

CURRENT TOPICS

AN INDIAN woman of the Creek tribe, whose name is Fixico, and who is said to be 105 years old, is among the claimants for a share of the "loyal" Creek fund which is being disbursed by the government at Okmulgee. Referring to this woman the Kansas City Journal says: "She is a full blood Creek, living in the Indian town of Weogufgee, Creek nation, which has been her home for seventy years. She was brought to Okmulgee from her home by a distant relative. She made the trip of over thirty miles on a cot, having been carried in that manner from her town to Spokogee in a suggy and from there in the baggage car of a passenger train to her destination. She was borne into the room where the payments are being made by four men, who carried the cot into the room in the presence of the government officials. She was properly identified, and taken back to her lodging, where she is being cared for until her number is called and she can draw her check. While she has waited nearly every other original claimant has died. Her skin is as dry as parchment. It is drawn over face and arms so tightly that it makes her look like a skeleton. Her eyes, although sunken far into the sockets, are bright. Her mind is clear and her memory remarkable."

J. E. LAGDAMEO, a Filipino student of Yale forestry school, was refused the right to register in order to vote. Mr. Lagdameo was told that he must become naturalized before he could vote. Lagdameo said that, as the United States owned the Philippines, he was a citizen. After considerable argument the situation was brought to the attention of Assistant Attorney General Robb at Washington, who made this statement by telephone: "The supreme court of the United States has held that a Filipino is not a citizen of the United States. Therefore, if the law of Connecticut requires a voter to be a citizen, he must be naturalized." The Filipino was not registered.

SINCE the opening of the World's fair at St. Louis, the name "Igorrote" has occasioned unusual interest. Regarding the proper use and spelling of this word, the Brooklyn Eagle has this to say: "If you want to be strictly correct you must spell it 'I-g-o-r-o-t,' not 'I-g-o-r-r-o-t-e,' and pronounce it with the short sound of 'i' as in 'it' and the long sound of 'o' as in 'coat,' says the Rochester Post-Express. And above all don't pluralize the word, else you commit a solecism as serious as adding the plural 's' to 'sheep.' The government has adopted this form 'I-g-o-r-o-t-e,' and its future publications will spell it that way. Uncle Sam accepts the advice of the committee on Philippine geographical names appointed by Governor Taft a short time before his return to the United States. This committee is composed of men of scientific knowledge of languages, selected because of their special fitness for determining the correct spelling of Filipino words."

THE origin of the word is very interesting. Dr. Albert Ernest Jenks, one of the committee, and chief of the ethnological department of the Filipino exhibit at St. Louis, in his report just published gives a history of it. He says that Morga in 1609 used the word "Iglot." Early Spaniards also used the word frequently as "Ygolotes," and today some groups of the Igorot, as the Bontoc group, do not pronounce the "r" sound, which common usage now puts to the word. "The word 'Igorot' is now adopted tentatively as the name of the extensive Malayan people of Northern Luzon," he adds, "because it is applied to a very large number of mountain people by themselves, and also has a recognized usage in ethnological and other writings. Its form 'Igorot' is adapted for both singular and plural, because it is both natural and phonetic, and because it is thought wise to retain the simple, native forms of such words, as it seems necessary or best to incorporate in our language, especially in scientific language."

IF A UNIQUE technicality insures the winning of his case, Jake Grusin, a saloonkeeper of Atlanta, Ga., is on the road to success. The Atlanta

Constitution says: "Two true bills were found against Grusin by the United States grand jury. In one there were two counts. In the first bill he was charged with rectifying liquors without a license, in that he had mixed whisky from two barrels; in the second bill the first count was unlawfully using whisky barrels that had been used, and the second count was failing to obliterate government stamps after the whisky had been used in the barrel. On the first indictment and the second count in the second indictment, Grusin was acquitted. On the first count of the second indictment he was convicted."

GRUSIN was to have been sentenced when his lawyers gave notice of an extraordinary motion in which it will be claimed that as the indictment read "in the year of our Lord, one thousand and nine and three," the alleged crime was committed 811 years ago, as "one thousand and nine and three" was the year 1093 and not 1903. This novel motion on the statute of limitation is creating considerable interest among the legal profession.

A REMARKABLE story is told of a dog at Yatesville, Pa., by the Cincinnati Enquirer. It is explained that for six years the dog accompanied his master, Bernard Dougherty, a track-walker, on his beat between Yatesville and Shenandoah, Dougherty training the canine to carry the handle of the flag between his teeth. Dougherty died last night. The dog at daybreak, as usual, stood outside the house waiting for his master. Then, evidently thinking Dougherty had gone without him, the animal ran to the track, and, entering a shanty where the track walker kept a flag, procured it and started along the track until the train was met, when the absence of the watchman was discovered.

