

CURRENT TOPICS

WITH WOMEN fainting and men sobbing, Daniel Maloney fell three thousand feet to his death at Santa Clara, Cal., July 18. A correspondent for the Denver News says "Maloney had announced an ascension with Prof. Montgomery's aeroplane from the grounds of Santa Clara college in honor of the League of the Cross cadets, who are holding their annual encampment in that town. The announcement attracted probably two thousand people, who watched with interest the huge machine as it shot up from the college garden attached to a huge balloon. At a height of 4,000 feet Maloney cut loose and began maneuvering the aeroplane. He circled gracefully about for some minutes, having the machine apparently under perfect control. Then he essayed a deep dip. Suddenly the machine swerved, hesitated and turned completely over. It righted itself, sank down a considerable distance and turned over again. Maloney was clinging desperately to his seat and evidently endeavoring to regain his control, but all his efforts were in vain. Again the aeroplane turned in the air and this time the wings came together and the man and machine plunged straight downward, while the horrified spectators gazed helplessly upward. Amid shrieks and groans, many people rushed to the scene, while others turned away weeping. A number of cadets first reached the unconscious man and, picking him up, they conveyed him to the college hospital. His head was fractured and blood was flowing from his ears and mouth. He expired within a short time. The aeroplane, which was constructed of the toughest oak procurable, was ground into small fragments."

ALBANY, NEW YORK, dispatches say that Attorney General Mayer has been supplied with important testimony showing that the men in charge of Equitable affairs used the society funds for private profit. It is said that this testimony discloses that Senator Depew alone engineered the deal for the famous \$250,000 loan; that assistant secretaries and their subordinates, as well as "dummy directors" held securities with the understanding that they should turn over the dividends to James H. Hyde; that the merger of the Western National and the National Bank of the United States was conceived for the deliberate purpose of wrecking the former institution; that for many years Equitable officers repeatedly swore that accumulations of the society were held for the benefit of the policy holders, and were therefore exempt from taxation.

DRAMATIC scene occurred July 13, at Kansas City, in the hearing of testimony in the case of the state of Missouri against the Oil trust. The Kansas City correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says that when Judge H. S. Priest of St. Louis, special counsel for the Oil trust, objected to a question his objection lengthened into an eloquent address. The correspondent explains: "Judge Priest begged that Mr. Rockefeller and the Standard not be convicted on hearsay testimony and likened the Standard's present predicament to that of Captain Dreyfus of the French army, who was convicted on hearsay testimony and suffered three years of unjust imprisonment. In words of burning rhetoric Judge Priest told of the terrible things that happened to the marooned Frenchman. The audience followed him in breathless interest. In fancy they lived the life of the exile, felt the galling of the chains and heard the sullen monotone of the sentry's tread. When Judge Priest finished there were few dry eyes in the room. Everybody felt so sorry for Dreyfus. When Mr. Hadley rose to reply there was noticed in his face that suffusion of look by which one holds back tears. He was sorry for Dreyfus. Anybody could see that with half an eye. But he overcame his emotion sufficiently to point out to the court the essential differences between Captain Dreyfus and the Standard Oil company, the French captain of infantry and the American captain of industry. Judge Anthony was visibly affected, but he choked back a sob for Dreyfus, and said in a faltering voice, 'The objection is overruled. Go ahead with the case.'"

SOME IDEA of the immense power wielded by Thomas F. Ryan, now of the Equitable, is given by a statement printed in the New York

World. It is pointed out that the public debt of the United States on November 1, 1904, was \$2,304,697,418.64. Mr. Ryan controls stock in various companies amounting to \$1,374,712,137—more than half of the public debt. In addition to this, which represents only the amount of money controlled by Mr. Ryan, he is a stockholder or director in a score of other companies representing hundreds of millions of dollars. Here are the companies controlled by Mr. Ryan: Equitable Life Assurance society—Paid up capital, \$100,000, total income \$79,076,695.95, ledger assets \$358,275,299.46; total \$437,351,995.41. Amount of policies in force \$1,495,542,892, number of policies in force 564,594. Mutual Life Insurance company—Total income \$81,000,984.57, ledger assets \$378,673,062.60; total \$459,676,047.17. Amount of policies in force \$1,547,611,660, number of policies in force 659,544. Washington Life Insurance company—Paid up capital \$500,000, total income \$4,292,367.40, ledger assets \$16,391,727.10; total \$20,684,094.50. Amount of policies in force \$67,488,150, number of policies in force 36,487.

BESIDES exercising complete control of the foregoing companies Mr. Ryan controls the following: New York City railway and allied companies approximately \$175,000,000; American Tobacco company, capital \$180,000,000; Equitable Trust company, capital \$3,000,000; Morton Trust company, capital \$2,000,000; Metropolitan Securities company, \$30,000,000; National Bank of Commerce, capital, \$25,000,000; Consolidated Tobacco company, capital, \$40,000,000; Mercantile Trust company, capital, \$2,000,000. In addition to the companies mentioned above, Mr. Ryan is a director or trustee in the American Surety company, Bethlehem Steel corporation, Central Crosstown railroad, Consolidated Gas company, Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power company, Continental Tobacco company, Cuba company, East River Gas company of Long Island City, Electric Storage Battery company, Fulton Street railroad, Havana Tobacco company, Hocking Valley Railway company, Industrial Trust company of Providence, International Cigar Machinery company, New York Carbide and Acetylene company, Newport Trust company, Pine Products company, Rapid Transit Ferry company, Richmond Borough company, Seaboard Air Line Railway company, Thirty-fourth Street Crosstown railway, Union Bleaching and Finishing company, Union Elevated railroad of Chicago, Union Exchange bank, United Lead company.

