

rope. It is nothing less than an amalgamation of all the valuable metal mines of America, and the man who is to consummate this stupendous transaction is John D. Rockefeller. Men who have some knowledge of the work going on in furtherance of the plan say the new corporation will have a par capital of \$2,500,000,000. It is expected to control absolutely the mineral output of the United States except, possibly, that of the Calumet and Hecla copper mine of Michigan.

The same dispatches allude to Standard Oil interests as controlling 70 per cent. of the producing gold, silver and lead mines of the middle Rocky mountain district. Dennis Ryan, of St. Paul, said to be one of the best known mining men in the Northwest, is quoted in those dispatches as saying with reference to Mr. Rockefeller and his plan for this great combination:

I don't know very much about it, except when he gets the thing in working shape and springs it on the public it will take people's breath away. When he discloses what he controls in the way of mines that are producing real ore he will make the mining speculators of the world wonder whether they have been awake or asleep for the last ten years.

Democratic conventions (p. 157) have been held this week in the States of Utah, Virginia, Arkansas and Mississippi. The Utah and Virginia conventions, meeting on the 10th, did not instruct, the latter refusing instructions asked for in behalf of Parker. At the Arkansas convention, which met on the 15th, instructions were ordered for Parker by a vote of 258½ for Parker to 182½ for Hearst. In Mississippi, also, and on the same day, instructions were ordered for Parker.

The most important Democratic convention was that of Illinois, which met at Springfield on the 14th. There were three strong factions here, which converged and diverged in a puzzling manner. They may be loosely described as the "reorganizer" and corporation or Hopkins faction, the Mayor Harrison faction, and the Hearst faction. Some of the Hearst delegates had been elected by means of local combinations with Hopkins at the primaries, while others had been elected in opposition to Hopkins. The outgoing State committee, which

had authority to pass primarily on delegates' credentials and to name the temporary officers of the convention, was under the control of Hopkins, who used this power to dominate the convention. His first act was to admit contesting delegations regardless of the merits of contests. He then chose the temporary chairman and refused to allow a roll call. By such means the permanent organization was arbitrarily secured, the temporary officers being made permanent by the declaration of the temporary chairman without a roll call. Harrison's faction was turned out almost bodily, and Hearst, although he had an overwhelming majority, barely escaped the loss of binding instructions for himself as the State's choice for Presidential candidate. For some reason the chairman allowed a roll call on this question, and Hearst won by 936 to 395. Following are the instructions as they passed:

Believing William Randolph Hearst, as President of the United States, would not make terms with monopolies or criminal trusts of any kind, however rich or powerful they may be, that transgress the fundamental doctrine of equal rights for all and special privileges for none; and recognizing him to be the champion of the commercial, laboring, and producing classes as against the oppression of aggregated wealth in the hands of the unscrupulous; and furthermore believing the principles of true democracy as advocated by him are in accordance with and prolong the lines of principles as advocated by Jefferson and Jackson, we instruct our delegates to the Democratic national convention at St. Louis, July 6, 1904, to vote for William R. Hearst as long as his name is before the convention as the candidate of the Democratic party for president.

These instructions, as originally presented, would have required the national delegates to vote for Hearst "as the candidate of the Democratic party for the Presidency and to use all honorable methods to secure his nomination." But Hearst's supporters were not satisfied, and successfully insisted upon changing this clause to the words of the final clause of the resolution as adopted. All other questions were peremptorily decided without a roll call vote by the chairman's gavel; and notwithstanding his victory as to instructions, Mr.

Hearst was able to get only one Hearst supporter upon the delegation at large. This was one of his editors, Andrew M. Lawrence. His political manager in the State, M. F. Dunlap, a leading Democrat of the State, was kept off the delegation. The other delegates at large are John P. Hopkins, Ben T. Cable and Samuel Alschuler, none of whom are Hearst men.

Owing to the arbitrary manner in which the convention had been managed, two of the three leading candidates for governor refused to allow their names to go before it. One of these was William Prentiss, of Chicago. In withdrawing Mr. Prentiss said:

An arbitrary State committee has ruthlessly unseated a large number of representatives of the Democrats of Illinois fairly chosen. They have been deprived of speech in this convention, and others are occupying their seats, although without right or title. This convention, therefore, does not represent the Democracy of Illinois. Even the delegates who are seated are not permitted to vote on questions before the house. A man is in the chair who would not have been chosen if Democratic representatives had been given a voice. The delegates to a noble convention have been silenced by the gavel of one man. As a Democrat who loves his country, as a Democrat who believes in the principle that the people shall rule, I could not go before the people with the gavel stamp. If Democrats were allowed to speak, this procedure could not be tolerated. The people will not place in the gubernatorial chair one who comes forth the product of the gavel of one man. As a man who loves his country I cannot allow my name to be gavelled through or gavelled down. I've a record to conserve, and I decline to have my name presented to this convention.

The second candidate, Mayor Crolius, of Joliet, followed Mr. Prentiss, saying:

I arise to second every utterance, every sentence, every syllable, uttered by Judge Prentiss. The success of Democracy demands that law be obeyed. When men who try gavel rule and gag law have learned this lesson, then, and not till then, will the dreams of Jefferson and his peers among the party leaders be realized. I would not go home to my family with a nomination that had the stain of dishonor about it. I could not go back to the people who have honored me with their indorsement with a

nomination that was simply knocked out by a chairman's gavel.

Both declarations were received with a tremendous outburst of approval by the delegates, and it was soon after this demonstration that the chairman first allowed a roll call, that on amending the instructions for Hearst. Lawrence B. Stringer was nominated for governor.

It was announced on the 10th from Omaha that William J. Bryan has declined the offer to make him chairman of the Nebraska delegation at the St. Louis convention. But he has expressed a desire to represent Nebraska on the committee on resolutions, and it is understood that his selection for that place will be made.

