

CURRENT TOPICS

THE Colorado supreme court has ousted a number of democratic officials and the Denver News refers to the decision as "the most extraordinary and indefensible the court has ever rendered." The News says that the effect of the decision is to deny the right of the people to amend the constitution except as the supreme court may see fit to approve popular action. The News describes the peculiar situation in which things have shaped themselves as a result of the various rulings recently made by the supreme court in this way: "The people of Colorado are living under the administration of a governor who was never elected. Laws were enacted by the recent legislature by a senate, a portion of which was never elected. Laws are now being interpreted by a supreme court that was not, except for three of its members, elected. The three members of the old court of appeals were all appointed, and the two new members of the consolidated court were also appointed. The citizens of the city and county of Denver are now to live for the next few years under the administration of a government, a large proportion of which was not elected, but simply adjudicated into office."

BY THE ACTION of Colorado's supreme court the following named democratic officials are adjudicated out of office: Henry V. Johnson, county judge; Robert J. Byrne, clerk and recorder; Hamilton Armstrong, sheriff; C. B. Elder, treasurer; Schuyler H. Alexander, assessor; Miss Emma Herey, county superintendent of schools; Coroner W. P. Horan, two democratic justices of the peace and constables; and the following republicans adjudicated to fill their places: A. K. Vickery, county clerk and recorder; Alexander Nisbet, sheriff; R. P. Rollins, coroner; C. W. Badgley, treasurer; C. C. Gird, assessor; Miss L. A. Field, superintendent of schools, and republican justices and constables, and three county commissioners, William Lawson, Eugene McCarthy and Thomas Uzzell.

THE FACTS leading up to the suit are presented by the News in this way: "The controversy arises out of the Rush amendment and the city charter adopted under it. By the terms of the charter the offices of sheriff, clerk and recorder, treasurer, assessor, coroner, county superintendent of schools, justices of the peace and constable were filled for a term of four years at the spring election of 1904, and the offices of mayor, city council and other city officers were filled at the same time. In pursuance of the provisions of the charter, each of the political parties nominated full tickets for the city and county of Denver embracing the offices above named, which were voted for at the spring election of 1904, in May. On the face of the returns the democratic ticket was declared elected. Both parties were perfectly satisfied with the legality of that spring election, except that some members of both parties claimed that the office of county judge could not be filled except at an election when county officers were voted for in all the other counties of the state. The democratic candidates were duly inducted into office, and were filling them without protest or controversy of any kind, when it became necessary to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the fall election of the same year. It was agreed by the managers of both political parties of the city and county of Denver that the only offices to be filled in the fall of 1904 were legislative and the district attorneyship, and both the republican and democratic conventions met and nominated only candidates for the legislature and the district attorneyship."

THE PRESIDENT of the New York, Central and Lake Shore railroads has announced that an investigation of the wreck that recently occurred at Mentor, Ohio, shows conclusively that the accident was not caused by the speed of the train, and that it has therefore been decided to resume the schedule of eighteen hours between New York and Chicago. The Twentieth Century limited train was wrecked by running into an open switch at Mentor, Ohio, and a temporary order was made reducing the eighteen-hour schedule. Inspectors report that some one "maliciously and

intentionally" opened the switch and caused the wreck.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has issued orders directing a more liberal interpretation of the Chinese exclusion act, saying that "the purpose of the government of the United States is to show the widest and heartiest courtesy toward all merchants, teachers, and students who may come to the United States, as well as all Chinese officials or representatives in any capacity of the Chinese government." The president says that all individuals of these classes "are allowed to come and go of their own free will and accord, and are to be given all the rights, privileges, and immunities accorded the citizens and subjects of the most favored nations." The president says that while the laborers must be "strictly excluded" the law must be enforced "without harshness."

WASHINGTON dispatches say that Mr. Roosevelt took this step to "prevent the threatened Chinese boycott against American manufacturers," and it is pointed out that the value of American exports to China and Hong Kong in 1904 amounted to more than \$23,000,000. Some Pacific coast people say that this order means the beginning of the end of the Chinese exclusion act.

STREAMS of immigrants continue to pour into New York through Ellis Island, breaking all previous records. A New York dispatch to the Record-Herald says: "More than 72,000 immigrants have landed at Ellis Island since June 1, and the official estimates up to the end of the month is 84,085, as against 51,731 in June of last year, an even larger proportionate increase than in May this year, bringing 94,712, as against 70,417 in May, 1904. The high water mark in immigration is usually reached in May. The census office approximates the total immigration for this fiscal year at 1,061,659, which indicates a record-breaker, the high water mark being 857,046 for the year ending June 30, 1903. For the fiscal year of 1904 the figures were 812,870. There has been little change in the general character of the immigrants in the fiscal year about to close. Lithuanians and Bohemians have been rushing here, mainly to work in the coal mines; Poles and Russians come and scatter throughout the country, many settling in sweatshops. Italians crowd in to do manual labor. Swedes and Greeks find their way to the northwest. There are fewer Germans than of former years, and Ireland seems to have been pretty thoroughly drained. More than 900 of the would-be immigrants have been rejected so far this month, against 460 last month."

