

CURRENT TOPICS

THE New York board of charities has recently issued a statement showing that the number of people dependent on public charity in New York is increasing. According to these figures the percentage of this class of the city's whole population in 1876 was 3.22; in 1904 it was 8.69. The secretary of the state charity board, speaking to a newspaper reporter and referring to the increase said: "It is due largely to the increase in population, which has gone up from 1,041,886 in 1875 to 4,437,202 in 1900. It is due also to what is evidently an increase in dependency which has resulted from the great influx of immigrants to New York, and finally the increase is in part due to the more adequate methods of supplying relief to the poor. In early years vagrants were cared for at police stations, now they are cared for at municipal lodging houses. The public medical relief is better organized today."

YELLOW FEVER made its appearance in Louisiana, but New Orleans authorities report that there are only a few cases and no alarm need be felt. Adjoining states have adopted quarantine methods, and it is believed that the spread of the disease will be checked. The great yellow fever epidemic occurred in 1878 when the death list in two southern towns alone amounted to 5,000. In 1888 the disease appeared in Florida. In 1893 it appeared in Georgia, and in 1897 New Orleans and certain sections of Mississippi and Alabama were again visited, although in these later years there were few deaths.

THE Balfour ministry, it is announced by the Associated Press, has no intention of resigning on account of the adverse vote. In an address to the house Balfour cited the record in the effort to show that former administrations had ignored defeats similar to that encountered by the Balfour ministry, and declared that such instances never had been regarded as general for resignation. He said that the government would not either resign or dissolve parliament. Campbell-Bannerman, the liberal leader, and John Redmond, leader of the Irish nationalists, replied to Balfour and according to the Associated Press "the heated tone of both leaders indicated that the government will have to face the most determined opposition during the remainder of the session."

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY recently addressed the Lincoln club of Boston in which address he had considerable to say concerning the indictments against the members of the Beef trust. Mr. Moody said that the indictments would probably be tried during the present year. Referring to the merits of the case, he said: "The action of the grand jury was the result of an ex-parte investigation. The accused have not been heard. They are each and all to be presumed innocent. That presumption for their protection follows them until the case has been passed upon by the trial jury. Let us hope that its verdict will be a declaration of truth in fact as it is in name."

THE Interstate commerce commission in session at Kansas City is investigating the charges that the big shippers of Kansas City have received in the neighborhood of \$225,800 a year in rebates on freight shipped from the east. It is claimed that these rebates were secured through a transportation bureau in New York, and that in the neighborhood of 300,000,000 pounds of freight was annually routed to the one hundred shippers who belong to this transportation bureau.

THE Milwaukee grand jury returned twenty-four indictments July 24. This makes a total of two hundred and fifty-one indictments returned in the graft investigation. These indictments are against one hundred and six persons. The following table given by the Milwaukee correspondent for the New York World illustrates the wide field covered in these indictments: "Supervisors 7, former supervisors 29, former aldermen 12, fire department officials 3, state senator 1, former county officers 6, former city employees 5, contractors 4, real estate men, 1, archi-

facts 1, newspaper reporters 2, miscellaneous 35. Total 106."

THE investigation of graft in Milwaukee commenced several years ago with the exposures made in connection with the Milwaukee street railway company's twenty-five year franchise. It is charged that in nearly every department of city and county government corruption prevails. So far in prosecution thirteen have been convicted; four have escaped. There are one hundred and thirty cases now on the docket involving fifty-five individuals.

THE REMAINS of Admiral Paul Jones arrived at Annapolis July 24. They were deposited in a temporary vault and will be finally placed in the crypt under the new chapel now being erected. The story of John Paul Jones is told by a writer in the Columbus (Ohio) Press-Post in this way: "Jones hoisted on the Alfred, in January, 1776, the first distinctively American device, the snake flag, ever used on the seas. Jones, by capturing the British brig Mellish and her valuable cargo of military stores and uniforms on November 13, 1776, enabled Washington to win the battle of Trenton. Jones set sail for Portsmouth, N. H., November 1, 1777, and was the first to fly the stars and stripes on a regularly commissioned ship of war. Jones, on the Ranger, at Quiberon bay, on December 14, 1777, secured from the French admiral, La Motte Piquet, the first salute ever given the stars and stripes by a foreign power. Jones, while cruising in the Irish channel early in 1778, was pursued by British men-of-war and succeeded in making his escape by the most daring seamanship. Jones, on April 23, 1778, fought and captured the British sloop Drake, superior in tonnage, number of men and weight of guns. Jones, on September 23, 1779, being then in command of the Bon Hommie Richard, not only single-handed but in spite of being fired into by his French consort, fought to a finish the Serapis, of greatly superior armament and general equipment, in the liveliest battle that was ever fought on the seas."

