

CURRENT TOPICS

FORTY TWO-CENT postage stamps were recently received by C. L. Allen, general manager of the Syracuse, New York, Rapid Transit company. These stamps were enclosed in a letter bearing the signature "Rev. H. E. Tower, Evangelist." The letter, which was dated at Marysville, Tenn., says: "Some time ago while a resident of your city, I evaded several fares on the street car. Inclosed please find forty stamps refund. I am serving the right Master now and desire to make all things right as far as possible. If you are not the right official to pay, kindly pass it on to the proper official. Yours in His service."

NICHOLAS V. TSCHAIKOVSKY and Madame Breshkovskaya were arraigned at St. Petersburg on indictments charging them with being revolutionists. Tschaikovsky was acquitted and Madame Breshkovskaya was convicted, the latter being given the comparatively mild sentence of exile. Referring to this trial the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal says: "Nicholas Tschaikovsky is remembered by many people in Lincoln, he in company with Alesix Alladyn, a member of the first Russian duma, having visited Lincoln at the request of Mr. Bryan while making a speaking tour of the country in 1907. While here they delivered two addresses each, speaking before the students at the university and in the evening addressing a large audience in St. Paul's church." In this connection an Associated Press dispatch from St. Petersburg is of interest: "The budget committee on the duma has struck at the root of the system of Siberian exile by cutting the appropriation for the administration of the system to a bare \$34,500. The committee admitted that the government had greatly reduced the number of exiles in recent years and declared that the system was bad and must go."

THAT TSCHAIKOVSKY, the Russian patriot, should be acquitted in secret trial for his life is, in the opinion of the Omaha World-Herald, a remarkable instance of the fact that Russia is actually sensitive to the criticisms of the rest of the civilized world. The World-Herald adds: "The petitions and letters from America which have been flooding Premier Stolypin, urging that the accused be given a fair trial were not written in vain this time. While Tschaikovsky could doubtless have been legally convicted on some of the minor counts against him, the court acquitted him of all charges. Tschaikovsky is called the 'father of the revolution.' He has been fighting the cause of self government in Russia for over a half century. He was accused of inciting the rebellion in the Baltic fleet, but there was not a shred of evidence in support of this. It doubtless could have been proved against him that he used a false passport in getting in and out of Russia, but the court gave him a clean bill for much the same reason, evidently, that Tolstoy is not imprisoned. His work has been educational and he has a tremendous hold upon the people. It is significant that while Tschaikovsky was so promptly acquitted, the woman who was tried with him was as promptly convicted and exiled for life. There is much reason for supposing that the familiarity in this country and in England with the facts and with the character and work of Tschaikovsky saved him from hopeless exile in his last years."

HERE IS AN interesting dispatch from Chicago printed in the New York World: "The spectacle of a millionaire telling his hearers that he made his millions by robbing the people, that all monopolists do, but that he had begun to recover his conscience and was going to devote his wealth to fighting the system which made it possible, was the unique entertainment provided by the City club at its luncheon today. The speaker was Joseph Fels of Philadelphia, head of a naphtha soap company bearing his name. He said he was a disciple of Henry George and would always remain a 'single taxer.' 'We can't get rich in a lifetime nowadays,' Mr. Fels said, 'under the present system of things, unless we do so by robbing

the people. I have made my money that way, and my firm is still doing it. You are all doing it. Every one of your self-made millionaires has done it. However, I want to say I have begun to recover my conscience, and I am going to devote my 'swag'—I like to call it that, for that's what it is—to doing away with the cursed system which makes it possible. If any of your millionaires feel the same way about it, for God's sake let's cross hands on it. I may be an oddity. It is unusual, though, for a man who has made his money by robbing the people through a monopoly to be called a curiosity. It is also a curiosity to find a man, after nearly fifty years of monopoly-mongering, to admit it and undergo a change of heart. But I am sincere."

JESSE J. DUNN has been chosen chief justice of the supreme court of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma City Oklahoman says: "The five justices of the supreme court elect one of themselves as chief justice. The arrangement is that the honor shall go in turn to each of the justices. Justices Dunn and Kane were next in turn last May, as both their terms expire this coming election. It was decided that one of these two would be chosen then and that he would resign early in 1910 to allow the other to enjoy the honor before his term expired. As Justice Kane was about to be married, Justice Dunn joined in insisting that he take the place first and the former was given the honor and Justice Dunn was elected this afternoon. Justice R. L. Williams of Durant was the first chief justice, and either Justice Hayes or Justice Turner will succeed Justice Dunn. Chief Justice Dunn is forty-two years old. He was born in Illinois in 1867. During his boyhood he lived in Mississippi for six years, and at eighteen years of age moved with his parents to Kansas. He attended the Kansas university and in 1893 came to Oklahoma. He began the practice of law at Alva, Woods county, and in 1896 and 1898 was elected county attorney, serving two terms. In 1902 he was elected president of the state bar association, in 1904 chairman of the territorial democratic committee, in 1906 chairman of the democratic campaign committee for the election of delegates to the constitutional convention, and in 1907 was elected to the state supreme court by the largest vote polled by any of the justices."

