

CURRENT TOPICS

IT WILL BE REMEMBERED that during the insurance investigation it was shown that one Andrew Hamilton acted as the lobbyist for several of the large insurance companies. Investigation of the New York Life company's affairs showed \$235,000 paid to Andrew Hamilton and unaccounted for by him. John A. McCall appearing as a witness before the committee said that he would trust every dollar he had to Hamilton, and promised that he would repay this \$235,000 if Hamilton did not produce it by that time. Mr. McCall paid the money and it has been generally believed that Hamilton, who was in Paris, would remain abroad. But Mr. McCall's relatives and friends appealed to him to return to America and do something to defend the memory of his dead friend. To the surprise of many people Hamilton returned several weeks ago, and recently he surprised every one by appearing before a legislative committee at Albany, N. Y.

A NUMBER OF OFFICERS and trustees of the New York Life company were in the committee room, and J. H. McIntosh, general solicitor for the company, had addressed the committee eulogizing the present management and challenging any man to give reasons why they should be removed from office, as contemplated by the legislation then under consideration. Andrew Hamilton followed Mr. McIntosh and the situation was dramatic. The Associated Press report says: "It would be difficult to exaggerate the sensation produced by his unexpected appearance and by the speech which he made or the intensely dramatic character of the whole episode. His face flushed and his voice trembling with passion, his arms upraised and his fists clenched Judge Hamilton poured forth a flood of denunciation and invective upon the members of the board of trustees of the New York Life Insurance company, several of whom were present."

HAMILTON PAID A HIGH tribute to the memory of John A. McCall and said that he was made a victim and upon his shoulders was placed all the blame. Hamilton said that he did not know until a few hours before that he would appear before the committee, but that the memory of McCall had appealed to him "to come down here and say something for him, and just a word for myself." Hamilton said that the bill providing for the removal of the trustees of the New York Life company on November 21 should be passed. He declared that these men knew of every dollar that had been paid to him and knew the purposes for which it had been spent. He said that while they now pretended to be strangers to him, and assumed a high moral position, they knew whenever he had been sent out to kill a bill, and when he returned with his mission accomplished they had patted him on the back and complimented him for his good work. He said that these men had joined in the popular cry of "yellow dog," referring to Hamilton, but he added: "This yellow dog is a dog of courage and of loyalty, but the curs who stood around this funeral that has occurred, and the curs who knew of these transactions and shrunk into their shoes, they are the curs, and that is the reason that I came to speak before you and say that the great interests of two billions of dollars of life insurance and four hundreds of millions of dollars of assets can never be safely entrusted to the hands and administration of a lot of curs."

AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS do not appear to take a great pride in the recent battle in which General Wood and his soldiers exterminated the Moro band in Jolo, and some newspapers criticize President Roosevelt's telegram of congratulation. The New York Evening Post, for instance, says: "From even the high imperialistic point of view, the wiping out of the Moros was nothing more than a stern bit of disagreeable police duty, about which the least said the better. To refer to it as upholding 'the honor of the American flag,' is a painful misuse of language. We have yet to hear any one speak of that bloody work except with misgivings and disgust. It makes no patriotic appeal whatever. And even when mentioned by Mr. Roosevelt as a 'brilliant feat of arms' it comes bitter complaints that the army in Manila

sacrifice of our men was wholly unnecessary; while in military circles in Washington there is sharp criticism of General Wood for flinging his troops needlessly against fortifications that might have been taken in a less spectacular and murderous fashion. And the stories that are beginning to come out about women and children being included in the indiscriminate slaughter have a strange relation, if they are authentic, to the 'honor of the flag.' We know what we thought and said of the Dutch soldiers in Java, sparing neither age nor sex. We know what a cry of horror would have gone up in this country if such a deed had been reported of Spanish troops in 1897. But the president could not lose the chance to let off a hurrah, even if his dispatch, in the cold light of the facts, must read as a piece of either bathos or brutality."

DR. S. L. BYERS, of Seeleyville, Ind., asks the newspapers of the country to assist him in finding his boy. Dr. Byers has spent his entire resources in the search, and now asks the press to assist him. The boy was six years old last July, and his father thinks he was taken by some roving band and is now compelled to beg for their benefit. Following is a description of the boy: "Richmond Byers, if alive, was six years old last July, is of light complexion, has gray eyes, left eye noticeable crossed, has small V shaped nick in the left ear, has a sharp chin and a narrow projecting forehead. He is rather small for his age and is unusually bright and intelligent, taking after the manner of a boy much older."

