

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE DEMOCRATS of Chicago, on February 25, nominated to be mayor of that city, Judge Edward F. Dunne. Frederick W. Blocki was named for city treasurer, William B. Moak for city attorney, Adrain C. Anson for city clerk. Judge Dunne received every one of the 987 votes in the convention. Judge Dunne delivered a speech in which, referring to his nomination, he said: "I accept it chiefly because I think it lies in the power of the city of Chicago to blaze the way among American cities for putting into actual operation the principle of municipal ownership and operation of public utilities. In the coming campaign we will engage in a struggle for the possession of our streets now monopolized by the traction companies and begin at once to take steps for the ownership and operation of the street cars of the city of Chicago. That municipal ownership and operation is no idle dream, that it is no mere captivating fancy or alluring theory, but an actual reality, can easily be established. We need not discuss the theory of municipal ownership or municipal ownership alone in the abstract. The people of this city have learned long ago that municipal ownership and operation is in practical force as to street cars in over 100 great cities in England, Scotland and Ireland; that it is in operation in many of the great cities of Germany, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Australia and New Zealand."

EDWARD FITZSIMMON DUNNE, Chicago's democratic nominee for mayor, was born in Waterford, Conn., Oct. 12, 1858. The Chicago Record-Herald prints the following sketch of his life: "In 1854 his parents removed to Peoria, Ill. He was educated in the public schools of Peoria and when 16 years of age sent to Dublin, Ireland, entering Trinity University. On account of business reverses of his father he was called back to this country only a few months before the date fixed for his graduation from Trinity. The candidate came to Chicago from Peoria in 1876 and entered the law office of W. W. O'Brien, the famous criminal lawyer. He was admitted to the bar in 1878 and became a member of the law firm of Scates, Hynes & Dunne. Later ex-Judge Scates stepped out and the firm became Hynes, Dunne & English. This law firm continued until 1892, when it was dissolved because of Mr. Dunne's nomination for judge of the circuit court, to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Judge Driggs. At the time of his election Judge Dunne was credited with being the youngest man ever elected to the circuit bench in the country. He was re-elected in 1897 and 1903. Until nominated and elected a judge he had never sought nor held political office. Judge Dunne is a fair type of the younger members of the Chicago bar who have forged to the front. His suavity of manner is perhaps one of the reasons for his popularity among all classes of lawyers. He is noted for his dispatch of cases and for his untiring industry no less than for his grasp of the law. For several years he has been an advocate of municipal ownership of the traction systems in Chicago, and his publicly expressed views on this question are said to have gained him the nomination for mayor of Chicago. In 1881 Judge Dunne married Elizabeth J. Kelly of this city. They have thirteen children, ten of whom are living."

THE NAME of Senator Joseph V. Quarles of Wisconsin was presented to the senate February 25 in the form of a nomination for the district judgeship in eastern Wisconsin. Senator Quarles' nomination created considerable surprise. He has all along identified himself with the opponents of Governor LaFollette. A dispatch to the Chicago Tribune, under date of February 28, said that the president had determined to withdraw Senator Quarles' name until after March 4, owing to the claim that Mr. Quarles is ineligible because of a constitutional prohibition against the appointment to office of a senator or representative during the time for which he was elected to any federal office, emoluments of which shall have been increased during such time. By the act of 1903, which was passed during Mr. Quarles' term of office, the salary of district judges was increased from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year.

ONCE BEFORE in recent years has the question arisen regarding constitutional prohibition against the appointment of a senator to an office whose salary had been increased during his term of office. The Tribune dispatch says: "This was the case of Senator Matt W. Ransom of North Carolina, who, just before the expiration of his term in 1895, was named as minister to Mexico by President Cleveland. Within a couple of months it was found that the salary of the mission to Mexico had been increased during Ransom's term as senator, and the state department raised the question of the legality of his appointment. The then attorney general, Mr. Olney, rendered an opinion that under the circumstances Ransom's appointment was unconstitutional. President Cleveland accordingly declared the office vacant, but next day reappointed Mr. Ransom as minister to Mexico."

REPRESENTATIVE CRUMPACKER of Indiana recently received a petition asking that Leroy Hayden be appointed postmaster at Lowell, a small town in the state of Indiana. The oddity of the petition is described by the New York Evening Post in this way: "It carries seventy-one names, all of them Haydens. It seems that there are ninety-one adult male members of the tribe in and near Lowell, and the applicant has rounded up all but twenty of them in his support. The Haydens settled in the country around Lowell in 1837, and there has been no race suicide. Even the given names are similar. On the petition, twelve John Haydens appear, and they are known as John Hayden first, John Hayden second, and so on. The petition has been turned over to the president, and it is a safe prediction that Mr. Leroy Hayden will be selected to handle the Lowell mail for the next four years."

IT IS not generally known that recently the United States consul in Baden, Germany, made a report on the government ownership of railroads there. The Washington correspondent for the New York Evening Post says that this report "would make converts rapidly to that idea in this country." The Post correspondent adds: "This report first shows that the Baden lines are operated at a profit. Last year the net profit, freight and passenger, was upwards of \$11,000,000. It next tells that the number of accidents is smaller, proportionately, than in the United States, and almost no accidents occur at stations. This consul says that the Baden government within the last year has gone to great lengths in providing for the comfort of railroad employees."

