

if the butchers' strike were not promptly settled.

Whether inspired by the packing house strike or by another cause, an investigation of the beef trust was reported from Washington on the 18th to have been set on foot under specific orders from President Roosevelt. The object is said to be to ascertain whether the trust has been violating the injunction by the Circuit court restraining the packers from combining to fix the price of live stock.

The President's official interest in the Colorado affair (p. 217) has been excited, so it was reported from his summer home at Oyster Bay on the 19th, by a visit from a committee representing a convention of the United Mine Workers of Pennsylvania. Through a misunderstanding this committee had been unable to get access to the President a few days before, but on the 19th they were accorded an interview at which they explained to him the denial to Colorado miners of the rights of American citizenship and presented a petition. After reading the petition the President told the committee that he was doing all he could to learn the exact situation in Colorado with a view to seeing what remedies might be applied.

Other labor organizations are giving attention to the Colorado question, the most important action being that of the miners in central Illinois. According to news dispatches of the 18th from Springfield a mass meeting was held there on the 18th, composed of representatives of every miners' local union in the Springfield district, for the purpose of protesting against the course of Gov. Peabody, of Colorado. A resolution was adopted and sent to President Roosevelt which demands that the President at once intercede and see that citizens of Colorado are restored to their homes and rights. The resolution further demands that the President institute a searching investigation to the end that all law breakers in Colorado may be brought to a speedy trial and punished, without regard to whether they are members of the Citizens' alliance, officials of the State act-

ing under the Governor, or union men.

President Roosevelt is reported from Oyster Bay as busily engaged in the preparation of his letter of acceptance as the Republican candidate for President (p. 204). Reports from Esopus state that Judge Parker has begun the preparation of his letter of acceptance as the Democratic candidate (p. 233). There appear to be difficulties in securing a chairman of the national committee. It is reported that Judge Parker, wants Senator Gorman, and that Gorman refuses to serve.

Among the reported changes in party affiliation consequent upon the nomination of Judge Parker is that of Oscar S. Straus, minister to Turkey under President Cleveland, 1887-89, and under President McKinley, 1897-1900, and who describes himself as "a Cleveland Democrat." Mr. Straus announced on the 19th his intention to support Roosevelt on the ground that the Democratic platform is such as to justify Mr. Bryan in claiming a victory. On the other hand J. H. Timberlake, Democratic candidate for Congress in the 16th district of Ohio, has declined that nomination because he intends to oppose the Democratic national ticket on the ground that Parker is a candidate of the trusts. Ex-President Cleveland and the New York Herald have "come out" for Parker.

Mr. Bryan lectured at the Joliet (Ill.) Chautauqua on the 19th, his subject being "The Value of an Ideal." He described ideals as in almost any human relation marking the difference between life and death. In their relation to politics he said: "A party ideal is to make your platform say what you mean and be honest with the people;" and in this connection he referred to the money question, declaring his belief in the voice of the people and saying: "If they want the gold standard they have a right to have it, and I don't like to see the financiers interfere with this right."

The Democratic convention of Missouri met at Jefferson City on the 19th. Folk was from the first the absolutely dominant force in

the convention. There was virtually no opposition to his own nomination for Governor; but the political machine, backed by railroad lobbyists, were hard at work trying to force upon the ticket Samuel B. Cook for secretary of state and Albert O. Allen for auditor, two positions which control the entire taxing machinery of the State. Owing to contests the convention did not become permanently organized until late on the 20th.

News from the seat of the Russian-Japanese war (p. 236) continues to be untrustworthy except in the instance of the battle of Motien pass, which occurred on the 17th. This mountain pass, southeast of Liaoyang and northeast of Haiching, is held by the Japanese. It is in the line of their enveloping movement which extends in the segment of a circle eastward and northward from a point near Yinkow on the Liaotung gulf, and menaces the Russian position from Yinkow to Mukden. Under cover of a heavy fog the Russians crept close to the Japanese position at Motien pass early in the morning of the 17th, and as the fog lifted they attacked. Twenty-one battalions of Gen. Keller's troops were thrown against the Japanese under Gen. Kuroki, with a Russian loss of 2,000 men, but without effect. Although the situation at this point on the Japanese line remains unchanged, it is evident that a powerful Japanese army is massed at Motien pass, and that Liaoyang, the most important point on the Russian railway south of Mukden, is in immediate danger.