THE UNITED STATE supreme court has rendered an opinion in the Chicago street railway cases. These cases involved the question of the date of termination of the franchises of the lines running from the center of Chicago to the North and West sides. Justice Day delivered the opinion in which the decision of the lower court was reversed. The supreme court holds that the Illinois law of 1865 extended the charter of the companies for ninety-nine years, but did not operate to extend the respective contracts for occupation of the streets, which contracts were expressly limited in time by the municipal ordinances permitting the railways to occupy them. This decision by the supreme court will, it is believed, give Chicago practically complete control of the local traction situation. Mayor Dunne calls it "a sweeping victory for the city," and he says: "We have the traction companies now in a position where we can negotiate for the purchase of the lines. If they do not want to sell at a fair price, we can declare our rights under the decision."

REPRESENTATIVE W. R. HEARST has given to the attorney general evidence which that official says is of the highest importance for the indictment of chief officials both in the sugar trust and in the railroads which handle the trust's sugar. The assistant United States district attorney for the southern district of New York, referring to the testimony presented by Mr. Hearst, says: "This is the strongest case that has ever been placed in the hands of the government, so far as railroads and trusts are concerned. The evidence has been collected and assorted with the utmost care, and I do not see how the prosecution can possibly fail. We have both the railroads and the American Sugar Refining company with the materials on, in this case, and there seems to be no loophole through which the men we are after can escape. We not only have both verbal and documentary evidence to show that practically every railroad east of the Mississippi has been granting rebates to the sugar trust since the beginning of 1902, but we also have established to our own satisfaction that in 1902 several railroads entered into a pooling agreement by which a certain percentage of the sugar traffic was to be allotted to each one. We have the affidavits of men who were present at the meeting as to this charge, and we have documentary evidence to substantiate these affidavits."

JOHN T. HUGHES, a fifteen year old lad of Richmond, Mo., composed and delivered before the literary society of his school the following address: "Long have the bright and glowing fires

of tradition burned in the hearts of young Americans as it burns in the hearts of all those who aspire to become great for the sake of their country's name. Names have become immortal to us from the pages of story books and histories that our fathers and mothers have read to us on the long winter evenings when with all else we have become discontented we would run to our parents to find enjoyment, which we would find always in that list of names at whose head stands that of Washington. There were men in those days, men who loved justice, and despised evil, men who refused to be oppressed and defied the oppressors, men who with untiring zeal and energy sought to form a free and independent republic for the welfare of its citizens. They framed the constitution of this grand republic with a view of equal rights and justice to all men, and special privileges to none. This constitution they left to their successors for their benefit and protection; not to be used as an instrument for their oppression. Has it been kept? The condition of affairs of today answers the question. But Mr. President, if there is one state that can truthfully say that she is striving to abolish corruption it is that of Missouri, which under the leadership of Hon. Joseph W. Folk, has forged to the front as the champion of the peoples rights in their efforts for good government."

A SPOONER, WISCONSIN, reader of The Commoner sends a clipping from the Chicago Inter-Ocean in which it is charged that, being entertained by Chinese merchants at a dinner, Mr. Bryan declared in a speech that the American people would never consent to a repeal of the exclusion laws. It is alleged in the Inter-Ocean article that Mr. Bryan is therefore chargeable with the hostility shown by the Chinese for Americans. Commenting on the Inter-Ocean's article the Spooner reader says: "The Inter-Ocean article is rather amusing, as the old organs have pronounced W. J. Bryan dead ever since the campaign of 1896. Now he is a world monster. It gives faith in the theory of reincarnation. What will the next crime be that will be laid to his door? To guess that will be a puzzle worthy a prize."

A REPRESENTATIVE of the United States navy requests the publication of the following: "According to the Army and Navy Journal, the bureau of navigation took important action last week when they decided to establish, at Norfolk, Virginia, a school for the training of machinists for the navy. It should be remembered that, heretofore, the navy has taken machinists from civil life and trained them as engineers on board ship. A certain number of these machinists are given warrant rank in the navy, and a number of machinists and engineers from civil life are also permitted to take the examination, which is competitive. These warrant machinists are now eligible for promotion to the commissioned rank of ensign. Under the new plan it is believed that a much better class of men will be obtained for coal passers and the desertions consequently greatly diminished. The scheme provides for the selection from among the apprentice seamen of a certain number for duty as coal passers, who, during their first enlistment, may through merit attain the rating of fireman, second class; then fireman, first class; and finally, the petty officer rank of water tender. Those firemen and water tenders thus selected who show any special mechanical ingenuity or adaptability and who are recommended by their commanding officers on their re-enlistment will be assigned to the school for the training of machinists at Norfolk, and will be given a nine months' course there, and when graduated made machinists in the navy. From this grade they will be able to attain the rank of warrant machinist."

THOMAS TAGGART, chairman of the democratic national committee, says that he will appear before the house committee on elections if Mr. Cortelyou of the republican committee will do the same, and testify to the contributions received in 1904 by his committee. Referring to Mr. Taggart's offer, the New York World says: "Has not President Roosevelt sufficient influence with Chairman Cortelyou to induce him to accede