

CURRENT TOPICS

FOLLOWING CLOSE upon the announcement that Rudyard Kipling has been awarded a Nobel prize for "idealism" comes the announcement that Professor A. A. Michelson of Chicago has been awarded the prize for physicists. Professor Michelson is the discoverer of a new method for measuring the velocity of light. Professor Michelson was born in Germany, but came to this country at an early age and was appointed a midshipman at the naval academy. He graduated in 1873 but resigned in 1881. He is now professor of physics at Chicago University.

THE ALBANY (N. Y.) Herald indulges in some reminiscences concerning panics and calls attention to the fact that Ulysses S. Grant had been president four years and a half when the panic of 1873 came. Grover Cleveland had been president but two or three months when the panic of 1893-94 came, after being carefully provided for by republican legislation. Theodore Roosevelt had been president six years when the panic of 1907 struck the country, in addition to which the republican party has been in absolute ascendancy for upwards of ten years. As the Herald remarks: "It takes some nerve for a republican to talk about the connection between democracy and hard times, but he has plenty of it."

THE WASHINGTON correspondent for the Ohio Press-Post relates an interesting story describing an interview between Mr. Roosevelt and Senator Scott of West Virginia. The interview follows: "When Senator Scott called at the White House the president called him into the executive office, threw his arms around his neck and said: 'Senator, you are in touch with the business of the country. I want you to tell me what they are saying about this panic and depression in financial affairs.' 'Do you want me to tell the truth?' said the senator. 'Yes,' said the president, baring his teeth, 'I want the truth.' 'Well, then, Mr. President,' said Senator Scott, 'they say that your fulminations against capital, your campaign of corporation persecution and your erratic diatribes against the business interests of the country have caused the trouble.' The arm slipped from around Senator Scott's shoulders, the teeth were bared still further and the president said: 'I do not agree with you, senator; I do not care to discuss the matter further.' When Senator Scott recovered his equilibrium he was located on the asphalt walk in front of the White House."

IN A RECENTLY delivered speech Senator Dolliver of Iowa declared that Governor Cummins wrote a letter last year declaring that he would not be a candidate against Senator Allison, thus securing support in his candidacy for governor which he could not have otherwise obtained. In a newspaper interview Governor Cummins said: "I will give \$1,000 to charity if anybody will produce a letter in which I ever promised not to be a candidate against Senator Allison. The story is untrue. I might say more, but I am a Christian."

THE RE-ELECTION of Speaker Cannon at the opening of the Sixtieth congress made him the ninth member to be honored by three elections to that office. Henry Clay was six times elected speaker. Others serving three terms or more were Andrew Stevenson of Virginia, Schuyler Colfax of Indiana, James G. Blaine of Maine, Samuel J. Randall of Pennsylvania, John G. Carlisle of Kentucky, and Thomas B. Reed of Maine. The Buffalo Courier gives the following interesting and concise history of the men who have occupied the speaker's chair three or more terms: "Henry Clay had the unparalleled distinction of being six times elected speaker. His first election occurred on November 4, 1811, and his last on December 1, 1823. During that period he twice resigned from the speakership to accept other public service. His career in the chair of the house began with the Twelfth congress and ended with the Eighteenth. Andrew Stevenson was speaker

from December 3, 1827, to June 2, 1834. Schuyler Colfax was speaker during the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth and Fortieth congresses, 1863-1869. James G. Blaine was speaker during the Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-third congresses, 1869-1875. Samuel J. Randall was elected speaker at the beginning of the second session of the Forty-fourth congress, December 4, 1876, to succeed Michael C. Kerr of Indiana, who died during the first session. Mr. Randall was re-elected at the beginning of the first sessions of the Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth congresses, and his last term expired March 3, 1881. John G. Carlisle was speaker of the house during the Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth and Fiftieth congresses, 1883-1889. Thomas B. Reed was speaker of the Fifty-first, Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth congresses, his last term ending March 3, 1899."

CONTINUING ITS interesting comments upon the occupants of the speaker's chair the Courier says: "Except in the case of an extra session preceding the first regular session of a congress a speaker serves only about one year and three months. For instance, Mr. Cannon was first elected speaker at the beginning of an extra session of the Fifty-eighth congress, November 9, 1903. That congress ended on March 3, 1905. He was not re-elected till December 4, 1905, and his second term expired March 3, 1907. He again became speaker December 2, 1907, and his third term will expire March 3, 1909. It is thus seen that although the Fifty-eighth, Fifty-ninth and Sixtieth congresses will officially cover a period of six years, Mr. Cannon at the end of his current term will have been speaker only three years and about ten months, as compared to Henry Clay's speakership career of seven years and five months. There is no probability that in length of service as speaker Mr. Cannon will break the record. Mr. Cannon is now in his sixteenth term as a member of the house. He appeared first in that body in 1873 and has served there continuously except for two years covering the Fifty-second congress, 1891-1893."