IN THIS REPORT the Baden consul says "the government now commands 2,936 apartment houses where officials and other employees reside. Train crews have been furnished with sleeping accommodations when their runs require them to be absent from home overnight, and small cooking stoves have been provided where meals may be warmed. At Karlsruhe and Mannheim the government has lunchrooms established where employes may obtain meals consisting of soup, meat, and vegetables for eight cents. The intention is to furnish the meals at cost. At these restaurants the sale of liquors is forbidden. At Karlsruhe a library, consisting of 1,300 volumes, has been furnished the employes. The restaurants at the various depots throughout Baden are rented to private individuals, but government employes are furnished meals at reduced rates. Some of the restaurants are sources of considerable revenue; for instance, the depot restaurant at Heidelberg rents for \$11,900, and at Mannheim for \$8,568."

THE SENATE, on February 27, concluded the impeachment trial of Judge Swayne and acquitted him on all charges preferred. The Associated Press says: "The house vote for impeachment was 35 votes and the lowest against was 37. On the two articles charging use of private railroad cars, only 13 votes were cast for conviction. The larger votes were largely along party lines. The total vote on the first article follows: Guilty—

Bacon, Bailey, Bard, Bate, Berry, Blackburn, Carmack, Clark (Mont.), Clay, Cockrell, Culberson, Daniel, Foster (La.), Gorman, Kittredge, Latimer, McCreary, McCumber, McEnery, McLaurin, Mallory, Martin, Money, Morgan, Nelson, Newlands, Overman, Patterson, Pettus, Simons, Stone, Talliaferro, Teller—33. Not Guilty—Alger, Alee, Allison, Ankeney, Ball, Beveridge, Burnham, Burrows, Clapp, Clark (Wyo.), Crane, Cullom, Depew, Dick, Dietrich, Dolliver, Dillingham, Dryden, Dubois, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster (Wash.), Frye, Fulton, Gallinger, Gamble, Gibson, Hale, Hansbrough, Heyburn, Hopkins, Kean, Kearns, Lodge, Long, McComas, Millard, Penrose, Perkins, Quarles, Platt (Conn.), Proctor, Platt (N. Y.), Scott, Smoot, Spooner, Stewart, Warren—49."

A READER of The Commoner, living at El Toro, Calif., writing under date of February 7, says: "Your number of 3d inst. reproduces a historical sketch of Russia's reigning house, taken from the New York World. The article contains several errors, of which I beg to rectify the most notable one. It says that Nicholas I succeeded his brother Alexander I in 1850, and reigned only three years. This is wrong, as Nicholas occupied Russia's throne, after Alexander's death in 1825, and reigned 30 years until 1855. The error is the more striking, as Emperor Nicholas was, since the time of Peter I and Catherine II, probably the strongest among Russia's rulers. He was the most complete type of autocrat in the Nineteenth century. An absolute and relentless despot at home in his own empire, he was the recognized head of reaction in Europe. By the way, the New York World has the strangest sources of historic information, if one has to judge by another article, equally reproduced in the same number of your paper. Speaking of the great upheavals that have changed the fate of the world, or at least the destinies of great states, it omits the French revolution, as well as the great English one, which deprived Charles I of his throne and life, and brought out the power of Cromwell."

GEORGE S. BOUTWELL died at his home at Groton, Mass., February 27. A writer in the Louisville Courier-Journal, referring to Governor Boutwell, says: "Born in January, 1818, he had recently passed his eighty-seventh birthday. In the beginning of his public life he was a democrat, and rose to the rank of a leader of that party in Massachusetts. He was twice the democratic candidate for governor, and was twice defeated, but he was elected in 1851, and again in 1852, by a coalition with the free-soil party. Governor Boutwell broke with the democrats in 1854, in consequence of the repeal of the Missouri compromise, and helped to organize the republican party. He was the first commissioner of internal revenue, and afterward served three terms in the lower house of congress. During his last term in the house he was one of the managers for the impeachment of President Johnson, and made a speech which attracted much attention. It contained an allusion to a 'hole in the sky,' which was the occasion of some hilarity at the time. It is worthy of mention that he died on the day which marked the acquittal of Judge Swayne. Mr. Boutwell was secretary of the treasury in General Grant's first term, and afterward served in the senate. In his last days he was distinguished for his opposition to imperialistic tendencies, and was the president of the anti-imperial league. He was the author of a number of books, one of which was 'Sixty Years in Public Life,' containing many interesting reminiscences."

IN THE APPROPRIATION BILL as it passed the senate, Mr. Roosevelt gets the two new battleships, but Walter Wellman, writing in the Chicago Record-Herald says that this appropriation is "accompanied by the warning that this is the last for some years to come." Referring to this action by the senate, Mr. Wellman says: "The senate has served notice upon the president and the country that the growth of the navy must now be stopped. It appears to be the consensus of senatorial opinion that the American navy is now really the second navy of the world in fighting efficiency, ranking next to the British navy and ahead of the