

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE treaty of London, signed by Turkey and the Balkan states, is very far-reaching. Referring to this treaty, a writer in the Denver News says: Under the terms of the treaty the Ottoman was formed to cede to the allies and Albania 60,000 square miles of his European territory. This virtually drives the Turk out of Europe and leaves him only with a narrow strip of 5,000 square miles guarding Constantinople, the Bosphorus, the Dardanelles and the Sea of Marmora. The "sick man of Europe" has every reason for increased illness after his experience in treaty-making in London. It was only natural to expect that the pact would not be ratified without a strong protest from Montenegro, the plucky little principality stuck in the hills above Cettinge bay. For of all of the allies that battled against the continuance of Turkish authority in Europe, Montenegro, gauged by her size and resources, was easily the first in bravery and unselfish sacrifice. Montenegro's dream of years has been the acquisition of Scuarti, as an outlet to the sea as a defense in times of national peril, and for the sake of the rich stretch of lowlands that surrounds it. Montenegro won this right by the conquest of arms but the bullies of Europe affected to see in its retention by Montenegro a menace to Austro-Hungary stability and they forced its evacuation under the frowning guns of their dreadnoughts. The protest of the Montenegrin delegate, registered after the treaty was signed, was not alone historic, but pathetically so. "We have signed," said he, "because nothing else remained for us to do. We are profoundly dissatisfied with the terms on which we have been obliged to accept it. Proportionately, my country made greater sacrifices than any of the allies, yet, after a successful war, we have been despoiled of the fruits of our victories. We have been made the whipping-boy of Europe." And he told the precise truth, this representative of one of the pluckiest races that has ever struggled anywhere for national honor and the right to greater prosperity. The treaty of May 30 last was the seventh in importance which was signed in London. All of them had to do with the regulation of affairs in the Levant and were closely connected with Turkish and Grecian affairs. The first was in 1827, when Great Britain, France and Russia sought to obtain the independence of Greece, which they did establish three years later through the second treaty of London. In 1840 Great Britain, Prussia and Russia, unknown to France, arrived at an understanding "for the pacification of the Levant," and establishing the heredity of the Pashalik of Egypt in the family of Mehemet Ali. A year later, almost to a day, Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, Russia and Turkey reached an agreement to close the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, and in 1863 the same powers, with the exception, of course, of Turkey, forced the cession of the Ionian islands to Greece. The penultimate treaty of London was in 1871 when Germany, Austria, France, Great Britain, Italy and Russia, abrogated the neutrality of the Black sea.

SENATOR SIMMONS, chairman of the senate finance committee, has issued the following statement: "So much has been said in the press concerning the president's alleged connection with certain amendments recommended by certain sub-committees of the finance committee that is misleading and erroneous, that in order that the public may understand the real facts, I wish to say that, while the president has expressed to the members of the finance committee, as he is reported to have expressed to members of the ways and means committee when the bill was in the house, strong views and convictions with respect to placing on the free list both wool and sugar, he has not, so far as I know, expressed any views as to the other provisions of the bill except when his opinion has been asked, and has not in any way attempted to dictate to the committee. The view current in the newspapers to the effect that a sub-committee of the finance committee had decided to recommend that wheat and live stock as well as meat and flour should go on the free list at the instance and dictation of the president, is

not correct. So far as I know, the president has expressed no opinion with respect to this matter except that when told of the probable action of the sub-committee putting these articles on the free list, in response to an inquiry as to his opinion on the subject, he expressed approval. Nor is it true that the sub-committee adopted the countervailing proviso with respect to wheat and flour at the president's dictation after much discussion, as has been represented. On the contrary, the president has expressed no views so far as I know to the committee on this subject, and the committee's action with reference to the countervailing duties on these articles was taken at the same time it was decided to recommend that they be put on the free list."