AN INSURANCE TABLE prepared by Walter Wellman for the Chicago Record-Herald shows that more than half the insurance of the country is taken out in companies having their headquarters in New York City. Tables of bank clearings for the last week gave the figure for New York City \$1,407,148,113; for the rest of the country, \$901,818,102. A glance any day at the transactions in stocks and bonds, which cover every variety of industry, proves that Wall street is chief dealer for the United States.

COMMENTING upon Mr. Wellman's showing the Record-Herald editorially says: "Corporations which control and manipulate railroad, mining and manufacturing properties all over the west draw millions upon millions to the eastern metropolis, and as the work of combination goes on the drain increases. Meanwhile surplus is added to surplus and general officials have every inducement to take off the cream. It has been shown recently how generously the officers of the Equitable Life helped themselves. It is known also that the case is typical. When the west sends its earnings to New York it attends to the wants of numerous great men of affairs who find that salaries of from \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year are an indispensable first reward for their valuable services. It gives them the necessary means for relaxation from their oppressive cares in yacht-

ing, coaching and other amusements at which one individual spends the incomes of thousands. But the salaries are only a partial recognition of genius. The vast funds that are accumulated furnish the ammunition for those mighty conflicts of financial giants which are the wonder and admiration of the world. They are turned to the use of companies within companies. They multiply the wealth of New York banks, which profit also from a custom that makes them general agents for the receipt and distribution of the people's money. This is said not in complaint of New York, but in explanation. The United States is its oyster, which it opens with as nice a conscience as ever the noble Pistol had."

A WRITER in the London Daily Mail, in the issue of June 16, writes an interesting article entitled "The Tragedy of the English Watch Trade." In this article it is said that American watchmakers began such a campaign in dumping their product in England that the total extinction of the watch-making industry in that country is threatened. The Mail explains: "The American combine of watchmakers can fix practically what price it likes in its own country, for it is protected against foreign competition there by an elaborate series of customs duties ranging from 35 to 65 per cent. In England there is no import duty. The American makers have adopted a plan of systematically dumping a percentage of their stock on the English market at a price about two-thirds what they ask in America. Thus the works of a watch sold in America for 15s. 5d. are sold here at 10s. The makers reckon to sell 25 per cent of their output at the reduced prices in our markets. This means that for every four sets of works of that kind sold by them they receive 56s. 6d., while the English maker who wishes to compete must sell the whole at 10s. each, or 40s. for the four. This systematic dumping is so simple and so safe that its final outcome must seem to the men who devised it a matter of mathematical certainty. When they have succeeded in stamping out the English trade—if they do succeed—they can run prices up again as they will, and can make us pay for our present cheapness. From the American makers' point of view there is only one drawback to this arrangement. Their watches are being sold at so low a price here that it pays buyers to secure stocks of them, send them back to America, and resell to the trade there at less prices than the regular American rates. This can be done safely if the stocks are to be had, for the English price is so much less as to ensure a satisfactory margin of profit on the transaction. Of course, being American made, the goods would pay no duty when carried back there."

THE MAIL WRITER says that this reshipment has actually been made, and that the Americans are putting forth their best efforts to stop it. The Mail writer adds: "I have before me as I write a copy of a letter from one of the largest American houses to a wholesale English dealer. 'Someone is traveling around in England trying to buy our watches and ship them back to the United States,' this firm says. 'He pays cash and pays a commission of 5 per cent over above cost to the factor. We turned down an order for £5,000 recently, and we are turning down orders constantly. We consider the acceptance of such orders an unfriendly act.'"

NOT ONLY does the speaker of the house of commons, says the London Chronicle, enjoy the material benefits of a lordly residence at Westminster palace, a salary of £5,000 a year, £100 a year for stationery, and two hogsheads of claret and 2,000 ounces of plate on election, but he enjoys the less substantial advantage of taking precedence of all other commoners. By an act of 1689 it was provided that the lords commissioners of the Great Seal not being peers "shall have and take place next after the peers of the realm and the speaker of the house of commons."

JAMES W. ALEXANDER, late president of the Equitable Life Assurance society, has made restitution to the society of his share of the