THE WASHINGTON Herald says: "It is not improbable that the minority members of the committee on banking and currency may include Mr. Bryan's guaranteed deposit scheme in the financial policy which they expect to adopt at a meeting to be held this week. Two bills, embodying the principles of his proposition, were introduced in the house today, one by Representative Candler, of Mississippi, a democrat, and the other by Representative Norris, of Nebraska, a republican. Mr. Candler's bill provides for a tax of one-fourth of one per cent on bank deposits to create a guarantee fund not to exceed \$10,000,000, and Mr. Norris' for a tax of one-fifth of one per cent."

THIS STORY is told by the Washington correspondent for the Minneapolis Journal: "Attorney General Young and his counsel, with Mrs. Young, Mrs. T. D. O'Brien and Miss Nellie O'Brien, her daughter, were in the marble room of the senate late yesterday when I walked with W. J. Bryan with Senator Teller of Colorado, with whom he spent a part of the day talking about democratic presidential politics. Mr. Bryan had met the men of the Minnesota party during one of his visits to St. Paul, and, recognizing them, he went over to where they were standing, following which he was introduced to the women who were with them. Miss Nellie O'Brien is attending a well-known Catholic school for girls in this city, and is visiting with her parents during their stay. After saying something about the similarity of the names 'Bryan' and 'O'Brien,' the great democratic leader remarked that folks spelling their names in those two ways had all come from the same stock. 'You see,' he said to Miss Nellie, 'in the old days they all spelled the name as I now spell mine, but finally there arose a great man among the Bryans, and he was made king, whereupon, in order to distinguish his descendants from the plebian members of the clan, the letter 'O' was attached to the

name by way of prefix. This prefix has been retained by all the descendants of that branch of the family to this day to show their illustrious ancestry. The common people of the clan, however, have continued to spell the name in the good old way.' 'That is a very interesting story,' quickly replied Miss Nellie, 'and prompts me to say that the day will no doubt come when your descendants also will be calling themselves O'Brien,' whereupon the commoner bowed his best bow in recognition of the handsome compliment. The story of this conversation was told very generally in the Minnesota colony last night and this morning, and Miss Nellie's reply voted one of the best that could possibly have been made."

IN HIS SPEECH at the opening of the house Speaker Cannon said: "We have been admonished by events that it is not the time for extravagance or excursions into the realm of experiments in legislation. We should leave to the people of the states the jurisdiction not granted to the federal government, and also leave upon them the responsibility and burden of taxation for the same." Referring to this statement the Washington correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer says: "There, in a nutshell, is the exposition of the speaker's policy during the session which opens tomorrow, and it meets the views of the men who have a firm hold on the proceedings of the senate. The significance of the speaker's language should not be overlooked, and by many of the men who attended the caucus was correctly interpreted. Some detected in it the odor of the smoke of battle with the administration, though their olfactory sense may have misled them. The speaker is not spilling for a contest with the president; neither are the leaders of the senate. Their desire is to maintain the most cordial relations, for they realize the folly of agitating the country at a time when it is recovering from a financial panic. Still, they are prepared for almost any kind of a struggle with the White House, though they are hoping none will be instigated. The president has had pretty much his own way with congress since his inauguration. He initiated much important legislation in the interest of the general public, and paeans have been sung in his honor the length and breadth of the land. No person versed in public affairs need be told that he was compelled to overcome serious obstructions before some of the laws he advocated were passed, and every time he had a controversy with congress the entire country became aroused."

MR. ROOSEVELT appears to have some one in his administration that is in close touch with Wall Street. On the day prior to the delivery of the president's message the Chicago Record-Herald printed this dispatch from its New York correspondent: "Despite precautions which have recently been adopted to prevent premature publication of information concerning the public utterances of the president, many banking and brokerage houses in Wall Street had today what was said to be an exact copy of the president's message to congress to be read tomorrow. Members of these firms did not express any doubts about the authenticity of the copies. Advance copies of the president's speeches and messages hitherto received in Wall Street, it was pointed out, have invariably proved to be correct. Various deductions were drawn from the contents of the message as circulated in Wall Street. In the main the document was said to contain little that was novel; nor did it indicate that the president had changed his policies. Frequent references are made to his speeches hitherto delivered, outlining the president's wishes and desires in corporation regulation. According to the forecasts in Wall Street the message will recommend currency legislation and reform, but the president does not suggest any specific form of legislation. He points out that he recommended currency relief in his last message to congress, but, as on the former occasion, the president takes no stand on how to provide the necessary elasticity to the currency problem. That the president takes cognizance of the pres-