

church; on that road where prisoners of war were shot and tortured will run a trolley line; in yonder wood where boys of ten were hunted down will spring up a schoolhouse; and on the site of many a ruined village tenement houses with accommodation for a score of families each, and factories where the children can be employed, will supplant the primitive cabins that the hand of war in blessing smote.

There is, however, one thing lacking to the Outlook's thesis. It should follow up its brilliant analogy between the tearing down of a building and the conquest of a nation by insisting that military methods be applied to the reconstruction of our cities. At present this process of rebuilding is a very slow and expensive one. Before a structure can be destroyed its owner must consent and be compensated for his property. This absurd provision of our laws simply paralyzes all well-considered and far-reaching improvement. How easily it could be altered!

Let there be organized in every city an army of house wreckers of whom the mayor shall be commander-in-chief. Let war be declared on all mean and shabby buildings, and let all owners and occupiers of such buildings be called upon in the name of civilization and Christianity to surrender and turn their domiciles over to the army for destruction. There would be resistance at first, but well drilled regiments and Gatling guns would make short work of it. Those who defended their dwellings would be shot down or dynamited up. Their personal possessions would be seized to help defray the cost of the army. Prisoners would be compelled to aid in the work of demolition. Women and children, if they escaped the bombardment, would be sent to the charitable institutions of the city.

Following this destructive army, just as in the case of national conquest, would come another one—an army of construction. Captains of industry, to whom the confiscated sites would be apportioned freely, would rear fine structures on every street, and from every quarter of the town the capable and energetic would

pour in to occupy them. In a few months' time whole slums could be wiped out, old fashioned architecture everywhere be forced to give place to new, and a city such as artists and poets have dreamed of rise on the ruins of a backward and chaotic town.

What an opening for deeds of municipal heroism! Imagine, for instance, a company of rough-riding house wreckers charging up the stoop of a resisting dwelling, at their head a future mayor, waving a strenuous arm above his head as he shouts, "Give them hell, boys!" or adding to the glorious carnage by planting "bullets with unerring aim in the backs of fleeing inmates. And think of the triumphant consummation when, the battle a thing of the past and a marble structure lifting a proud front where weather-beaten boards had affronted the eye, bishops and religious editors dedicate the building to civilization and unveil tablets to those of the assaulting army who fell that it might rise.

To be sure, effeminate and impracticable souls might grieve over those who had fallen in defense of their roof-trees and their household gods or become homeless wanderers in the city's outskirts. But a businesslike and unsentimental administration would entertain no such weakling's sorrow. The dead insurgents could bury their dead; and as to the living vagrants, those who would surrender unconditionally could receive employment as servants in the new buildings. The others—wilful ladrones—would be treated with the severity that would be their due. W.

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, July 30.

The political reform conference called by J. A. Edgerton, secretary of the national committee of the Peoples party (p. 232), met at Denver on the 27th and remained in session two days. Mr. Edgerton was made permanent chairman, and W. N. Allen of Nebraska, a former United States senator from that state, is reported to have delivered the key note speech. The first important business done was the selection of a committee to

undertake the work of organizing into a new party the various reform elements of the country. This committee was composed of Senator Allen, J. S. Felter, J. M. Mallett, Dr. R. H. Reemelin, A. Poynter, and Frank W. Owens. It recommended an address which, as reported by the Associated Press, is as follows:

The manifest unrest which everywhere appears in the nation demonstrates the dissatisfaction of the American people with the present management of government, and argues the necessity of the reform forces coming together in united action at the ballot box to obtain proper legislation whereby the right of the people to self-government may be had for themselves and their posterity. Therefore we, the Populists of the United States, having this day at the city of Denver united forces with the distinct understanding that all past differences as to policy shall be and now are permanently settled, and experience having demonstrated the futility of any attempt to secure the enactment of our truth either through the Republican or the Democratic party, we believe the time is now at hand when the United People's party should declare itself emphatically opposed to any affiliation with either of these parties and unqualifiedly in favor of national political action. Our fundamental principles are known to all Populists, and are nowhere better stated than in that immortal document enunciated at Omaha, July 4, 1892. However, for the benefit of the uninformed, we declare our unyielding adherence to the demand for (a) a money, whether stamped on gold, silver or paper, to be coined and issued exclusively by the government and made a full legal tender for all debts, both public and private; (b) a system of transportation and the transmission of intelligence owned by the public and operated by the government at the cost of service; (c) land for use rather than for speculation, and abolition of alien ownership of land; (d) American ships for American foreign commerce, without a cent of subsidy. And as an open door for all economic reforms we urge the rule of the people through the optional referendum and initiative and the recall of derelict officials. Confident in the justice of the principles here set forth, firmly confident that their triumph in government would be for the best interests of the people, we call upon the patriotic citizens of this country to join with us in bringing about their enactment into law. With these principles firmly established, equal justice would prevail, special privileges would be eliminated, and ours would be, as patriots everywhere desire, a government of the people, for the people, by the people.

This address was adopted by the conference, and approved by the party to

committees of both factions of the People's party (p. 232) in session at the same time and place.

Another political event of importance is the public exposure, by Congressman Robert Baker, of Brooklyn, N. Y., of the methods of the officials of one of the great railroads in bribing Congressmen with railway passes. The annual pass which was proffered Mr. Baker he refused to receive. The correspondence appeared in some of the newspapers this week; it was suppressed by others.