WASHINGTON dispatches say that the scandal at the government printing office, occurring out of the award of seventy-two monotype machines, is growing larger. The Washington correspondent for the New York World says that if the investigating committee enlarges the scope of its inquiry "the indications point to an expose the like of which was not dreamed of when the investigators first turned on the light. Charges extending from petit graft to grand larceny are loudly demanding the keen scrutiny of the committee."

SOME ONE asked through the New York newspapers for suggestions as to how the policy holders in the Equitable and other insurance companies can do their share toward bringing about much needed reforms. A policy holder writes to the New York World and says that he has a plan. He declares that he has been a republican for forty years, but intends to follow this plan, and advises every other policy holder to do likewise. This policy holder states his plan in this way: "Louis F. Payn, a republican statesman, was superintendent of insurance. While holding that office he borrowed nearly half a million dollars from the big life insurance companies, on his face principally, for the so-called securities put up were of the flimsiest kind. The present superintendent of insurance, Hendricks, is another republican statesman, who has been deluding the public with his so-called investigations, which revealed nothing wrong for the past six years. Hunter, the assistant superintendent of insurance, belongs, body and boots, to former Superintendent Payn. Odell is the republican boss; Harriman and Odell are as thick as 'three in a bed;' Higgins is Odell's man Friday. Odell, having made Hendricks eliminate from his report any reference to his 'pal' Harriman, now pretends to favor a

legislative investigation, but in fact is helping Higgins, Hendricks and the rest of the gang to keep the lid down tight. Now, under these conditions what is the remedy? I can see but one, and that is for every holder of a life insurance policy, without regard to race, color, creed, politics or 'previous condition of servitude,' to vote solidly this year for a democratic legislature, and next year elect a democratic governor and attorney general, and see what will happen."

A NUMBER of difficult questions are presented by a writer in the Philadelphia Inquirer who wants to know: Why a man who has to pay his wife's dress making and cleaning bills will sit in a street car with one foot across his knee, so that every woman who passes him must brush her frock against the dirty sole of his shoe? Why any woman who has ever watched a newsboy or an Italian peanut vender make change will slip a dime or a nickel into her mouth while she is using both hands to investigate her purse or bag? Why a man who in bearing and dress is to all intents a gentleman can sit in a crowded street car with a half cold or smouldering cigar in his hand until the odor from that stub will sicken all the women and most of the men his vicinity? Why a pretty girl who talks in a loud voice in public places imagines that all men who are watching her furtively or openly are lost in admiration? Why a man in a crowded street car would rather open and shut the front door for twenty women than move down two feet and hang on a strap? Why a woman will walk seven blocks to save two cents a yard on a piece of silk and then fail to observe that the butcher is holding out the bones and trimmings of her Sunday roast, and the ice man is occasionally adding an extra five cents to his bill? Why a man will dodge trolleys, drays and policemen in a mad rush to reach his office and then line up with messenger boys, tourists and other men presumably as busy as himself to watch a fire company turn a stream of water on a twopenny blaze?

IN A LETTER from Ft. Worth, Texas, and printed in the Chicago Record-Herald, William E. Curtis said: "Armour and Swift & Co., have agreed to double their present capacity if the people will grow hogs to furnish them business. Texas has never been much of a state for swine. By the last census she had only 277,605, while she had 1,699,288 sheep and 637,333 goats." Directing attention to the Curtis statement the Houston Post says that it is inaccurate, adding: "Mr. Curtis is greatly in error about swine raising in Texas. If he will refer to the census report from which his figures are taken he will find that the figures 277,605 represent not the number of swine, but the number of farms and ranches reporting swine in inclosures. If he will refer to table 26, page 320, of the same report, he will find the number of swine in Texas on June 1, 1900, to have been 2,778,381, and that Texas ranked seventh in the production of hogs. Since the establishment of the packeries it is believed that the number of hogs has fully doubled."

WHEN SENATOR DEPEW lost his \$20,000 a year "retainer" David B. Hill lost his \$5,000 a year "retainer," and the Columbus (Georgia) Ledger is curious to know how long the \$5,000 a year "retainer" has been paid to Mr. Hill, and what character of legal services he rendered to entitle him to this yearly stipend. The Ledger says: "As one of the combination, arraying themselves so mightily to defeat the federal income tax, and which was finally done in some mysterious way, the scandals in the Equitable antedate to a former period and go far to explain the desperate resolves which were at work to defeat the inquisitiveness which was the most wholesome feature of the law and which Senator Hill did his utmost to show was its most baneful feature. Publicity could never hurt either personal or corporate honesty and proper management."

IT HAS BEEN charged that Mayor Dunne of Chicago has abandoned municipal ownership, but the mayor has issued a statement in which he denies the charge. Mayor Dunne says: "That is not the case. The platform I was elected on says first, I should break off all negotiations for an extension of franchises; second, that I should enter into negotiations for the acquirement of the present lines, and third, falling in that, I should