

CURRENT TOPICS

GOVERNOR EDWARD C. STOKES of New Jersey, recently addressed a conference of ministers at Atlantic City. According to the New York World, Governor Stokes advanced the suggestion that prayer and preaching would be a better remedy for the evils of trusts and railroad combinations than the usual laws enacted by state and nation. This was brought out in an address to a newly ordained class of ministers. "While I am a full believer in passing remedial legislation," he said, "it has been my experience that any sort of law will be circumvented by human ingenuity. What is needed is a higher sense of honesty and right, which will prevent the oppression of the poor by those in power, and inculcation of this principle is the business of the preachers of the country rather than the legislators."

THAT nearly 13 per cent of all the gold of the country is held by the national banks of New York is a piece of information vouched for by a writer of the Wall Street Journal. This writer adds: "It amounts to about 45 per cent of all the gold in the national banks of the United States. As New York's proportion of national bank loans on Jan. 11 was nearly 20 per cent, and its proportion of national bank capital, surplus and undivided profits was 16 per cent, it appears that the percentage of gold in the New York banks is very large. But large as it was on Jan. 11, it was still larger before the recent gold export movement, the percentage last September having been 52. The following table shows the lawful reserve of the national banks in New York at four periods in the last seven years, 000's being omitted in each column:

	Gold.	Silver.	Specie.	Tenders.	Total Legal
Jan. 11, 1905.....	\$173,996	\$24,044	\$198,040	\$55,003	
Sept. 6, 1904.....	220,047	21,191	241,238	46,668	
Sept. 30, 1901....	148,445	13,899	162,354	49,002	
Sept. 21, 1898....	108,903	5,661	114,565	31,265	

SOMEONE proposed in the Nebraska legislature that a state railroad commission be created, each member thereof to receive \$3,000 per year. The Wall Street Journal did not take kindly to the plan and in an editorial said: "We have frequently expressed our conviction that federal regulation of rates by a high-class well-paid commission appointed by the president was necessary, but think of a state commission elected by popular vote and composed of \$3,000 a year men, having the power to fix railroad rates! Nebraska, like Kansas, appears to be going trust mad. Ill-considered and extreme action against the trusts is really worse than no action at all."

THIS Wall Street publication is reminded by the Des Moines (Ia.) Register and Leader that for twenty years Iowa has had a commission "composed of \$3,000 a year men" having power to fix railway rates. The Register and Leader adds: "And what has there been in Iowa's experience of twenty years to warrant the sneer of the Wall Street Journal? Iowa has had less trouble with her state traffic, with her railway assessments, with securing accommodations, and in every way, than any state in the union, so much so that Iowa has been the model which Governor LaFollette has held up to Wisconsin from the beginning to the end of his great campaign. The Wall Street Journal should ponder a remark made by Governor Larrabee recently. Governor Larrabee said that men are the same whether they be called commissioners, judges, or what not. Men are the same whether they draw salaries of \$3,000 a year or \$50,000 a year, and they are the same whether they are appointed or elected by popular vote. For a democracy there is altogether too much talk in the United States about the superiority of \$30,000 men—a superiority that does not exist and that never will exist until there is some discovery made that makes a silver spoon in the mouth an important element of heredity."

IOWA'S experience, according to the Register and Leader, justifies every state that has effective control of its own railways in so far as a commission of \$3,000 men" by popular vote. The Register and Leader says "it is largely the national experience of Iowa that the demand

regulation is so persistent and so overwhelming in congress. Iowa fought out the fight long ago and vindicated our common American democracy by showing to the world that "a commission elected by popular vote and composed of \$3,000 a year men" could be trusted to regulate the most important interests of the state. They have done this without confiscating property, and have brought about peace and fair treatment to all without injury to any."

FROM certain facts presented in Mr. Garfield's own report, the Philadelphia Record concludes that there is such a thing as a beef trust and that its members are not poverty stricken. The Record says: "The profit of 2 per cent, which Commissioner Garfield finds to be the extent of the gain of the great beef packers, was not computed on the capital invested, but on gross business. The annual business of five of the 'big six'—the National Packing company being excluded—amounts to about \$825,000,000; and 2 per cent on this amount foots up to \$16,500,000 a year, or 16½ per cent on \$100,000,000, which is the invested capital of the trust. The investment in refrigerator cars amounts to probably \$54,000,000, and the returns from these for mileage alone (17 per cent) would come to \$9,180,000 a year. It would not be an unwarranted assumption that rebates paid by the transportation companies, in the form of demurrage for terminal facilities (stock yards) and for trackage on sidings and 'connecting railways' amount to another \$10,000,000 a year. The total profits thus shown would come to nearly \$36,600,000 per annum—surely a very liberal return on an investment of \$154,000,000."

REFERRING to the Record's remark, the Louisville Courier-Journal says: "Undoubtedly one of the indictments against the beef trust is the profits it exacts of those forced to buy from it and the profits it denies to those forced to sell to it. But another indictment even more serious is the use to which it puts its vast power in the methods by which it conducts its business and throttles honest competition."