Mr. Bryan is to be the principal speaker in New York on the 20th at a convention of Democrats called to oppose the nomination of Parker. Another prominent speaker before this convention will be Frederick W. Hinrichs, who was the Palmer-Buckner candidate for governor in 1896, and the Citizens' Union and Republican fusion candidate for comptroller at the recent municipal election. The convention at which Mr. Bryan and Mr. Hinrichs are to speak was originally called for the 18th, but to accommodate Mr. Bryan's engagements has been postponed to the 20th. The call for it, largely and representatively signed, makes the following explanation of its purpose:

The Albany convention was a disappointment. The platform is meaningless. The section of the State which furnishes Democratic majorities is misrepresented despite the protest of its delegates. The convention adopted an ambiguous platform and pledged the Democracy of the State to a candidate whose political views can be surmised only from the character of his sponsors. The majority of the convention registered the will of a leader who has been repudiated by the people. We warn the national Democracy that a candidate who has no principles, or does not declare them, and stands on a platform of platitudes, cannot carry the State of New York and does not deserve success. The good of the nation and common honesty require that the national Democratic platform shall express the purpose of the party clearly, and so define its policy with reference to present

issues that it cannot be misunderstood. We hereby call a convention of the Democrats of the State to protest against the action of the Albany convention and to appoint a delegation to present the views of the meeting to the national convention in St. Louis, July 6, 1904. Our purpose is solely to protest against the action of the Albany convention. The meeting shall have no authority, and is not designed to promote the interest of any candidate.

In preparation for their national convention on the 21st, Republicans are already beginning to gather at Chicago.

News from the Russo-Japanese war (p. 158) is still untrustworthy. Although there is much gossip about a long drawn out battle in the region of Port Arthur, nothing authoritative is yet at hand.

NEWS NOTES.

—The annual meeting of Christian Scientists at Boston began on the 12th.

—Jose Pardo was elected President of Peru on the 12th.

—Manuel Quintana was elected President of the Argentine Republic on the 12th.

—Abner McKinley, brother of the late President McKinley, died suddenly on the 11th at his summer home at Somerset, Pa.

—Delegates, representing every State in the Union, were present on the 15th at the convention of the National Association of Credit Men.

—Attorney General Knox was appointed on the 9th by the Governor of Pennsylvania to fill the senatorial vacancy caused by the death of Senator Quay.

—It is announced from London, though unofficially, that Earl Grey, lord lieutenant of Northumberland, has been appointed to succeed the Earl of Minto as governor general of Canada, whose term expires in October.

—The thirty-first annual meeting of the national conference of charities and correction was opened at Portland, Me., on the 15th. The annual address of President Jaffrey Brackett, of Boston, was a plea for a wider recognition of the professional worker in the field of charity.

—The strike on the great lakes (p. 72) came to an end on the 14th after lasting six weeks. It was brought about by the surrender of the masters, who, with the pilots, have been holding out for a more uniform scale of wages for this season than had been offered them by the boat owners.

—The Delaware Tax Reform and Eco-

nomie League, an educational organization to awaken public interest in the discussion of the initiative and referendum, the municipalization of public utilities, the abolition of the tariff, and the adoption of the single tax, was organized at Wilmington on the 3rd with Francis I. Dupont, the powder manufacturer, as president.

—In the burning on the 15th of an excursion steamer, the "General Slocum," while passing through Hell Gate, East river, New York, from 800 to 1,200 persons, mostly women and small children, are reported to have been burned or drowned. The steamer carried 1,400 excursionists of the St. Mark's German Lutheran Church of New York city, of which the Rev. Geo. C. F. Haas is pastor.

—The International Women's Congress called by the League of German Women's societies began at Berlin on the 13th. There was a large attendance of women from all the continental countries, the United States and Australia. Frau Marie Stritt, of Dresden, president of the German league, opened the congress with an address, to which the Countess of Aberdeen, president of the International Council of Women, responded. At the reception at the palace on the 14th Susan B. Anthony was described by the Empress as "my special guest on this occasion."

PRESS OPINIONS.

THE COLORADO CRIME.

Chicago Chronicle (Con. Dem.), June 14.—General Bell has done all things well and the only pity is that he does not live in Chicago.

Dubuque Telegraph Herald (Dem.), June 14.—Who are the anarchists in Colorado, and who the greater menace to society—the striking miners or the corrupting corporations?

Nashville Daily News (Dem.), June 12.—The mob spirit animates the military now ruling Cripple Creek as truly as it did the striking miners. The whole situation in the Cripple Creek district is most unpleasant for Americans to contemplate, and the outlook is most discouraging.

Akron (O.) Times-Democrat (Dem.), June 11.—The issue in the Colorado mountains is not the cause alone of a few miners—however pitiable their condition. It is the cause of human liberty, of representative government, of the reign of law, of the sovereignty of the people, of the omnipotence of the ballot.

Durango (Col.) Wage-Earner (lab.), June 9.—The remedy lies in the use of the ballot. . . . By an intelligent use of the ballot relegate Peabody to the obscurity from which he emerged and to the contempt he deserves. Then by the ballot elect men to the next General Assembly who will by wise legislation change the law which makes it possible for a Colorado governor to degenerate into a despicable military despot.

Buffalo Courier (Dem.), June 13.—Not one word of sympathy with or apology for any miner who has engaged in violence will be said by any decent citizen; but no such citizen should for a moment countenance the wrongful acts of the mine owners and those in conspiracy with them. Had the State government been disposed to act with an eye single to duty, enforcing law with strict impartiality, order might have been established ere now and a shameful situation averted.

Chicago Evening Post (Rep.), June 10.—Is the lawlessness of the union miners or