International complications of serious import are not improbable in consequence of an act of Russia in the prosecution of this war. It involves the neutrality of the Dardanelles, the strait that connects the Black sea and the Mediterranean, and through which, by the treaty of Paris of 1856, which terminated the Crimean war, ships of war are not allowed to pass. Russian steamers belonging to what is called the "volunteer fleet" have recently passed from the Black sea through the Dardanelles by permission of the Sultan of Turkey, and upon coming into the Mediterranean have been trans-

formed into war ships. They have then proceeded to the Red sea, where they have stopped and searched neutral vessels for goods and papers contraband of war. The British steamers Menelaus and Crewe Hall were so searched on the 11th, being detained four hours. The German steamer Prinz Heinrich was stopped and searched on the 15th, and compelled to give up to the Russians 31 sacks of letters and 24 sacks and boxes of parcels intended for Japan. The British steamer Malacca has been taken as a prize. It seems to be the Russian view that arming "volunteer ships" after they have passed the Dardanelles and then using them as ships of war is not in violation of the treaty excluding war ships from the Dardanelles. These "volunteer" vessels are merchantmen in time of peace, running between Odessa, Vladivostock, and Port Arthur and engaging in the tea trade between China and the Black sea; but they are constructed for use in war time as cruisers. In 1886 this fleet was placed under the control of the Russian admiralty. Its recent operations in the Red sea have aroused both England and Germany. The latter has demanded the return of the Japanese mail seized on board the Prinz Heinrich, and British war ships have been sent to the Red sea, while a British protest has been sent to St. Petersburg.

NEWS NOTES.

—J. W. Bengough's Single Tax Primer" has been translated into Japanese.

—Mr. Max Hirsch's work, "Democracy versus Socialism," has been adopted as a text-book in the Japanese universities.

—Mrs. Florence E. Maybrick, the American woman under life sentence in England and pardoned by the King in February last (vol. vi, p. 697), was released from confinement the 20th. She went directly to France.

—The Czar has abolished, by imperial decree, the system of condemning political prisoners by administrative order. Henceforth persons accused of political crimes in Russia, will be tried by the courts under the regular procedure.

—Commissioner of Public Works Blockl, of Chicago, reports a suggestive example of work done by day-labor in the water pipe extension division at Seventy-fifth street and Oglesby avenue.

The cost was \$343.58, and the lowest bid for the work by a contractor was \$950.

—Computed on the basis of the census returns for 1890, the Chicago Directory company estimates that the present population of the city is 2,241,000. The census for 1900 was rejected as a basis of computation on account of the slipshod manner in which it is alleged to have been taken.

—The Russian Vice-Governor of Elizabetopol was assassinated on the 14th. Elizabetopol is a government of Trans-Caucasia, bordering on Persia. This portion of the Russian Empire is occupied by a great variety of races and nationalities. The war has caused stagnation of trade here as elsewhere in the Empire, and much discontent is said to have been rife.

—The monthly statement of the United States treasury department (see p. 186) for June, shows on hand June 30, 1904:

Gold reserve fund.....	\$150,000,000.00
Available cash.....	169,027,242.39
Total.....	\$319,027,242.39
On hand at close of last fiscal year, June 30, 1903.....	384,394,275.58
Decrease for fiscal year ending June 30, 1904.....	\$ 65,367,033.19
Increase for fiscal year ending June 30, 1903.....	\$25,820,159.73
Increase for fiscal year ending June 30, 1902.....	31,740,991.83
Increase for fiscal year ending June 30, 1901.....	21,127,470.14
Increase for fiscal year ending June 30, 1900.....	24,325,186.05
Increase since July 1, 1900.....	\$ 37,646,774.56

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States (see p. 186) for the 12 months ending June 30, 1904, as given by the statistical sheet of the Department of Commerce and Labor for June, were as follows (M standing for merchandise, G for gold and S for silver:

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
M ..	\$1,460,829,539	\$890,745,084	\$470,084,455 exp.
G ..	81,514,986	39,050,114	17,358,128 imp.
S ...	49,517,702	27,734,022	21,783,680 exp.
	\$1,591,862,227	\$1,117,529,220	\$474,333,007 exp.
Balance, 1903 (M., G. and S.)			\$ 416,617,778 exp.
Balance, 1902 (M., G. and S.)			496,446,285 exp.
Balance, 1901 (M., G. and S.)			671,458,818 exp.
Balance, 1900 (M., G. and S.)			571,677,225 exp.
Balance, 1899 (M., G. and S.)			504,086,295 exp.
Balance, 1898 (M., G. and S.)			534,624,851 exp.

