

CURRENT TOPICS

NEW YORK'S anti-tipping law took effect September 1. Senator Martin Saxe is the author of this law. A New York correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "It has been estimated that in New York \$50,000,000 is given in tips annually. Probably half this sum is given in sums of from 10 cents up to the waiters in the cafes. The other half is used in bribery pure and simple, meaning bribery to influence trade, not to induce a man to do the work he is supposed to get a salary for doing."

SENATOR SAXE, referring to his bill, says: "Do not think I am aiming at the servant girl who accepts a present of a bottle of perfume or a cake of soap from a grocer. My bill aims at higher game, such as railway officials who assist in the robbery of their employers and the stockholders. The imprisonment of a few officials of this character will teach others a valuable lesson." It is further explained that the measure was really designed to reach those cases where the supply houses have found it necessary to fee purchasing agents of railroads or other corporations in order to sell their goods.

THE real meaning of New York's anti-tipping law is explained in brief by the New York correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald in this way. Here is what you can do and what you can't do since the anti-tipping law went into effect:

- You can tip anyone for good service.
- You can't tip anyone as a bribe.
- You can tip a waiter for bringing your dinner hot and without delay.
- You can't tip him to serve you a \$1 dinner for 50 cents.
- You can tip a coachman for driving you fast.
- You can't tip him for paying you \$1,000 of his employer's money for a horse worth \$250.
- You are at perfect liberty to tip the butler in the home of your friend for being attentive to you.
- You can't tip the butler for buying goods from you for his master's table.
- You can tip a hotel maid for fresh sheets and pillow cases.
- You can't tip her for giving you soap to carry away in your grip.
- You can give a railroad purchasing agent a Christmas gift or any other gift if you choose.
- You can't tip him for ignoring other bidders and buying goods from you at the expense of the stockholders.
- In other words, a tip must be truly a tip, a gratuity, and not a bribe or a commission.

THE Ellis Island authorities are struggling with a weighty problem. The Providence Rhode Island Telegram says: "August Albert, who went abroad a short time ago, has just been pronounced ineligible for re-admission to the country because he is too old to come in as an alien and can not come in as a citizen, because, although he took out first papers in Michigan, where he resided for thirty-two years, and voted, he did not, through an oversight, secure his final naturalization certificate. The decision of the Ellis Island wisecracks to exclude Mr. Albert raises the interesting question whether a man can be a citizen of one of the United States and not be a United States citizen."

THE monthly report of the government receipts and disbursements for the month of August shows a large increase in customs receipts. The increase over August, 1904, being \$3,763,608. There is, however, a deficit for the month amounting to \$4,660,061. The receipts from internal revenue sources also show an increase for the month of \$779,791. The total receipts for the month are \$47,490,432, and the expenditures \$52,150,493, which leaves a deficit for the month of \$4,660,061. Last month the deficit was \$13,855,663 and for August, 1904, the deficit was \$6,343,212. The receipts from the several sources of revenue are given as follows: Customs, \$26,181,281; internal revenue, \$19,556,476; miscellaneous, \$1,752,673. The civil and miscellaneous expenditures were a little over \$1,000,000 in ex-

cess of those for August, 1904, and those on account of the war department were nearly \$2,000,000 less than for August last year. The navy shows a slight increase.

AN INTERESTING plan for the solution of the problem of prison labor was suggested recently by Rev. George B. Wight, New Jersey's state commissioner of charities and correction. Mr. Wight said: "I wish that when a man of family is in prison the work that he does in an institution might go for the support of his family." Commenting upon this statement, Public Opinion says: "The suggestion, which, if not absolutely new, is new to the majority of those who will read of it, is receiving much favorable comment. Truly, the plan would do away with many difficulties. It would bring the value of prison work up to the market value; thus the labor unions would no longer have reason to dread 'cheap prison competition.' It would give the convict a sense of moral responsibility. It would relieve the state of the care of convicts' families. To try to work this plan out will be well worth while."

IN CONNECTION with the peace negotiations at Portsmouth newspaper readers have read much concerning the Hankow railroad. The Literary Digest tells the story of the railroad in this way: "China, in 1898, granted a concession to the American-China Development company to construct an 800 mile trunk line railway from Hankow to Canton. The concession, which involves coal mining rights and industrial franchises, was to run for forty-five years, at the end of which period the property was to go to the Chinese government. The proposed railway is the southern extension of the Belgian line from Peking to Hankow and forms part of a great transportation route running directly through the heart and commercial center of China. However, the company built only about thirty of the 800 miles, but surveyed 100 miles more. Only thirty miles had been built because of the unflagging opposition of the Chinese inhabitants."

