

CURRENT TOPICS

A RHODE ISLAND school boy is just now attracting considerable attention in scientific circles. A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says: "With home made apparatus Lloyd Manuel, a Newport schoolboy, is able to interfere with the operation of the naval wireless station at that point. Commander Albert Gleaves thinks the matter so important that he has sent to the bureau of equipment of the navy a detailed account of the plant which the boy has built. The meagerness of it may be gathered from the statement of the commander that the young operator receives messages through the medium of an ordinary incandescent electric lamp, the glass on which he had broken and which he uses for a receiver. His induction coil is one taken from an old automobile and throws a half-inch spark, while his key is the ordinary Morse instrument. The coil with which he controls the wave length is made of No. 14 copper wire, bare, wound around a wooden cylinder in grooves. His spark gap is made with two common steel nails driven into a pine board one-eighth of an inch apart, and his ground current is accomplished through a connection with water pipes in the house in which he lives. Two common wooden poles, fifteen feet high, attached to the ridge pole of the house, support the antennae. These are three bare copper wires, stretched between the poles, kept apart by spreaders and joined only by a single wire running down to the instruments. According to the reports made to the navy department, the youth, who is not more than sixteen years old, has given a decided shock to the wireless operators, and it is believed that in his crude apparatus they may find several valuable ideas."

A DISPATCH FROM Newport, Rhode Island, the home of the young electrician, follows: "Lloyd Manuel is regarded as a genius. He began his experiments in wireless telegraphy four years ago, and soon had a system that would work across a room. Now a pole forty feet high rises from his cottage home and he has a sending apparatus the power from which is obtained from a set of dry batteries. He gets a spark about a quarter of an inch long, and this enables him to send a mile and a half. With this he communicates with the torpedo station and the Fall River line boats. 'My arrangement is modeled according to the Massie system,' he said tonight, 'and I am now constructing a special apparatus, such as the government uses. I am sorry if I have given the operators at the station any trouble, and will take care not to do it again. I know the Morse and continental codes, and now I am learning the naval code.' Experts say he is an expert in their use. Manuel left school two years ago, and has been delving in wireless telegraphy ever since. He hopes to get his living from it. He was found tonight at a children's party. The festivities stopped while he gave an interview."

THE MISSOURI game warden recently arrested J. H. Durkee, a Kansas City business man, because he had a collection of game birds. The birds were found in the private car of Gardiner Lathrop, general solicitor for the Santa Fe railway, whose guest Mr. Durkee was. As a result of Durkee's arrest it developed that among other guests of the general solicitor for the Santa Fe on that occasion were Federal Judge John F. Phillips of Kansas City, Federal Judge J. A. Pollock of Kansas, and Federal Judge Smith McPherson of Iowa. The party went on a fishing trip to Tampico, Mexico, as the guests of Mr. Lathrop, general solicitor for the Santa Fe, and Judge O. M. Spencer of St. Joseph, of the law department of the Burlington.

JUDGE J. McDOWELL TRIMBLE, speaking at a public meeting in Kansas City, severely criticised the junket made by these federal judges with corporation lawyers. Judge Trimble said: "The distinguished guests were judges in the districts in which one or all of the three railroads represented by the hosts operate. I do not hesitate to say that I believe that those general solicitors would not have invited the men they did had not those men been judges. But men of

the caliber of the three judges in question ought and must have known that there was dope in the middle of the sugarcoated bait which was held out to them. While the dope may and probably will not poison them, the people believe it will. Such an affair as the Tampico pleasure jaunt begets in the people a disregard for judges and a consequent disregard for laws. The courts are ours; the laws are ours; we made them both and can unmake them at will."

JUDGE PHILLIPS is very indignant because of Judge Trimble's criticisms, and he replied, saying: "Responsive to the intense spirit of demagoguery of the hour, a pleasure trip of personal friends is sought to be colored with a sinister purpose on the part of Gardiner Lathrop, as solicitor of the Santa Fe Railway company, to place under obligation three federal judges. In justice to him and the truth, I state that the fishing excursion to Tampico was entirely of my initiation. For four years I had heard of the rare sport of tarpon fishing at that place. I had enjoyed the recreation of like sport at Aransas Pass and desired to test Tampico. As both Mr. Lathrop and his law partner, Sam W. Moore, had also fished at Arkansas Pass, some months ago, we discussed together our desire to go to Tampico whenever conditions made it practicable. We agreed that if we could get away this month, deemed most favorable for the sport, we would go, provided a companionable party could be organized. As this month approached I renewed the suggestion and obtained Mr. Lathrop's consent, if he could get away from his work."

