. Sleeping Car Conductor Mills was in the third sleeper when Porters J. H. Matthews and William J. Johnson dashed in saying the train was being held up. Conductor Shumway was grappling with one of the men in the sleeper Ontanagon. Porter Johnson obtained a revolver and fired twice after the men."

Sixteen officials of the window glass trust were indicted at Pittsburgh.

An Associated Press dispatch from Philadelphia says: "Capital punishment for dealers in cocaine was advocated tonight by Dr. Henry Beates, Jr., president of the Pennsylvania state board of medical examiners in an address before the American society for the study of alcohol and other drug narcotics. 'To kill a man

and allow him to live is worse than murder,' he said. 'This is what cocaine does because the victim of the drug continues to live and exert an influence that is immoral, depraved and criminal.'"

The republicans of the Thirty-second New York district have nominated George W. Aldridge, a republican boss as a candidate for congress to succeed the late James B. Perkins. The democrats have nominated James Havens, a lawyer, and they expect to elect him.

Wharton Barker of Philadelphia proposes to organize a new party.

Robert W. Patterson, editor-in-chief of the Chicago Tribune, and his mother, Mrs. Julia A. Patterson, died on the same day recently and a joint funeral was held at the Patterson residence in Chicago.

LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

William C. Archer of Athens, O., writing to the Ohio Journal of Commerce, says:

Permit me to suggest a plan of procedure in the conduct of legislative business which, I think, is an improvement upon the present method.

There should be at least three sessions of the legislature with recesses of not less than six months. At the first session let all bills be introduced. Allow time for explanation and discussion. Then an adjournment for six months should follow. During this time the voters of the state may become acquainted with proposed legislation and each legislator can have time to consult with his constituency. At the second session allow the introduction of amendments with opportunity for their explanation and discussion. The discussion at this session may cover the terms of the entire bill. Then another six months adjournment.

At the last session allow further discussion but no further amendment of any measure. Then should come the vote.

By this plan the best features of the initiative and referendum would be applied to legislation, there would be ample time for members to study the bills and time for the people to register their opinions of the proposed laws. Then, too, would the haste and skulduggery of the closing days be avoided.

My plan would not only limit the introduction of bills to the first session but it would also limit the number of bills to be introduced to one for every member. This would prevent the torrent of freak bills, silly bills, requested bills, foolish bills that fill the hoppers under the present methods. If some energetic member had more than one important measure to propose he could doubtless persuade a colleague to father it.

Think how preposterous it is for millions of citizens, as in Ohio for instance, living in peace and order, having enacted anew every two years a large book of additional regulations for their civil conduct. Why, even the senators and representatives themselves are surprised beyond measure when they finally get home and read up what they have done.

Many think the meeting of the legislature a biennial calamity. This plan would make it a more efficient body of lawmakers.

A PUZZLE

An Irishman visited a tuberculosis exhibit, where lungs in both healthy and deceased conditions were displayed preserved in glass jars. After carefully studying one marked "cured tuberculosis lung," he turned to the physician and said:

"Perhaps it's because Ol'm Irish, but if ye cured th' patient, how could ye have his lung in a bottle?"—Lippincott's.



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