THE AUGUSTA (Ga.) Chronicle recently printed the following interesting article: "What would the American Roman Catholic do, were the king of Italy and the pope of Rome to declare war on the United States?" is a question that has many times been asked, in Augusta as well as in other parts of the country. A passage in the lecture, Thursday night, of Prof. J. C. Monaghan comes as reply. Prof. Monaghan's statements may be regarded as authoritative. He is lecturing for and under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus—the duly accredited spokesman of their national body. The Knights of Columbus are the greatest body of Catholic laymen in the world. Prof. Monaghan, Thursday night, in Augusta, said: "I was asked by a Protestant ten days ago where we would be in case the pope should invade our shores, either at the head of his own army or as an officer in an Italian army. Stupid as the question was, I answered it. I told him we, you, I, every good Knight of Columbus or Catholic citizen, under conscience and God would be in duty bound to meet him on the coast and hack him and his to pieces. More, I said, in an hour of danger to this republic Cardinal Gibbons would stand behind the president as John Carroll, his great predecessor, stood behind Washington. Archbishop Farley would follow in the splendid footsteps of John Hughes who, as Aaron for Moses, held up the right arm of Lincoln in all the long years of the civil war. Archbishop Blenk, worthy successor of Archbishop Chappelle, would stand behind Taft as his predecessor stood behind McKinley in the Spanish war. Nay, more. Let danger come, let revolution raise its flag, the serpents of discontent come forth to tear the flag of our fathers from the staffs, the cardinal, archbishops, bishops, priests in cathedrals, in humble hillside chapels, will burn

or melt down the sacred vessels and sell the bullion, sell the jewels and sacred vestments if necessary to save the republic, to perpetuate it, to keep it. That flag is our flag. Its colors are Catholic colors. If you see a nurse in Rome bearing a babe and both hands decorated with red ribbons, you know that the child is a boy dedicated to St. Joseph, whose colors are red. If the colors, are blue, the child is a girl dedicated to our blessed Lady, whose colors are blue. The papal flag is white. Christ's flag is white, the flag of peace, the flag of truce, the only flag that ever floats above the red, white and blue is the white flag of Christ. These colors, then, are ours. That flag is as sacred to us as to any man on earth."

WHAT PRODUCTION has done for wool is the subject of an interesting editorial in the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch. The editorial follows: "Does 'protection' upset the natural laws of trade, create new wealth and fatten up infant industries till they can stand on their own feet rather than those of all the tax-payers? Let us glance for a moment at the New England sheep industry, as illuminated by the following table comparing the number of sheep in that section in 1891 with 1909:

	1891.	1909.
Maine	547,670	210,000
New Hampshire	183,182	70,000
Vermont	851,249	180,000
Massachusetts	55,065	35,000
Rhode Island	20,433	7,500
Connecticut	45,824	38,000
Total New England	1,204,824	540,500

No American product has been so bountifully and gloriously protected as wool. 'Wool,' exclaimed Senator Aldrich, in awesome tones, during the tariff sessions, 'is the very citadel of protection.' The statement was quite true. Much of the worst jobbery and most barefaced greed that have stained our national tariff history have been displayed in behalf of this product. Upon it protection has lavished its kindest, and duties have piled on duties on the theory that taxation upon the clothes of us all would finally force a few sheep-raisers into an artificial and jerry-built prosperity. Yet in the face of all this effort and oppression the wool-growing industry of New England shows a 50 per cent decline in the last eighteen years. England, a free-trade country, has 258 sheep to the square mile. New England, though protected up to the limit and far beyond for many years, has 9.6 sheep to the square mile, and the number is decreasing. The nation has paid and is paying a heavy annual toll into the pockets of the sheep-raisers. What for? What is it getting for its money? At the present rate of progress backward, how long will it have to continue paying before wool can stand alone? Some of the ardent protectionists will kindly write."

REPRESENTATIVE Longworth, son-in-law of Theodore Roosevelt, stands sponsor for this story which, although a bit old, is yet good. An old negro was stopped on the street on election day by a white man who asked him if he had voted. "Yas, 'n deed, I'se voted," replied the negro. "Did you get anything for your vote?" "Oh, yas, suh. I got paid foh mah vote." "What did you get?" "Well, suh, it was laik dis. De republicans come to me and dey says dey give me 'leven dollahs if me and mah three boys vote de republican ticket, an' I took de money; an' de democrats come to me an' dey says dey give me seven dollahs foh mah vote and mah boys' votes, an' I took de money." "You took money from both sides. Then which ticket did you vote?" "Oh, I voted de democratic ticket." "Why so? The republicans gave you the most money." "I voted for de democrats foh jes' dat reason—dey wasn't as corrupt as de republicans."

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