

announcements of some of the trust managers, after the stock had dropped, that the plants would be set going again in the course of a couple of weeks; and also from the fact that after a shut-down lasting three days the mills at Braddock, Pa., and De Kalb, Ill., were on the 18th again opened for work.

Evidences of the approaching presidential campaign are thickening. Four conventions were held in Oregon last week at which delegates to national conventions were chosen. The Oregon republicans met on the 12th, and besides nominating national delegates and a state ticket, including presidential electors, approved the recent currency legislation of congress, declared for the gold standard, and commended the course of the administration in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. The democrats and the populists met on the same day in separate conventions and on the following day, the 13th, named a fusion ticket. Both conventions endorsed Bryan for president, but the populist electors on the fusion ticket were instructed to vote for a populist for vice president and for no other democrat than Bryan for president. The fusion platform reaffirms the Chicago platform and demands the election of federal senators by popular vote and the adoption of the initiative and the referendum. On the 13th also, the middle-of-the-road populists of Oregon elected delegates to the convention at Cincinnati. In Iowa the populists met on the 17th and endorsed Bryan, condemned imperialism, sympathized with the Boers, endorsed the initiative and the referendum and the principle of electing federal senators by popular vote, denounced trusts, the new currency law and the Puerto Rican tariff, and chose delegates to the Sioux Falls national convention, with Gen. James B. Weaver at the head of the list. On the same day the New York republicans met at New York city. The convention was harmonious. Delegates were chosen to represent the party at the Philadelphia convention, and the platform endorsed the McKinley administration. Efforts were made to commit the party on the question of the vice-presidency—Roosevelt or Woodruff—but they were suppressed.

Notable among the political speeches of the week was one by ex-Gov. Altgeld, who was the principal speaker at the banquet of the Albany

(N. Y.) Bimetallic League. His subject was "What Would Jefferson Do?" The especially significant part of the speech with reference to presidential politics was that in which he said:

This campaign is going to be a campaign of mighty questions and not of candidates. Those men who imagine that if they could by hook or crook, by trick or trade, nominate some hero in the national democratic convention, that then, with the aid of money, they could carry the country, had better be disillusioned, for they could not carry six states in this union. What is it that gives Mr. Bryan such a hold on the democracy of America as no man has had since the days of Jackson? It is his principles and his earnestness. There is no hero worship about it. They favor the principles he advocates and have absolute confidence in his honesty and courage. He is an idol, not a hero. People love him because they believe he sympathizes with them. I hear some good man say, Why could not Bryan consent to modify some features of the Chicago platform so that we could all unite, and then we could win? The moment Mr. Bryan consents to modify the Chicago platform in any particular that moment he is destroyed. He would at once sink to the level of the ordinary politician who was trimming his sails to catch votes. He would at once cease to be the idol of the democratic heart. Now you respect him for his sincerity—then you would despise him for his weakness.

The religious world as well as the political is apparently about to be deeply stirred. The center of the disturbance is the Presbyterian church. Not long ago, the Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, of Plymouth church, Brooklyn, who, though a Congregational pastor, was a member of the Chicago presbytery, publicly renounced the doctrine of predestination as outlined in the Presbyterian confession of faith. This led to complaint against him in the presbytery, whereupon he renounced the authority of the presbytery. For the latter act and not the former the presbytery erased his name. This might have ended the matter. But the presbytery took advantage of the opportunity to adopt an overture to the general assembly of the church looking to a revision of the confession of faith in the particulars to which Dr. Hillis had objected. The action in this respect of the Chicago presbytery was more than seconded by the Rev. C. H. Parkhurst, of the Madison Square Presbyterian church, New York. In his Easter

sermon Dr. Parkhurst declared among other things that—

If we are thorough Presbyterians and believe what our own doctrinal prospectus advertises us as believing we believe it probable that some of the children in your homes, little children, perhaps the babe of your bosom is damned, already damned before it was born, damned from everlasting to everlasting—and then you are invited to come into the church and say "Our Father." Why, any man who should become a father for the sake of the joy and the 'glory' he would use in burning and racking his own offspring, deliberately creating a child with a view to the agony into which he was going to torture it, would be chased from the earth as a fiend and an ebullition from hell. It does not meet the case to say that it is only in the "book" and nobody preaches it. It is true that nobody preaches it, and equally true, I doubt not, that nobody believes it. Nevertheless, it is printed on the flag beneath which the Presbyterian army is marching and it hurts us as a denomination. Men are staying out because it is there and men are going out because it is there.

Rev. Dr. S. P. Sprecker, of Cleveland, one of the ministerial delegates from that city to the next Presbyterian general assembly, has also publicly ranged himself with the Presbyterians who wish to have the confession of faith revised; and on the 18th the presbyteries of Milwaukee, Wis.; Elmira, N. Y., and Northumberland, Pa., unanimously petitioned the general assembly to the same effect.

NEWS NOTES.

—Holger Drachmann, the celebrated Danish lyric poet and dramatist, arrived in Chicago on the 16th for a two weeks' visit.

—The Trans-Mississippi congress for the promotion of trade opened its eleventh annual session on the 13th at Houston, Tex.

—Charles H. Allen, assistant secretary of the navy, was appointed by President McKinley on the 12th as the first American civil governor of Porto Rico.

—Gold has been discovered in paying quantities in the province of Vigan, Luzon, by an American miner, William Odun, who states that Luzon will some day yield as much gold as South Africa.

—Resolutions urging congress to abolish the war revenue tax were adopted by the Illinois Manufacturers' association on the 12th and a committee appointed to go to Washington to bring the same to the attention of both houses of congress.