MUCH has been said of the overbearing authority displayed by officers of the German army. Their subordinates have been compelled at times to submit to the grossest insults. The Berlin correspondent for the London Standard cites an instance where a non-commissioned officer named Barschau, of the Baden regiment of foot artillery, has been sentenced to a year and a half's imprisonment, with degradation to the ranks. Not content with ordinary methods of breaking in recruits which appear to prevail among Prussian non-commissioned officers—boxing their ears, hitting and kicking them—Barschau used to make his men undress and dress again all night, or he would amuse himself by keeping them creeping backward and forward under their beds. This would be varied by making them march up and down in the hot barrack rooms in full uniform, with bare feet, until they sank through exhaustion. If they refused to sing at his orders, he used to thrash them unmercifully. A man who had let some gun cleaning oil drop on the floor was ordered to lick it up, and was beaten for declining to do so. A favorite recreation was to make the soldiers kneel down by their beds before going to sleep and repeat a blasphemous prayer containing admissions of their stupidity.

THIS correspondent adds: "Hardly a week passes now without the disclosure of one or more disgraceful cases of brutality on the part of German non-commissioned officers. Soldiers, as a rule, bear a great deal without complaining before they bring themselves to report their superiors, and it may be taken for granted that numerous acts of brutality are perpetrated in the German army without ever reaching the ears of the public. It is little wonder, adds the correspondent, that German parents often look forward with fear and despair to the day when their sons have to serve under men who are able, if so disposed, to make the lives of their recruits well nigh intolerable."

A VERY pretty story is told of Emperor Nicholas I by the princess of Meiningen. It is explained by the princess that Nicholas was very much opposed to dueling. Upon one occasion a

young officer whom the emperor loved very dearly came to ask his permission to fight a duel and was promptly refused. "But, your majesty, the fellow boxed my ears. My honor is gone. Unless I punish him in a duel I will have to kill myself." "Very well, my son, come and attend me to parade," said the emperor. When the review was finished Nicholas called on all officers to form a square around him; then he ordered the would-be duelist to his side and asked him before the assembled generals and comrades: "Where did that scoundrel strike you?" "Here," replied the officer, pointing to his blushing cheek. The czar addressed his generals: "Gentlemen, witness how I wipe out the blemish." And Nicholas bent over the young man and kissed him on the cheek three times."

BY A RATHER expensive bit of economy, Donald K. Osborn recently lost \$300. The New York World tells the story in this way: "Osborn who was a clerk in the Indian service at Yankton Agency, was fined that sum by Judge Carland in the United States court for using an official envelope for his private business. There were several counts in the indictment and Osborn pleaded guilty to one. He continues in the public service, having been transferred to an Indian Territory agency."

A READER of the New York World living at Hazel, S. D., sends to that paper this interesting communication: "The people of the east do not know what beef is selling at here in this cattle country. The trust will pay only two cents per pound for the best of cattle. Look at what they have to pay in New York for beef today! Never in the history of cattle-raising were cattle worth so little as they are at the present time to the cattle-raisers. But as soon as beef goes to the butchers' hands it sells for as much as it did five and six years ago. Compare that with your market and see how much profit there is in handling beef for the beef trust."

HOBART LANGDON is authority for the statement that insanity predominates among dark-complexioned persons. He says that only 3 per cent of the total number of patients in a certain southern state insane asylum had light hair and only 2 per cent blue eyes. Mr. Langdon adds: "It struck me as a rather curious fact that dark haired and dark eyed people should so largely predominate among the insane, but the matter of latitude might play some part in this, I thought; for naturally there were more dark than light haired people in that section. Just as a matter of curiosity, however, I thought I would write to asylum authorities in certain other parts of the country to see what the ratio of light haired inmates was to those who were dark, and expected to find the percentage increase in communities where the total of light haired people was larger, but in this I was mistaken; so I am led to infer from the statistics I gathered that there is a greater possibility for insanity among dark haired than among light haired people. My figures were obtained from sixty-eight asylums, located in nearly every state in the union, and a few in Canada and England. The total number of patients in these institutions was 16,512, of whom 703 had light hair and only 66 red or auburn locks. In other words, 96 per cent of the inmates were brunettes, with either black or brown hair, the latter in varying shades. In one asylum in New England there was not a single inmate that was not a brunette."

MISS ROSE PERKINS of Huntington, Mass., enjoys the novel distinction of growing young again at the age of 85. Writing about this lucky woman a correspondent for the New York Tribune says: "At the advanced age of 85 Miss Perkins finds that her hair, which has been snow white for many years, is beginning to turn black. She is also beginning to cut a set of new teeth. This process of renaissance began about seven years ago, when her eyesight, which had failed her several years before, was suddenly restored to her."