

# CURRENT TOPICS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY JEROME appears to be getting deeper and deeper into the mire on the insurance question. After having a bench warrant issued for the arrest of George W. Perkins, thus permitting that man's attorneys to obtain a writ of habeas corpus before the supreme court, he applied to the supreme court to call a special grand jury for the consideration of insurance affairs. It is now plain that Mr. Jerome was anxious to avoid an investigation into insurance affairs by the grand jury under Judge O'Sullivan, and it is equally plain that he was anxious to avoid a similar investigation by the grand jury under Recorder Goff. Some of Mr. Jerome's best friends seem to be unable to advance a plausible explanation for his conduct.

BUT RECORDER GOFF has opinions of his own, and when he came to deliver his charge to the April grand jury in his court he told them plainly that they must investigate insurance matters; that in doing so they had the right to call upon the district attorney for such testimony as he possessed, and that no other or subsequent grand jury could have or possess any more power than the present grand jury possesses. Addressing the jury Recorder Goff said: "There is no law, no court, no judge, no official of any character or description, who can interfere with you in the exercise of your duty, or deprive you of the exclusive right which you now possess." It is believed by some that Mr. Jerome will refuse to co-operate with the grand jury in Recorder Goff's court, but will insist upon proceeding in connection with the grand jury called in compliance with the order of the supreme court. And for all of these strange doings Mr. Jerome is being bitterly assailed by many newspapers and men who gave him ardent support in his recent campaign for re-election.

BENJAMIN F. BARNES, assistant secretary to the president, has been nominated by Mr. Roosevelt as postmaster at Washington City. The Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, a republican paper, says: "The nomination has aroused a storm of protest and objection. Business and professional men have been giving unlimited vent to their objections. Not only was Mr. Barnes unknown, without practical business interests and a resident of New Jersey, but he happened to be the official who carried out the orders on the occasion of the sensational dragging out of the White House of Mrs. Minor Morris some weeks ago. For these reasons, the president's action was denounced as a slap in the face of the people of Washington. What added to the bitterness of feeling was that it was announced officially on Saturday that the old postmaster, Mr. Merritt, had been appointed collector of customs at Niagara Falls, so that only a few hours intervened between that announcement and the selection of Mr. Barnes."

MRS. BELLAMY STORER, wife of the American ambassador at Vienna, denies the charge that she ever abused a letter of President Roosevelt's. Mrs. Storer says that she did show to Cardinal Rambolla, then papal secretary of state, a letter written to Mrs. Storer by Mr. Roosevelt when governor of New York in 1900. Mrs. Storer says that that letter was written so that she might make such use of it. Mrs. Storer gives the contents of this letter, showing that Mr. Roosevelt paid a high tribute to Archbishop Ireland. Mrs. Storer was anxious that the archbishop be made a cardinal.

POSTAL CLERKS complain that during the mail-weighing period the mails have been deluged with fourth-class matter from all parts of the country. One clerk, speaking to a representative of the Lincoln (Neb.) News, says that the quantity of mail has doubled and even trebled since the government ordered the weighing several weeks ago. This clerk added: "It beats all previous records for this season of the year. There is such a mountainous pile of circulars and pamphlets coming in each time that it has become a stiff proposition for the postal clerk to handle his run properly. Advertisements of patent medicines, machinery, so-called health foods,

garden seeds, from the agricultural department at Washington, by the bushel, a host of others too large to name. One of the noticeable things is the number that are addressed to people of towns along the line who can have little, if any, use for the bulk of the truck. A postal clerk soon learns to weed out the legitimate advertisements from those which appear to have no license to cumber the mails. Such worthless stuff has certainly the call now. Look at this package. It weighs nearly four pounds and I will bet a new suit it is stuff that will be thrown into the waste basket or thrown out of the window as soon as the wrapper is torn off."

THE NEWS REPRESENTATIVE assigned to this investigation reported as follows: "A look at the bunch of heavy pamphlets showed that they contained an advertisement of alleged cure for corns and chilblains. Another package inspected was from some manufacturer away back in an eastern state detailing the self-extolled merits of a cream separator. The entire bunch was sent to a number of prospective purchasers in a large town, a class not presumed to be financially interested in cream separators. It seems, too, that congressmen are aiding in this stuffing of the mails. Dozens of packages of government publications, worthless to everybody, books that have not been asked for, have been received in the state in the last ten days. Every four years the government enters into a contract with certain railroads to carry the mails for that period. The compensation is based on the number of pounds that are handled during the weighing season. This year the mails are ordered weighed west of the Missouri river because contracts with a number of the western roads are about to expire and must be renewed. The active, intelligent class of men who handle the mails in transit do not care to offer an opinion or to try to account for the deluge of fourth-class matter, the heaviest on the list, carried. They perhaps have their opinions, but the latter are tightly corked. An ex-postal clerk, who does not care how frankly he talks, declares that railroad officials could explain the present bombardment of the mails with heavy pamphlets and circulars in packages weighing near the four pound limit. He ventures the statement that big favored patrons everywhere are given a tip to flood the mails at a period when it will do the most good. Whether such statements are entitled to much credence or not postal clerks continue to roar over the avalanche of fourth-class matter and the weighing of mails is not yet finished on western roads from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast."

