

# CURRENT TOPICS

REPRESENTATIVE SHEPPARD of Texas has introduced in the house a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee to investigate the treatment accorded Mrs. Minor Morris by White House employes recently when Mrs. Morris was ejected under orders of Assistant Secretary Barnes. Mrs. Morris is a sister of Representative Hull of Iowa. Mr. Hull and Mrs. Morris are not on speaking terms. Her husband, Doctor Morris, has issued a statement in which he bitterly criticises his brother-in-law for not going to his sister's relief, the husband being absent at the time that she was placed in the house of detention. Mr. Sheppard's resolution was referred to the committee on rules. Washington dispatches say that democrats and republicans alike have almost unanimously agreed that the manner in which Mrs. Morris was ejected was an outrage, but it is not thought probable that Mr. Sheppard's resolution will be adopted.

AT THE TIME Mrs. Minor Morris was ejected from the White House there were half a dozen newspaper reporters present, including one for the Washington City Star and one for the New York World. The World's correspondent referring to these facts says: "The Star man, like the World man and every other reporter there, wrote exactly what he saw. These accounts did not agree with the official statement given out by Secretary Barnes." Then the World correspondent tells of what he calls the "rude jolt" which Mr. Roosevelt received when he tried to put censorship on the Washington Star. This correspondent says: "On Saturday Secretary Loeb called in the Star man and told him that the published accounts of the Mrs. Morris episode had been very objectionable to everybody in the White House, from the president down. On Sunday the Washington Post had an editorial condemning the president for his attitude toward newspapers, and asserting that 'a substantial censorship exists.' Tonight the Star publishes an article pointing out how the president endeavors to get only such news matter printed as he desires and tries to suppress all other news. It displays prominently on the first page the Sheppard resolution calling for a congressional investigation, and reprints the Post's editorial and a communication from a well-known Washingtonian protesting against the Mrs. Morris outrage. The Star has been friendly to the administration and to President Roosevelt. The president recently forbade cabinet officers to talk with newspaper correspondents. He was obliged, by the force of public opinion, to rescind that order, and did some lively explaining that he did not mean the order, but at the same time by his order news sources that were formerly open have been closed. No White House attache dares open his mouth on any subject, and it is about as bad in the departments. The president, too, has a habit of calling up correspondents whom he thinks he can control and 'jacketing' them if they inadvertently send anything to their papers that offends him or that he did not want to see printed. But it so happens that there are not many correspondents who are worried about the displeasure of the president, and the news gets out one way or another."

A STIRRING SCENE took place in the senate January 17 when Mr. Tillman directed attention to the removal of Mrs. Minor Morris from the White House. Mr. Tillman said that if the senate would appoint an investigating committee he would give them the names of four reputable witnesses who would give testimony showing that the treatment of Mrs. Morris by White House officials was no less than outrageous. A heated discussion followed, many protests being made against Mr. Tillman's remarks, and finally Mr. Tillman announced that he would introduce a resolution providing for a committee. On the following day, January 18, Mr. Tillman offered his resolution providing for a committee of five senators to investigate. Mr. Daniels of Virginia moved to lay the resolution on the table, and this motion prevailed by a vote of fifty-four to eight.

IT IS BEGINNING to dawn on many students of public affairs that the republican party, so long united and so long the beneficiary of

favorable conditions, is about to be disrupted. The Washington correspondent for the New York World says: "President Roosevelt faces the same situation in the republican party that confronted Grover Cleveland during his last term. He is opposed by an angry and rebellious congress. There are prophets who say the outcome will be as disastrous for the president's party as the results of warfare between President Cleveland and his congress were for the democratic party. President Roosevelt has never been on particularly good terms with his congresses. He is too arbitrary for that. Still, he has managed to slide along by giving in here and there, and the opposition has contented itself with mutterings. The mutterings have now developed into a roar. The Fifty-ninth congress is openly rebellious. It refuses to be dictated to by the president. Both branches are in the same mood."

A NUMBER OF "the many instances where congress says the president has arbitrarily trampled on its rights" are cited by the World correspondent, and this correspondent adds: "Moreover, with the vigor that is characteristic the president has sent for delegation after delegation of representatives, stood them up in line and told them what they must and must not do. He took in the nine new republicans from Missouri a day or two ago and told them he knows more about what Missouri needs than they do. Perhaps he does, but the Missouri people do not like to be told so. He has had man after man at the White House to be lectured and threatened. He has brought up senators too and laid down his wishes to them without equivocation. He has threatened to withdraw appointments already made. In the senate the anger is just as intense, but the expression is not so marked. The senate thinks the president is usurping many of its functions. That is the occasion for all the smoke over Santo Domingo. That is why the senate set so gleefully about the investigation of all Panama canal affairs, although the president was smart enough to ask for an investigation before the senate's original plan to investigate had been formulated and thus forestall it. That is why there has been so much fuss about the Morocco incident. The senate is sore. It is waiting for its chance."