A CURIOUS state of affairs is described by a writer in the Louisville Courier-Journal in this way: "In a burst of enthusiasm for the fight of Kansas against the Standard Oil trust the South Dakota legislature amended its law fixing oil standards so that Kansas oil could enter the state at a lower test than any other. It may have been supposed by the members of the legislature that the oil refined by a state would not blow up, that it would be less distressing to the victor to be blown up by state oil than by trust oil. But it mattered little whether people were blown up or not so long as the oil of a state was up and fighting a trust was favored in business. The legislature was discovered immediately after the adjournment that no Kansas oil could be obtained except from the Standard Oil company and that the trust has not been sending lower priced Kansas oil into South Dakota. The repeal of the test, therefore, amounts to a repeal of the legislation that the trust has been fighting."

ADDRESSING the Chicago Credit Men's association recently, Dr. Charles F. Roger, who, according to the Chicago Record-Herald, "has made a study of chambers of interesting rules," laid down the following rules:

1. A man who shaketh his thumb on the back of your hand, who never presses his thumb against you, who keeps his thumb the stingier he is, the higher he shakes hands with the tips of his fingers only is not to be trusted—he may pay his debt, but he will never pay the second.
2. The man who gives you a listless and lifeless hand, which you have to shake, beware.
3. You can tell a liar as far as you can see him by watching his eyelids. If the eyelid cuts off the eye at the outside corner, drooping over it, the possessor is a stranger to the truth and has only heard of veracity as a word in the dictionary.
4. The persons who show white all the way around the eyeball are persons who prevaricate.
5. When a person's head is bigger at the back

and sides than at the front and top, the animal predominates over the intellectual forces.

8. In judging women the essential things to be observed are the lips and eyes—pay no attention even to powder and rouge in your estimate upper lip—like a streak of red—is not only cold-hearted, but clammy.

9. If a woman's eyelid cuts off the eye at the of female character. The woman with a thin corner she is a liar like the man with the corresponding eyelid.

10. If she has white all the way around her eye she does not tell the truth.

11. Beware of the person, man or woman, who does not look you straight in the eye. If he or she examines the wall or the sky or the dog make up your mind that you are dealing with one who is insincere.

12. Courage and force of character are shown by the person who walks with his head held up in the air.

NOW that the Dominican treaty has been put away Walter Wellman, Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says it is pertinent to describe the means by which that treaty met its fate. Mr. Wellman says: "We are told many times a day that the treaty could not be ratified because the democrats were virtually solid in their opposition to it, and, of all the votes have a little more than one-third of all the votes in the senate, that is supposed to be an adequate explanation, but it is not. The treaty actually fails because the republicans of the senate, or enough of them, wanted it to fail for the purpose of 'teaching Mr. Roosevelt a lesson. Instead of showing their hands in open opposition, they quietly induced their friends of the minority to stand in solid array and assume responsibility for the removal of the unwelcome visitor within the senatorial precinct. This is not the first time a majority has used a complacent minority to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for it. Probably it will not be the last time. The treaty could easily have been rejected if the republican leaders of the senate had been in earnest in their desire for its ratification. They were not. Those that were not seriously opposed to it were indifferent. A tacit bargain was made with Mr. Gorman, the leader of the majority, by which he was to play the role of the rascal. He was to line up his men. Absentee republicans were not to be brought back to Washington. Thanks to the men of his own political party, another of President Roosevelt's plans for doing things has come to naught."

A CABLEGRAM under date of Viborg, European Russia, March 20, says. "Governor Miasorodoff was shot and seriously wounded today by a boy. The assassin, who is about 15 years old, obtained an entrance to the governor's office and fired three times at him, one bullet inflicting a serious wound and the others slightly injuring the governor's legs. The governor's clerks and secretary were unable to stop the assassin, who reached the street, where, however, he was arrested without a struggle. The governor's condition is critical. The youth has been identified at Matti Hjalmar Reinikke. He admits that he is a revolutionist. He hails from Kurikke parish in the northwestern part of Finland, but recently has been living in Stockholm to avoid arrest on account of his known revolutionary ideas. He returned four days ago to Finland by way of Tornea and spent three days in Viborg, but declines to reveal his stopping place. Governor Miasorodoff has been most energetic in the Russification of Finland, and memorials have been sent to the states petitioning for his removal on account of his alleged illegal methods and the general conditions in his province, which were pronounced to be intolerable."

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS representing Boston and various sections of New England have, according to an Associated Press report, forwarded to the American board of commissioners for foreign missions a protest against the acceptance by the board of a gift of \$100,000 from John D. Rockefeller. The petition, which was prepared by a committee chosen at a meeting of the clergymen, protests against the acceptance of the gift on the ground that the Standard Oil company, of which Mr. Rockefeller is the head, stands