

# Current Topics

## Model Town Built by Experts.

One of the most interesting experiments now in progress is that being made at Bellemead, N. J., where a model manufacturing town is being built up, under the direction of Dr. Josiah Strong and William H. Tolman, respectively president and secretary of the League for Social Service. Not long ago the land on which the town stands was entirely unoccupied. It was first laid out by an eminent landscape gardener, provision being made for factory sites, public buildings and homes, parks and driveways. The land is owned by William J. Robinson, whose principal object is to do something in a practical way to relieve the congestion which is now the problem of the great cities. Incidentally Mr. Robinson expects to make money in the operation, as he does not believe that any reform can hope for general adoption until it is put on a paying basis. He offers free sites for new factories, and under the direction of Dr. Strong and Mr. Tolman, who call themselves social engineers, every provision is made for the comfort and welfare of the working men and women employed. Every cottage will have a flower and vegetable garden attached, and all kinds of technical schools will be established for the benefit of the children. The new model



WILLIAM J. ROBINSON.

town differs from its predecessors in that it is being directed by men who have made a life study of factory and social conditions all over the world.

## Crime in the United States.

The statistics of homicide in the United States for 1900 are not encouraging. From 1895 to 1899 there was a steady decrease year by year, the totals falling from 10,500 to 6,225, but this year the reports show a total of 8,275, an increase over last year of 2,050. If this year the figures increase proportionately the first year of the new century will be as largely marked by crime as was 1895. From the present outlook the indications are that the record of the passing year will be even darker, for human life was never held cheaper than at the present time, and hanging and lynching make little impression. Rudyard Kipling was not far out of the way when he said that murder was the national crime of the United States.

## Reward for Missing Youth.

News comes from Providence, R. I., that Robert Callender, who is known to many Yale men in the West, disappeared in that city on the last day of the old year. Five hundred dollars reward has been offered by his father, Walter Callender, for information as to his whereabouts. Young Callender had been suffering from insomnia, and it is feared by his parents that his mind is temporarily affected thereby. Robert Callender, who was graduated from Yale in the class of '98, is 24 years old, 5 feet and 7 inches in height, and weighs 155 pounds. He has brown hair, inclined to curl, light brown eyes, and small, regular features. When he disappeared he wore a black derby hat, a dark sack suit, and an overcoat. On his little finger was a gold seal ring, and he carried a gold



ROBERT CALLENDER.

hunting case watch. In college he was a member of the Kappa Sigma and Delta Kappa Epsilon, and the Senior Society of the Wolf's Head, the emblem of which he is also thought to have worn pinned on his coat.

## Rebelle Against the Trust.

Miss Henrietta Crossman has lately been playing "Neil Gwyn" at the Savoy theater, New York. As the play was



MISS CROSSMAN.

about to begin the other night, she stepped before the curtain, and in a speech to the audience announced that the play would not be given because she could no longer bear the petty persecutions of the theatrical trust managers, Klaw & Erlanger, who secured control of the Savoy since Miss Crossman began her engagement there.

## Starvation in Porto Rico.

In the last annual report of the secretary of the interior attention was called to the fact that the death rate in Porto Rico was still high in several places, notably in Ponce and Adjuntas. "The commonest cause of death," says Secretary Hitchcock, "appears to be anaemia, brought on by poor nutrition and unsanitary surroundings." This statement is now corroborated with rather startling emphasis in a report by Surgeon Williams, one of the assistants under the recent military regime, in which he says that the most harrowing stories from Porto Rico have understated rather than exaggerated the truth. He tells of laboring families, industrious people, who were in a state of starvation even during the issue of relief supplies, and who are now in a pitiable plight.

## An Army Angel.

The daughter of Gen. Miles, whose husband, Capt. Samuel Reber, is stationed on Governor's island, is a leader in the work of army relief, and has a warm spot in the hearts of the soldier boys, for whom she has done so much.

As Miss Miles, Mrs. Reber was most



MRS. CAPT. SAMUEL REBER.

active in helping sick and suffering warriors, and her recent marriage has in no wise dimmed her interest in this respect. She is an officer in the New York branch of the association.