A DISPATCH under date of St. Louis, July 24, and printed in the Baltimore Sun follows: "On the body of L. M. Booth, about 60 years old, who was found today in Forest Park dead from chloroform, self-administered, was a slip of paper containing these words: 'Heartily agree with Dr. Osler; an old man and a poor man has no business on earth. I am broke and no one will give me work. They look at me with a smile and say: 'We've got a man.' This is no temporary insanity on my part.' On another slip of paper the aged man had scribbled: 'Forest Park, Sunday, July 22, 7:50 p. m. The reason I single out this park is because it is so far away from a dispensary, so that I can be gone before they get me to a dispensary. Dr. Osler is all right. I do hope no one will identify me.' Clutched affectionately in one of the cold hands was a baby's shoe, which Booth had evidently carried in his pocket for years."

THE EXPLOSION on the United States gunboat Bennington resulted in the death of fifty-eight persons. Forty-six were wounded. Secretary Bonaparte has ordered a thorough investigation and a public statement is promised that no one will be made a scape goat, but that the responsibility will be placed exactly where it belongs. Captain F. J. Drake of the Mayer Island navy yard, who has made an investigation, says that the accident was due to the boilers and it was one of those unfortunate accidents that may occur at any time and for which no satisfactory explanation can be made.

WALTER WELLMAN, Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, who has seemed in the past to be very familiar with the secrets of the Roosevelt administration, says: "Important changes have occurred in the White House circle and others are imminent. The most surprising of these is the finish of Senator Lodge of Massachusetts as a chum and confidential adviser of President Roosevelt. Lodge is down and out, and Secretaries Root and Taft are the big

men of the present and the future. Secretary Shaw is out of favor and will soon retire from the cabinet without any regret, on the part of President Roosevelt, though he will probably follow his usual course and give the retiring secretary of the treasury a handsome farewell. Mr. Roosevelt is exceedingly generous about such things. Assistant Secretary of State Loomis is going to resign to go into business, and Commissioner of Corporations Garfield, one of the president's closest friends, lost a cabinet post when he gave to the public his unfortunate report on the beef trust last spring. In good time he may secure a seat in the cabinet, but he will have to wait, as the president thinks this not an opportune time for his promotion. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is without doubt secure in his place, despite the cotton report leakage and the bitter fight that is being made on him by certain persons and newspapers. President Roosevelt thinks Mr. Wilson far and away the best secretary of agriculture the country ever had. He takes no stock in the criticisms of the secretary that are daily spread broadcast in certain circles."

SENATOR LODGE has seemed to be in such high favor with Mr. Roosevelt that Mr. Wellman's statement will surprise many people. Mr. Wellman says: "For many years he has been Theodore Roosevelt's closest friend. It was Mr. Lodge who made Roosevelt a civil service commissioner and gave him his first chance to win distinction in the national field. It was Lodge, too, who helped Roosevelt into the assistant secretaryship of the navy, where he won renown as the man who did as much if not more than any other to make the American navy the best in the world in accurate shooting, and where he had the distinction of ordering Admiral Dewey to sail from Hongkong to Manila to smash the Spanish fleet."

THE INTIMACY between Messrs. Roosevelt and Lodge has been so strong that some explanation of present day differences is required, and Mr. Wellman has the explanation. He says: "It has been approaching for a year or more as the president gradually discovered that his erstwhile chum was altogether too grasping and peculiar properly to belong in the Roosevelt class. He is one of the cleverest men in public life today. But he is all for Lodge, and he throws his best friends down when it comes to a choice between serving them and his own interests. The climax came last winter when Mr. Lodge joined with other republicans in defeating the arbitration treaties. Mr. Roosevelt never forgave him for that. The president might have looked upon Lodge's course in that matter with more complacency if the senator had not explained his attitude toward the treaties as being peculiarly delicate on account of his close personal relations with the president. To flaunt his friendship with the occupant of the White House and then go directly contrary to the president's wishes, at the same time giving it out how virtuous he was, proved to be the last straw. Mr. Roosevelt does not believe in that sort of friendship."

IF MR. WELLMAN himself stands as close to the Roosevelt administration as is popularly supposed, the news of the president's break with the Massachusetts senator is given through an authoritative channel in a very blunt way. Mr. Wellman says that he is not sure that Senator Lodge is aware of it, but "President Roosevelt has no further use for him." Then the Massachusetts senator is by this correspondent given a delightful hint in this way: "When the Massachusetts senator goes to the White House, if he ever does again, he will be treated with politeness. The dog will not be set on him. But that is all. He has lost his status as one of the charmed circle. Probably this will go pretty hard with Mr. Lodge. For years a considerable part of the capital of the Massachusetts boss—for it may surprise a great many people to learn that while posing as the scholar in politics, Mr. Lodge is about as fine a specimen of the political boss as they make—has been his influence with Theodore Roosevelt. He has not enjoyed as much real influence as he thought he had or as other people