AMONG THE stockholders of the company is King Leopold of Belgium who, according to cable dispatches a few weeks ago when Mr. Morgan was abroad, urged the latter not to accept the offer of the Chinese government. The Literary Digest says: "Mr. Morgan had recently visited the president at Oyster Bay for a conference on the Hankow question, but no news as to the course that would be pursued was given out; but at a meeting of the stockholders of the American-China Development company on August 29 it was decided, with the consent and advice of President Roosevelt, to accept China's offer. It is said that China is to pay \$6,750,000 for the concession. Edwin H. Conger, former minister to China, opposed the sale, on the ground that the surrender of the concession would be a serious blow to our interests in China, and that American prestige would suffer. But in a statement from Oyster Bay it was said that it was the wisest plan which could be devised touching our national interests in the east, and that Mr. Morgan had adopted the only course 'which he could take with due regard to the interests of the stockholders he represented.' Another reason for the sale is, in the words of General Charles A. Whittier, 'that the Chinese government has decided to force all American and European interests out of China, and that under these conditions further development of the concession would be difficult and unprofitable, if not impossible.'"

A TALKING postal card is a novelty described by M. H. R. d'Allemagne, in a recent number of La Nature, Paris. M. d'Allemagne says: "We present today the phonograph of the twentieth century, an entirely new invention, and one that is destined to revolutionize the industry. The phonopostal is an apparatus that registers and reproduces the human voice by means of a sheet of cardboard, which is in the form of a postal card. The idea of substituting a sheet of paper, which may be sent as a letter, for the wax cylinder of ordinary phonographs originated with Jules Verne, but the scheme as worked out today came from the artist, M. Armbruster, and was

made possible by the experiments of MM. L. Marotte, Bucherious and Tochow. "The advantages of the phonopostal," continues M. d'Allemagne, "are many. While one is touring, this apparatus, occupying the space of two or three boxes of writing paper, may be put in the automobile or valise, and one is in a position to register on the prepared cards the impressions of the journey. Again, the explorer may receive news from home, not only the routine news of the ordinary letter, but he may hear also the voices of his correspondents. This experience may be renewed indefinitely, as the card will reproduce the sounds any number of times. The card may be used to register the songs of different countries, and on the back of the card the customary photographic views may be printed. The postal, in fact, is prepared on the address side, and the mark traced by the point of the diaphragm is so hard that the postoffice stamp does not affect it in the least. The address is written on the prepared side without the slightest injury to the registered sentence."

PUBLIC OPINION, from whose columns the above translation relating to the talking card was taken, describing the process in its own words, says: "The voice is thrown into a little funnel which is placed in contact with the registering needle. The latter is a sapphire point which passes over a layer of a preparation known as sonorine, which has been previously spread over the paper. The chief merit of the invention is in having found a substance that could be easily spread over a sheet of paper, which possesses all of the advantages of wax. One of the particular advantages of the sonorine is that it can stand the hard usage of the post. The sounds are inscribed by means of a spiral which commences at the edge of the card and proceeds toward the center, finally stopping outside of a circle about the size of a quarter. The number of words that may be sent on each card is between seventy-five and eighty. The construction of the apparatus is very ingenious. First, it was necessary to make a machine that could be sold at a very low price. Then, the machines had to be regulated in such a way that the reproduction might be made with one which came from the factory months and years after the registration on the card was first made. This result was obtained by careful regulation of the speed of each machine. And last, the constructors had to invent a very sensitive diaphragm, not only for registering, but also for reproduction."

THE Subway Tavern, which was dedicated by Bishop Potter twelve months ago with prayer and hymns will hereafter be conducted as an ordinary grog shop. Those who criticized the Bishop for his part in this effort, as some called it, to "mix whiskey and religion" freely express their gratification at the failure of the enterprise. Referring to this affair the Literary Digest says: "There seem to be many causes which contributed to the defeat of Bishop Potter's scheme to establish a decent and law-abiding saloon in the slums of New York. 'It was impossible to follow God and chase the devil,' said the proprietor in venting his indignation at the regulations which forbid him to cater to the low elements of society, or to sell drinks to any one after he had 'liquored up' to the point of becoming 'generous and profitable.' Furthermore the proprietor found that the man who wants a drink, while in the act of quenching his thirst hates to be 'rubbered' by a delegation of W. C. T. U. women, or a group of sociological students or curious strangers who are taking in the sights in a 'Seeing New York' automobile. Too much publicity, therefore, helped to 'crimp' the Tavern's trade. When the novelty of it had worn off, it became a deserted hole in the ground. Bishop Potter, however, is not downcast. He still believes that his 'idea is a good one,' and is reported as saying that 'the success or failure of a single institution which attempted to carry out the idea does not detract from its merits.'"

THE BRITISH government recently published a report compiled from memoranda furnished by its diplomatic and consular representatives, which report gives a survey of the forms and uses of the income tax. Referring to this report the Chicago Record-Herald says: "During the