Mrs. Reber is a charming young woman and her circle of friends extends far beyond the hundreds of Uncle Sam's soldier boys who have come under her watchful and tender care.

## That Wichita Woman.

The action of a lone woman in wrecking the bar in the Carey Hotel at Wichita, Kas., is reminiscent of the so-called Ohio crusade, during which a number of saloons were invaded by women, whose zeal in a good cause sometimes led them or their sympathizers to destroy property and otherwise break the laws of the state, says an exchange. The experience of the Kansas reformer is also an illustration of the advantage of being a woman when work of this kind is to be undertaken. If a man, for instance, had entered the bar of the Wichita hotel and had begun to throw stones through valuable mirrors and paintings he might not have been shot but he certainly would have been badly beaten. As it was, the attendants were so startled by the sight of a well-dressed woman doing such damage that they stood silent until the damage had been done. Then they called the police, at whose polite invitation the crusader finally consented to accompany them to jail. There she was visited by a band of sympathizers, who appealed to Governor Stanley to appear and defend her.

## In the Public Eye

### Honor for Mrs. Fairbanks.

Among the candidates for the presidency in the D. A. R. at the coming session in Washington is Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, wife of the senator from Indiana. In her own city—Indianapolis—Mrs. Fairbanks is accounted an all-around club woman. She was the founder of the Fortnightly Literary club, an organization of several hundred women. As the vice president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Indiana she is conspicuous among the patriotic women of the country. As a member of the Contemporary club, the leading mixed club in Indianapolis, and a worker in the Art association, she is also well known in her state. When in Washington with her husband she affiliated with the women's clubs in the national capital. In appearance Mrs.



MRS. C. W. FAIRBANKS.

Fairbanks is unusually prepossessing, having that indefinable stamp of a gracious and refined woman.

### Sixty-Six Million Cents Coined

There were coined last year at the United States mints 66,833,700 bronze cents. The number was almost large enough to supply every inhabitant with one of these useful coins. The mints turned out more cents last year than ever before, but they have not been inactive in preceding years. Their output in 1895 was thirty-eight millions, in 1896 thirty-nine millions, in 1897 fifty millions, and in 1898 forty-nine millions. The cents which are in circulation seldom are much worn. They disappear some how before they have had time to get rubbed smooth as nickels and silver coins do. What becomes of the cents is as much a mystery as what becomes of the pins. Millions of these small coins are minted yearly, and yet there is a steady demand for more. Nobody hoards cents. Nobody melts them down—a fate which befalls gold coins often. Then what becomes of all the bronze cents?

### Compatriot of Famous Men.

The late Senator Bradbury of Maine, whose death was announced last week, was the oldest statesman in the United States, and a colleague and personal friend of Webster, Clay, Benton and Calhoun. He was the only survivor of the 100 men who sat in the senate during his senatorial term from 1847 to 1853. The departed ex-senator was the only living member of the



THE LATE SENATOR BRADBURY. Bowdoin class of 1825, which included Longfellow, Hawthorne and John S. C. Abbott. The career of the venerable statesman covered a period of American history unexampled in the experience of any other man. He was one of Andy Jackson's warm supporters. He was 98 years, six months and 28 days old when he died. He never chewed nor smoked tobacco, nor drank intoxicating liquor.

### The Late Bishop Ninde.

The late Bishop William X. Ninde, came of a long line of Methodist preachers, and was himself a survival of the circuit riding days of the Methodist ministry. His work in and for the church was in many and different fields. He was first a teacher, then a minister, winning wide fame as one of the most powerful pulpit orators of the church, a missionary to India, a professor in Garrett Biblical institution, and finally for the last sixteen years a bishop.

Dr. A. Donaldson Smith, the famous Philadelphia explorer, who has recently returned from Africa, has been awarded the Elisha Kent Kane medal by the Geographical society of Pennsylvania. This is the first medal the society has awarded.

Sir Wilfred Laurier, the Canadian premier, is noted for the unstinted manner in which he dispenses private charity. He has been known to go out on cold nights to carry food to some poor person in whom he took an interest.