THOSE WHO REMEMBER that several years ago Mr. Roosevelt referred to the protective tariff system as being "harmful in theory and vicious in practice" will not be surprised when they are told by the Washington correspondent for the World that Mr. Roosevelt is "a tariff revisionist at heart," and that he made "a bargain with Speaker Cannon that he would not insist on tariff revision at this session if Cannon would pass other legislation he wanted, notably the railroad rate bill." According to the World, many republican leaders declare that Mr. Roosevelt is trying to intimidate them, to force them to pass his legislation, to deprive them of their patronage because of mugwumpish ideas about civil service reform." In the language of the World's correspondent: "They say he imagines he is the congress as well as the executive; they say he is endeavoring to build up a personal machine to control the republican party. They point to his various interferences in state politics in New York, in Pennsylvania, in Ohio, and elsewhere, as evidence of this fact. They are angry, disgruntled, ready to leave the reservation. The old cry of 'For the party, boys,' does not rally them. For the first time since Colonel Roosevelt became president, members of congress are willing to be quoted publicly as denouncing him and his interference in legislative affairs. The people of the country do not understand this, for the people are impressionistic. The president still retains his wide popularity with the masses. Here in Washington the Cleveland parallel is drawn every day. The president is at close range here. He has thick-and-thin supporters, but nearly everybody on the republican side of congress in Washington flouts him and swears at him. It is pointed out that the democrats say very little against the president. In the sugar fight the republicans were lined up solidly behind President Cleveland. Still, President Cleveland never

endeavored to gag the press as President Roosevelt has done to create public opinion for himself, and it is stated by men who have served long in congress that the president's interference with legislative and all other functions of the government outside the executive is unprecedented, even in Cleveland times."

EVIDENTLY MR. ROOSEVELT does not grow tame in the presence of vigorous onslaught as described by the World correspondent. The same correspondent says that republican leaders in the house say that addressing the nine republican representatives from Missouri Mr. Roosevelt said: "Money is being freely used by the mining and railroad corporations to defeat this bill and bring about this situation. It is being used right here in Washington, and you can go and tell Babcock I said so." When these statements from the White House became public property there was considerable talk by republican leaders concerning an investigation, but no republican leader seemed disposed to inaugurate the investigation.

SOME IDEA OF THE growing sentiment against Mr. Roosevelt among republican members of the senate is shown in the reception accorded the speech delivered by Senator Rayner of Maryland. Senator Rayner made a bitter attack upon Mr. Roosevelt's interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine. The Washington correspondent for the New York World says: "At the close of Senator Rayner's speech, which was as brilliant as the senate has heard in years, the business of the senate was suspended while the republicans and democrats crowded around to congratulate him. The republicans laughed at Rayner's sarcasm and applauded his satire, all of which was directed at the president. They liked it."

A PATHETIC STORY is told by the Kansas City Journal in this way: "Where are you going with that boy?" Patrolman Horton addressed the inquiry to a drunken man on Union avenue yesterday afternoon. A small boy clasped the hand of the drunken one. "He ain't takin' me nowhere," responded the boy, "I'm takin' him." "Guess you'll have to come with me," said the patrolman to the man. "Let me have him," begged the boy. "He's my dad. Me an' dad's pals. We've been pals ever since mamma died four years ago. Dad ain't very drunk. He's only had three whiskies." Tears began to show in the lad's eyes. The pair were taken to police station No. 2, where the man gave his name as J. E. Smith and his occupation as railway brakeman. The boy gave his age as 9 years and said his name was Harry. When his father was placed in a cell to sober up, the boy took up his watch outside. "We've been stoppin' at a hotel on Union avenue," he explained to the officers. "We were going to Indianapolis, but dad got to drinkin'. He can't hold much, and a few whiskies upset him yesterday an' I had to take care of him. I stood outside when dad went in to get a drink and he always came back right quick. We've been goin' round for two days. Me and dad's pals."

WRITING ON "What the Old Year Taught Us" William Marion Reedy, editor of the St. Louis Mirror, makes some interesting observations coming as they do from one whose opinions must have recently undergone a marked change. Mr. Reedy has never seemed to be partial to the principles for which Mr. Bryan stood,—indeed, he has been one of Mr. Bryan's sternest critics. In the Mirror of December 28, Mr. Reedy describes the various exposures concerning the conduct of men high in political, social and business life and the popular protest against the evils of the day. Then he says: "All these things have been more than mere passing incidents unrelated one to another. They are part of a general movement that has its manifestation in every state and city. They are outcroppings of a tendency that had its origin probably in the great reaction against commercialism of the more conscienceless sort, which first shook the country when Mr. Bryan was first nominated for president. That movement, if you