IN HIS STATEMENT Judge Phillips goes into details showing how he urged every member of the party to attend, and he pays high tribute to the fine personal character and social qualities of various members of the party. Judge Phillips adds: "It is true that we rode in a special car, just as I would have gone fishing in the private wagon of a friend, standing my proportion of the 'grub and bait.' From its inception to its close the 'outing' was distinctively social in its make-up and character. Whenever I shall avoid my friends of long standing, and they me, because they are lawyers representing railroads and because I am a judge, I shall despise myself and the office. If any one thinks that such personal friendship and intercourse can not be indulged without judicial corruption, subserviency or sinister design, I only beg to be allowed to indulge the opinion that such a person judges others by his own conscious lack of virile virtue and integrity. From a lifelong acquaintance with Gardiner Lathrop, I entertain such opinion of his character and his ideals that I believe him incapable of doing aught to unduly influence a judge or to pervert justice."

JUDGE PHILLIPS was the judge who recently passed on the Santa Fe dismissing the same and incidentally giving what Paul Morton's friends called judicial confirmation of the clean bill which Mr. Roosevelt gave to his late secretary of the navy. Judge Phillips' explanation that he originated the junket and urged the corporation lawyers as well as others to take part does not seem to impress Judge Trimble and other critics. Many will also smile at Judge Phillips' statement "it is true that we rode in a special car, just as I would have gone fishing in the private wagon of a friend, standing my proportion of the 'grub and bait.'" If that friend had a case pending before Judge Phillips it is very probable that the judge would have been careful about accepting any favors just at that time. The railroads are always in court—particularly in the federal court—and there is unquestionable and general sympathy with Judge Trimble in the stern criticism he has made concerning the junket participated in by corporation lawyers and federal judges.

GOVERNOR GOODIN of Idaho made requisition upon the governor of Colorado for the arrest of President Moyer, Secretary Haywood and G. A. Pettibone of the Western Federation of Miners. These men are charged with conspiracy resulting in the murder of former Governor

Frank Stunenberg of Idaho. The accused were taken to Idaho and placed in jail. It is claimed that the authorities have a confession from one Orchard who claims that he was given a part to play in the assassination.

NOW COMES A FRENCH newspaper writer who declares that Boni de Castellane is a bogus count. Several years ago Boni challenged the reigning prince of Monaco to a duel. The prince declined the challenge on the ground that Boni was bearing a name and title to which he had no right. This writer declares that none of the Castellanes now living has a right to the title they bear, this being true because the old de Castellane family which played an important role in the history of France from the time of the twelfth century became extinct toward the close of the eighteenth century through the death of the last survivor, Marquis de Castellane. This writer declares that the great-grandfather of Anna Gould's husband came from a family whose head was a lawyer of the name of Castellane, and the sons of this lawyer took advantage of the confusion reigning on the subject of titles, due to the execution of so many of the "nobility," to the flight of others and to the wholesale destruction of family archives, to boldly assume any old title lying around loose, such as marquis and count, belonging to the illustrious family of de Castellane. In this way Boni got his title of count, and by paying out millions of dollars of Jay Gould's money a foolish American girl got Boni.

IT WAS RECENTLY announced in Wall Street that the Standard Oil company is preparing to increase its capital stock from \$100,000,000 to \$600,000,000 by issuing six shares for each one share now outstanding. It is not designed to raise immediately any money on this new issue, but simply to divide the present high priced shares into six and give them to old stockholders. The New York correspondent for the Chicago Tribune referring to this move, says: "The company has two objects in doing this. One is to try to dispel public criticism that arises every time the Standard declares a 40 or 48 per cent dividend. The other is to bring the stock among a larger number of holders, so there may be missionaries in every town to help stem the rising tide of opposition to the trust. It is argued that the salvation of the steel trust is its enormous number of small stockholders, and the Standard at last is seeking cover from anti-trust sentiment. When the present stock is cut up into sixths the price will drop from 690, which it was today, to about 115, and dividends, instead of being more than 40 per cent, will become about 7 per cent. No stockholder will be a loser, because he will hold six times as many shares as before. On the contrary, he will gain, because when the stock is reduced to figures where people can afford to buy it the price is pretty sure to rise above one-sixth its former value. As capitalizations go nowadays the Standard with \$100,000,000 is undercapitalized. It claims to have real property worth more than \$500,000,000, so the increase in capital will not be watering the oil. The lowering of the value of the certificates would permit quicker conversion of securities and juggling the stock market such as H. H. Rogers, the present ruler of the Standard, has delighted to do with Amalgamated Copper."

A WALL STREET broker speaking to the Tribune correspondent said that while the great majority of the Standard stock has been closely held in the past by the Rockefellers and their allies, they realize that they have not many years longer to live, and their sons can not carry on the business in the old way. Therefore, it is necessary to put the securities in more liquid form and establish a broader foundation under the business to insure its future success. Few people could or would buy stock selling at 700, but shares at 125 are more attractive. With the greatly increased number of shares, more of them could be let out without disturbing control than is the case with the present limited number. Each death among the present holders means a division of stock among the heirs, and a relatively small number falling into undesirable future control might upset things seriously.