# Four Kings of the Rail.

The biggest railroad deal consummated in recent years was closed in Chicago the other day when the Rockefeller-Morgan-Hill syndicate gained control of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line, thereby linking the Great Northern road with the east, completing a great transcontinental route from ocean to ocean. President Earling of the St. Paul system was handled ten million dollars for his shares while lesser holders were made glad with amounts ranging from one to three million dollars. It cost the syndicate \$30,000,000 to

Great Northern under a lease, where-by the preferred stockholders will be guaranteed 8 per cent, common stock 6 per cent for two years and 7 per cent thereafter. Under the lease the general officers of the Great Northern will direct the line from St. Paul to Chicago.

Earling was not the only big Chicagoan to part with his stock. Marshall Field is reported to have disposed of his stock amounting to \$3,000,000. The Alexander Mitchell estate parted with \$2,000,000 worth and the heirs of the late George T. Smith,

The big purchases made by Hill and his supporters did not figure in the market transactions. They were made outside the exchanges and in direct dealing with the holders.

Concisely stated, the Hill-Morgan-Rockefeller interests now control west



JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER J. P. MORGAN



MAP SHOWING ROCKEFELLER-MORGAN-HILL TRANSCONTINENTAL LINE.

he eccentric Scotchman, are said to have disposed of \$5,000,000 more, the sale having been made through Alexander Geddes, who represents the estate on the directory of the board.

Under the stress of the heavy purchases being made by the syndicate the stock of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road advanced yesterday from \$145.62 to \$152.25 a share. Brokers were overwhelmed with buying orders, and as it became apparent that they were coming from men on the inside of the deal the speculative element took a hand in running up the price and the short interests were squeezed to the wall.

The St. Paul line passes over to the

of Chicago the St. Paul, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern. East of Chicago Morgan has a directing hand in several roads besides the Baltimore and Ohio, and there is an unusual choice of routes. The deal brings the Morgan party in rivalry with the Vanderbilts, who control the central trans-continental route through recent manipulation of the Chicago and Alton.

Lord Strathcona of Canada is also

said to be deeply interested in the deal. He is said to have sold all his stock in the Canadian Pacific road to take up heavier responsibilities with the new syndicate.

part, and there are strictly biblical museums, but there is no other Semitic museum at once comprehensive and exclusive in the world. It was founded in 1889 by a gift of \$10,000 from Mr. Schiff, who had recently been appointed one of a new committee to report to the overseers on the condition of the Semitic department, then as now under the charge of Professor Toy and Professor Lyon.

## Harvard's Bible Museum.



JACOB SCHIFF'S GIFT TO CHICAGO.

The new building which is in process of erection for Harvard's Semitic museum, through the generosity of Jacob H. Schiff, of New York, calls attention to one of the most interesting special collections in the country—a museum illustrating the life and thought of the Semitic peoples, ancient and modern, including the Babylonian-Assyrian, the Arabian, the Phoenician, the Moabit, the Ethiopian, the Syrian and other branches, with the

Hebrew-Palestinian, so called, as the nucleus and central features of the whole. It is, in fact, in a broad and scientific sense, a bible museum, intended not only to illustrate the instruction given in the Semitic department at Harvard, but to be a work of aid to serious bible students everywhere, both in the university and out of it.

There are oriental museums in which Semitic collections form an important

## The New Pacific Power.

With the first day of the new century the federation of all the Australian colonies was formally completed by the swearing in of the Earl of Hopetoun as the first governor general of the Australian commonwealth. The peaceful organizing of what might be called the United States of Australia has attracted little attention in the outside world, but there is every reason to believe that long before the completion of the new century the Australian commonwealth will not only be the dominant power in the south Pacific but also one of the great powers of the world. The advent of the new era of a united Australian is something that may well be looked upon with lively interest by the American republic.

Judge Deemer has declined to leave the Iowa supreme bench to accept the chancellorship of the Iowa state university.