Following is the text of the letter to Congressman Baker from the railroad company's lawyer:

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company. George E. Hamilton, Division Counsel, Century Building, Washington, D. C., July 21, 1903.—Hon. Robert H. Baker, Brooklyn, N. Y.—Dear Sir: Heretofore, under the regulations of the company, annual passes have not been issued to members-elect until the Congress to which they were elected had convened. I am glad to inform you that this regulation has been modified, and from now on annuals will be sent to members residing in company's territory the first day of July following their election. I am accordingly pleased to forward to you under this cover a card of travel good for 1903. Yours very truly, George E. Hamilton, Division Counsel.

To that communication Congressmen Baker made the following reply, returning the pass:

544 Carlton Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., July 28, 1903.—George E. Hamilton, Esq., Division Counsel Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, Century Building, Washington, D. C.—Dear Sir: On my return to the city I find yours of the 21st inst. inclosing an annual pass and announcing officially the policy of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company in supplying passes to members of Congress. In returning the pass sent me I desire to say that I am unable to understand on what grounds a pass is tendered, if it be not with the expectation that its use will influence me so to act in my official capacity as to conserve what your company regards as its "rights," regardless of the rights of the people, or even to aid in securing for the company further privileges. There is, I am aware, another possible construction to be put upon this tender of a pass, and that is that if a pass be not given, then, in my official acts in matters affecting the B. and O. R. R. Co. the company assumes that I will be guided, not by a determination to deal justly both with the American people and your company, but will act to harass and annoy, if not

to cause it pecuniary loss. I am no more disposed to accept this as an excuse for the company's action than to believe that it assumed that the pass would induce me to look with a lenient eye on legislation designed to confer extensions of its existing privileges. Either view would constitute a reflection on the integrity of my actions, which I reject. As the language of your letter unmistakably implies not only that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has presented passes to members of previous Congresses "residing in company's territory," but that the pass sent me is simply one of many tendered to members of the Fifty-eighth Congress, and as the language used precludes the possibility of your action being regarded as being personal to myself alone, I regard it as a duty to give the widest publicity to the matter, and shall therefore send a copy of this and of your letter to the press, feeling that my constituents are entitled to know that a great railroad corporation has in effect openly—certainly without concealment or evasion—done that which if not resented would lay my actions in all matters affecting railroad legislation open to the suspicion of having been corruptly influenced. In view of your language, "under the regulations of the company \* \* \* this regulation has been modified, and from now on annuals will be sent," etc., I conclude that a number of its high officials, presumably its board of directors, have directed that these passes be sent to members of Congress. As it must be assumed that these officials are acting for what they regard as the interests of the stockholders, and as, so far as I am aware, no report of the company has ever disclosed the approximate cost to the company in thus furnishing free transportation to members of Congress, both the stockholders and the public generally—who in the last analysis pay for these free rides in higher rates—are entitled to know that so great a temptation is being put before the people's representatives. It is frequently asserted that railroad and other "special privilege" corporations are forced to comply with demands from legislators for these and other pecuniary favors, and that were it not for such blackmail—as the companies term it—the companies would not bribe officials. In view of this official action of your company in tendering through you these passes without solicitation and apparently—judging from your language—on a wholesale scale, else why are "regulations" "modified," those who have heretofore regarded your company as possibly a victim will probably now reverse their opinion and regard it as an instigator of official misconduct. Yours respectfully, Robert Baker.

Another outbreak of anti-Negro lawlessness has occurred in Illinois, this time at Danville, the county town of Vermilion county, about 125 miles south of Chicago. As reported, the

outbreak resulted from the attempt of about 600 white men on the 25th to organize a mob to lynch a Negro named James Wilson, who is confined in the county jail upon a charge of assault upon the wife of a white farmer. The news of the proposed lynching leaked out, and a crowd of Negroes gathered to prevent it. One of the latter crowd was J. D. Mayfield, a Negro from Evansville, Ind., where a Negro lynching had recently been attempted and mob assaults upon Negro residents made. Mayfield was among the Negroes who denounced the purpose of the Danville mob; and upon being attacked by some of them he drew a pistol and fired. His bullet killed Henry Gatterman, a young butcher. The white mob thereupon rushed upon Mayfield, severely beating three other Negroes who tried to protect him; but the police appeared and arresting Mayfield took him to the station. The mob followed, and meeting no resistance, the mayor having advised the police not to shoot, secured Mayfield and killed him, after which they mutilated and burned his body. Then the mob attacked the county jail, intending to lynch the Negro prisoner there. In this they were frustrated by the sheriff, who pleaded with them, then threatened them, then had shots fired over their heads, and finally had them fired into; wounding 22 persons. After midnight of the 25th the mob thinned out, and on the 26th the town was patrolled by the militia, a detachment of which is still there. Steps are being taken by the authorities to prosecute the rioters. Several have been arrested and a special session of the grand jury has been called.

Excitement in Wall street has somewhat subsided since last week's report (p. 250), although it rose to a high pitch in the meantime. On the 23d the price of copper trust stock fell nearly 6 points, from 45½ to 40, carrying the general market down with it; and on the 24th two large brokerage firms failed. One of these bankrupted firms was Talbot J. Taylor & Co., with which the name of James R. Keene, the notorious market manipulator, is connected. The other was W. L. Stow & Co. The street was alive on the 25th, Saturday, with disquieting rumors of further failures likely to be announced on the following Monday, the 27th. When Monday came the failure of E. S. Hooley & Co was reported, but