A CLEVELAND, OHIO, court ruled against a school teacher who had sued a board of directors for a balance on salary, holding that a young woman in love is incompetent to teach school. The Chicago Record-Herald has interviewed a number of school teachers in the city by the lake, and without exception those teachers repudiate the Cleveland verdict. The opinion expressed was to the effect that the woman was a better teacher when in love, and one young lady who frankly admitted that she was in love at that time declared that she was never so well prepared to instruct the children, never so willing to show patience, and never so anxious to bring out the best in each one of them.

THE DEMOCRATS of Omaha have nominated for mayor James C. Dahlman. The republicans have nominated Erastus A. Benson. The democrats believe that they have excellent chances to elect their candidate. Mr. Dahlman is in the livestock commission business. For three terms he was sheriff of Dawes county, Nebraska. For two terms he held the office of mayor of Chadron. He is now Nebraska member of the national committee, having been chosen for that position at Kansas City in 1900 and re-elected at St. Louis in 1904. Mr. Dahlman is well known among the democrats of the nation, and has a large personal acquaintance throughout Nebraska and in adjoining states. For several years Mr. Dahlman was chairman of the democratic state committee. He has been active in politics, and has always alligned himself with what is

known as "Chicago platform democracy." He was one of the pioneers in the silver movement in Nebraska in 1894, being a member of the bi-metallic league which wrested the control of the democratic party in this state from the hands of the gold men. At the large silver conference held in Omaha in May, 1894, preparatory to the contest for control of the democratic state convention Mr. Dahlman was chairman of the resolutions committee, which committee reported in favor of a money plank similar to the one adopted at Chicago and reaffirmed at Kansas City.

MR. JAMES C. DAHLMAN was nominated for mayor of Omaha at a primary and so there was, prior to the nomination, no opportunity for the adoption of a platform, but immediately after the primaries Mr. Dahlman and other nominees on the city ticket, together with the city committee, met and framed their declaration of principles. Referring to this declaration the Omaha World-Herald says: "The Omaha democratic platform stands four square with democratic principles. Its utterance is good, democratic doctrine. But it is more than that. It is not only good doctrine for Omaha democrats to tie to, but good doctrine for all Omaha. Omaha's government has too long been disgraced by the dominating influence of the franchised corporations. The result has been extravagance, graft, high taxes and a burdensome debt. Omaha has been given a bad name from ocean to ocean. Her commercial growth and prosperity have been retarded. The corporation blight has laid its heavy hand on every citizen. It is time for a change. The democratic candidates stand on a platform that, if made the administrative policy of the city, will wrest Omaha's government from the corporations and restore it to the people. The republican candidates, on the other hand, are put forward by a powerful political machine, which the republican organ says was organized and controlled by the very franchised corporations whose continued dominance Mr. Dahlman and those with him on the ticket are attracting Mr. Dahlman, like most men of real strength of character, is mild-spoken and little given to profanity. It means something when he says, as reported by the Omaha Be: 'We are going to get these offices. And when we get them we are going to fulfill our pledges or there will be the damndest fight all through the next three years that you ever heard of.' This emphatic and whole-hearted utterance of the democratic candidate for mayor accurately reflects the democratic temper. We believe it represents the temper of Omaha. There are times when a fight of the kind promised is called for. Such a time is at hand in Omaha. The fight is now on. Let the power be given to James C. Dahlman and his associates to make and keep on making that fight as agents of the people of Omaha, and it will be fought to a successful and glorious conclusion."

M. R. LESESNE, writing to the Houston (Texas) Post, says: "Very little consideration is given by the housewife when she places her white flaky biscuit upon her table where the elements are obtained that give them their delicate lightness. The same may be said of her when she dons her house dress of printed goods fresh from the laundry with its lovely colors unharmed. In fact we can go through the category of many toilet as well as table luxuries and point to the grape as the source of all these good things. All honor to the grand old fruit. It has been here as long as man has been here, and is destined to be more highly prized by him, as he is just beginning, the vitiiculturists tell us, to find out its great usefulness. No plant, perhaps, can be used, both vine and fruit, in so many ways, furnishing wood of a beautiful texture, great temples being adorned with columns and doors made of it. Its branches are used in making furniture, baskets and rustic work. In Switzerland the leaves are used for decorations, poultices, applications to fresh wounds or cuts and nerve tonic tea. They make excellent food for cows, sheep and hogs. The very 'leaves' of the grape vine, when cut, are used medicinally. The fruit, we all know, furnishes food and drink—both dangerous in excess—and many by-products astonishing to