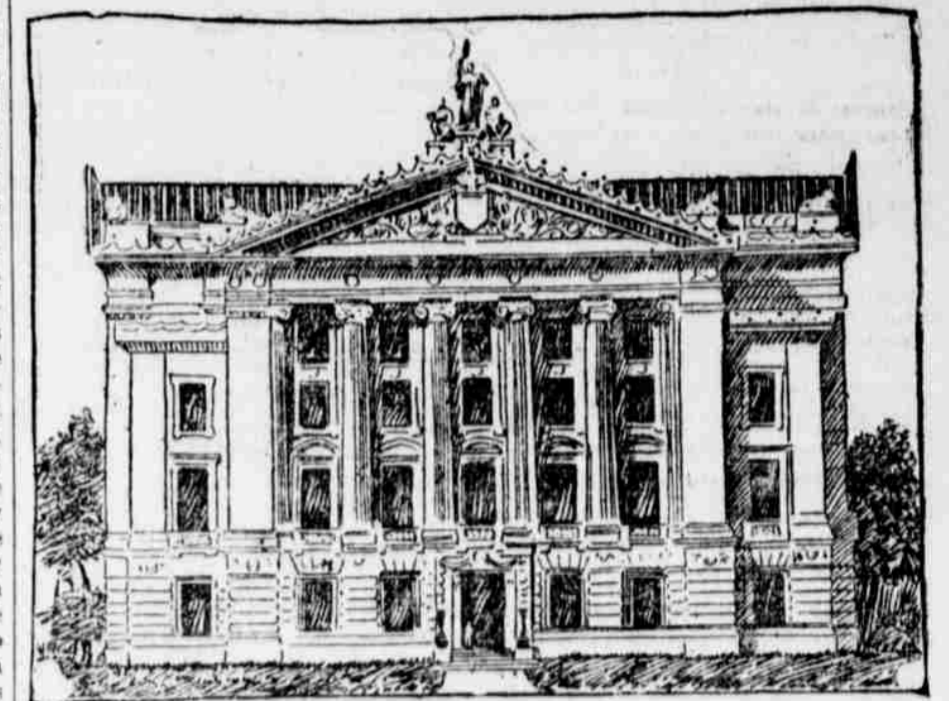
## Henry Should Be Content.

Duke Henry, who has just left Holland in disgust at his treatment by the Dutch States General, should put a curb on his bad temper. He is chagrined because the grant of \$30,000 a year for his personal support was not paid without a dissenting voice and because he was refused the title of Prince Consort. So far as the money is concerned the Dutch are famous as a thrifty people, and Duke Henry should be thankful that the grant was passed at all, instead of sulking because a few members made objections. On the whole, Duke Henry is one of the luckiest young men alive and has no reason to rail at fate. Within a month he is to marry the most charming and beautiful of girl queens, who is evidently much in love with him. That should be sufficient to make him happy in spite of a few imaginary slights. If he carries his fit of pique too far it may be that Wilhelmina may exercise the privilege of every woman and change her royal mind about the advisability of wedding a man who sulks. In that case there will be a hundred Princelings ready to take his place, to say nothing of any number of American gentlemen who have been somewhat handicapped heretofore by the fact that they did not happen to be German dukes.

## Palisades to Be Saved.

The two legislative commissions appointed by New York and New Jersey with the object of preserving the palisades, forming the New Jersey bank of the Hudson river opposite the upper part of New York city, have finally secured an option on the property where the obnoxious quarrying has been going on, and they propose the establishment of an interstate park which shall include these picturesque bluffs. Such a result will be a fortunate culmination of efforts which have been under way for several years looking to this end, which have been especially promoted by "The Society for the Preservation

## For the Department of Justice



The above is a design for the new building soon to be erected for the department of justice at Washington. Its cost will exceed \$2,000,000. Several months ago the attorney general secured plans for the building from Architect Post of New York. The latter named seven or eight building

of Scenic and Historic Places and Objects in New York."

## William Wallace Campbell.

William Wallace Campbell, who has just been elected director of the Lick Observatory, to succeed the late James E. Keeler, was born on a farm in Hancock county, O., in 1862. He studied astronomy at the University of Michigan under Professor Schaeberle, and took the chair of mathematics and as-

tronomer at the University of Colorado, and later at Ann Arbor. He has written several text books.

## "School of the Prophets."

Another newly organized association calling itself the "School of Prophets" is now in session in Chicago. Its founder, a Chicago man, has convinced himself and his followers that the end of the world is at hand, and the object of the present meeting is to prepare fitly for that tremendous event.