IN an editorial entitled, "Tired of Life," the Washington Post, in commenting on a suicide prominent in the current press dispatches, points out some of the real underlying causes that lead to self-destruction. It says: "Eugene Maggi and his wife, said to be the wealthiest couple in Switzerland, recently killed themselves. He was aged 41, and she 35. Together they were worth \$10,000,000. They had no children. They were tired of life, and so ended it. This is a rather strange story of riches, comparative youth, and unbearable discontent with existence. It could hardly have been a case of momentary insanity, for two persons seldom go insane at the same time. Too much money may have led to satiety, yet that hardly satisfies the situation. Many theories will be advanced, any one of which is probably worth as much as any other. Perhaps they had already ceased to live, in the true sense. Lacking the spur of need or the incentive of further ambition, they may have seen no reason for continuing. The absence of children gave them nothing to look forward to, either for responsibility or comfort. What a blessing it would have been if these two had been confronted with a genuine trouble, a positive sorrow, to break the lethargy that found its only relief in death! For the Maggis the problem has been solved in a somewhat forlorn and hopeless way. For others like afflicted, there remains the solace of the day's work, of engrossing self-forgetfulness in a worthy task, of even intense activity in doing nothing. Work may be a blessing or a curse, as one chooses to view it. In either case, some kind of occupation is necessary if health, sanity, and an abiding interest in life are to be maintained. Rightly preached, the gospel of work is not championed merely for work's sake. It is rather for the exultation that its accomplishment brings. The game is worth more than the candle. Nothing stands still in the living universe. One grows by what one does. It is the living, and not the having lived, that counts. The closed blade alone gets rusty, and it is only the closed house that gathers dampness, dust, disease, and death. A man or a woman must have something to do. Children force many to an active and cheerful life. The lonely are miserable only when they retire within themselves. The most morbid people are those that are isolated from their kind. The sane way is to wear the harness of honest toil or even honest frivolity to the end. Then life lasts till the last breath, and the game holds zest until its natural end."

FLAG DAY was celebrated in the different government departments at Washington with appropriate ceremonies. The Washington correspondent for the New York Herald says: In the state department Mr. Bryan, the secretary, made a brief address. At his request President Wilson agreed to make a speech at next year's celebration. A double quartette, composed of employes of the bureau of construction and repair of the navy department, called on the secretaries of state, war and navy and sang patriotic airs, such as "America," "The Star Spangled Banner," "Dixie" and "Old Black Joe." The exercises opened with the singing of "America," after which a brief speech was made by M. D. Schaefer, chief clerk of the bureau of construction and repair, on the birth of the flag. This was the first cele-

bration of its kind in the government departments. At exercises in the court of the interior department, presided over by Secretary Lane, Mr. Bryan vividly pictured a world of friendly nations among which war would have no place. He believed that long steps now were being taken to insure universal peace, and added: "Love is a stronger force than fear. It is the proud boast of this nation that our flag is loved, rather than feared. No gun ever mounted is as strong as a great thought. Great thoughts are the controlling forces of the world; and love is the basis of every great thought." In an apotheosis to the flag, Mr. Bryan compared the ideals represented respectively by Christ and Pilate: "The power of the unarmed Man of Galilee is represented by that flag, and no man will dare to put it on the side of Pilate, who was the embodiment of force. Let us always make it a symbol of the nation's purpose—a purpose pure enough to be represented by such a flag. The ideals of this nation shall be greater than its armament and it always shall represent a cause so just that it will bear the blessing of Almighty God."

BISHOP CANDLER, of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, spoke recently at Atlanta, Ga., and charged that the recently announced gift of one million dollars by Andrew Carnegie to the Vanderbilt university at Nashville, Tenn., is "not a donation, but an effort to get control over the university property," and that money is being offered for this purpose. Bishop Candler characterized Mr. Carnegie's offer of a donation to the university as an "impudent proposal of an agnostic steel monger." "This loud-heralded gift," Bishop Candler's statement recites, "on close inspection of its terms appears to be no gift at all, but a shrewd attempt to get control of a part of the property of the Vanderbilt university in order to set up a medical school fashioned according to the particular ideas of Mr. Carnegie. Vanderbilt university belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, south. The church ownership having been denied, suit was brought some time ago to settle the question, and the chancery court decided every point in the church's favor. From that decision an appeal was taken and is now pending in the supreme court of Tennessee." Bishop Candler quoted Mr. Carnegie's letter in which the latter states his objections to denominational control of colleges and universities and imposes conditions on his donation consequent upon determination of the question of denominational control of the university. "It appears," said Bishop Candler, "also that the Episcopalians see in this affair an effort to defeat the proposed medical department of the university of the south. If they are correct in their opinion, Mr. Carnegie is proposing at one blow to destroy the medical school of the Episcopalians and denature the medical schools of the Methodists and raise on the ruins of both a Carnegieized establishment in his own image and likeness."

THE people of the District of Columbia were particularly interested in a decision recently handed down by the United States supreme court. A Washington dispatch to the New York World says: The federal civil rights act was pronounced unconstitutional by the United States supreme court. The opinion was unanimous. It was read by Judge Van Devanter. This decision removes the last slender barrier standing between negroes and discrimination in the matter of public utilities. It was the only legislative thread upon which they could contend for equal accommodations when travelling by train and boat, in seeking hotel quarters, in desiring to be served in restaurants, drug stores and other places and in demanding other equal privileges with white persons. Some years ago the supreme court held that congress had exceeded its powers in passing the civil rights act and declared that so far as it interfered with the rights of a state it was "repugnant." That opinion in reality left the act operative alone as concerned the District of Columbia, the various territories and the high seas. The cases at issue involved extending the civil rights act to