Balance, 1834 to 1904 (M., G. and S.).....\$6,292,221,900 exp.

—The funeral of Samuel M. Jones, late Mayor of Toledo, took place in Toledo on the 15th. There were no organized arrangements, but at least 15,000 people gathered around the residence. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. A. M. Hyde, Brand Whitlock and A. A. Tanner. According to the Cleveland Plain Dealer's Toledo report "Mayor Tom L. Johnson, with Peter Witt, E. W. Bemis, N. D. Baker, Robert C. Wright, Harris R. Cooley, David E. Davies, John F. Dooley, Carl Nau, E. S. Griffith, J. Lauffman, and others of Cleveland, were escorted from the depot and Memorial hall was emptied while they viewed the remains." The same report adds:

"Nothing like the universal tribute has ever been seen here on any occasion."

—The monthly treasury report of receipts and expenditures of the Federal government (see p. 186) for the twelve months ending June 30, 1904, shows the following:

Receipts:	
Tariff.....	\$262,013,079.07
Internal revenue.....	232,873,721.48
Miscellaneous.....	46,628,843.85
	\$541,515,644.40
Expenses:	
Civil and misc.....	\$186,830,349.32
War.....	115,338,694.82
Navy.....	102,757,704.22
Indians.....	10,437,336.22
Pensions.....	142,558,507.92
Interest.....	24,646,493.56
	\$582,569,086.06
Deficit, 1904.....	\$ 41,053,441.66
Surplus, 1903, (vol. vi, p. 215).....	12,710,935.56
Surplus, 1902, (vol. v, p. 233).....	76,355,921.80
Surplus, 1901, (vol. iv, p. 218).....	75,864,968.61
Surplus, 1900, (vol. iii, p. 218).....	80,676,600.23
Accumulated surplus, July 1, 1899, to June 30, 1904.....	\$244,555,014.24

PRESS OPINIONS.

BRYAN.

Mitchell (S. D.) Gazette (Dem.), July 14.—No man in this nation to-day is loved by the millions as is William J. Bryan.

(North Dakota) Leeds News (Rep.), July 14.—Democratic leaders have been denouncing Mr. Bryan for standing on the platform of his party. There is no other political organization in the world that places a premium on desertion.

Omaha World-Herald (Dem.), July 12.—Bryan is the great commoner. He is loved and trusted by the rank and file of his party. Instead of being dead, he is a living leader and one upon whom the Democracy will yet rely to carry it to a glorious victory.

Akron (O.) Times-Democrat (Dem.), July 12.—William Jennings Bryan has won greater repute by his nobility in defeat than great victory could have brought him. His friends are knit closer to him; his enemies are nearer his friends. All the world admires a noble man.

Green Bay (Wis.) Advocate (Dem.), July 14.—Bryan has emerged from the crucial session of the Democratic convention a stronger man than when he entered it, for he has proven his devotion to his convictions, his freedom from prejudice, and his courage in taking ground in advance of his times.

Ogle County (Ill.) Democrat (Dem.), July 13.—In that body opposites met to contend for the mastery of the convention. There was one man who proved himself beyond question the grandest of them all, one who proved himself greater than his warmest friends could have thought him. He was William J. Bryan.

(Newkirk, Okla.) Democrat-Herald (Dem.), July 15.—We have every reason to feel proud of the magnificent fight W. J. Bryan made in the interest of pure democracy at the St. Louis convention, and we are to-day as willing to admit our allegiance to the principles he advocates and represents, as we were four and eight years ago.

(Eastville, Va.) Eastern Shore Herald (Dem.), July 15.—Those who think that Mr. Bryan is dead as a factor in the ranks of Democracy have read to very little purpose the inside views of the convention at St. Louis. Mr. Bryan never displayed his power more effectively than he did when he won out on some of the most important points before the convention.

(La Cygne) Kansas Standard (Dem.), July 15.—Every true Democrat will endorse the statement that William J. Bryan is the greatest, most consistent and courageous Democrat in the party. East, West, North or South. He was the most forceful individual influence in the St. Louis convention and did more to make the party platform genuinely Democratic than any other member of the convention.