

CURRENT TOPICS

ON MAY 4 President Roosevelt transmitted to congress the report of James R. Garfield, commissioner of corporations, giving the results of his investigation of the Standard Oil company. Commissioner Garfield says that his investigation has disclosed "numerous and flagrant discriminations by the railroads in behalf of the Standard Oil company and its affiliated corporations." This report confirms the charge of rebates and other discriminations which have for years been made against the oil trust, and shows that in almost every particular the oil trust magnates have violated the law. Accompanying this report was a message from Mr. Roosevelt in which he said that "the report is of capital importance." He calls attention to the fact that the report shows that the Standard Oil company has benefitted by secret rates to at least three-quarters of a million dollars a year. He says that "the department of justice will take up the question in instituting prosecutions in at least certain of the cases, and he asks for the enactment into law of the bill introduced by Senator Knox seeking to correct the interpretation of the immunity provision rendered in Judge Humphrey's decision. The president says the Standard Oil company is not the only great corporation which has benefitted "in wholly improper fashion by an elaborate series of discriminations which permit it to profit both at the expense of its rivals and of the general public."

IN HIS SPECIAL message Mr. Roosevelt says the attorney general has reported to him that investigations have disclosed that the sugar trust "rarely if ever pays the lawful rate for transportation and is thus improperly and probably unlawfully favored at the expense of its competitors and of the general public." Representatives of the Standard Oil company say that the criticisms of their concerns are unjust. They say that they have not violated the law, and that they showed Mr. Garfield over the field and that he promised them "a square deal." One paragraph in this report follows: "One does not care to bandy words with the president of the United States. It is not easy to differentiate between Mr. Roosevelt, the president, and Mr. Roosevelt the individual. He has given of his advice most generously on every subject, from the size of our families to the mistakes of federal judges, and some error is inevitable to the most conservative man under such circumstances. We say flatly that any assertion that the Standard Oil company has been or is now knowingly engaged in practices which are unlawful is alike untruthful and unjust."

WHILE SENATOR TILLMAN is willing to co-operate with Mr. Roosevelt on railroad rate legislation, it is evident that he draws the line at White House hospitality. Mr. Tillman's position is explained in a dispatch to the Richmond Times-Dispatch under date of April 28, which dispatch follows: "Senator Tillman of South Carolina was invited to attend a dinner given at the White House last Monday night in honor of the French naval officers. The South Carolina senator did not attend. Three years ago the president invited the senator to a White House dinner and the afternoon preceding, former Senator McLaurin and Senator Tillman engaged in a fist fight on the floor of the senate chamber. The president heard of it and he promptly withdrew the invitation. It seems that the president now thinks a good deal more of the senator than he did at the time he took his hasty action. Senator Tillman and the White House have nothing to say about the latest development. All that is known is that the president sent an invitation to Senator Tillman which was not accepted."

MANY COMMONER readers will remember an article printed several months ago and entitled "Milestones on Love's Pathway." This article referred to a little volume published for private circulation by Mrs. Theodore Sutro. This volume was a compilation of love letters and poems written upon different anniversaries by Mr. Sutro to his wife. Those who were interested in this article will likewise be interested in an article which appeared in the New York World of recent date, as follows: "Mrs. Theodore Sutro,

a prominent clubwoman and social leader, died at her home, No. 320 West One Hundred and Second street, yesterday morning, after a prolonged illness. Her death is a crushing blow to her husband, a well known member of the bar. The devotion of the couple during their twenty-three years of married life called forth, a year ago, a little publication of their love letters, by Mrs. Sutro. When she contracted pleurisy last September, Mr. Sutro hurried with her to Hot Springs. Failing to obtain benefit there, husband and wife went to Baltimore. The time since then has been spent in a vain effort to alleviate Mrs. Sutro's suffering. She returned to her home in this city last week in a precarious condition. The funeral will take place on Monday from the family residence and, later in the day, the body will be taken to St. John's Episcopal church in Jersey City, where services will also be held. Mrs. Sutro was the daughter of H. W. Clinton, of England. She was married to Mr. Sutro in St. John's church, Jersey City, in October, 1884. She had been a lover of music from her childhood and had been graduated from the New York Conservatory of Music. After her marriage her ambition to master the profession of her husband, with the idea of becoming more in sympathy with him, led her to study law in his office and finally to enter the women's law class in the University of New York. She was the first woman to enter a university law class. Mrs. George B. McClellan was the second member of the class. Mrs. Sutro's natural bent led her, however, to the pursuit of art, rather than the law and all her married life she has been identified more or less with musical matters. She was a brilliant pianist and composer, and never refused her services at charity benefits. She was a member of many women's clubs, among them Sorosis and the Press club, was president of several philanthropic clubs and societies, member of the Political Study club, and was always interested in New York and its development."

THE CONFEDERATE veterans held their reunion at New Orleans recently. The old officers of the association were re-elected by acclamation. They are as follows: General Stephen D. Lee, commander-in-chief; General Clement A. Evans, C. Irvine Walker, commanding the army of North Virginia, and General W. L. Cabell, commanding the trans-Mississippi department. Richmond, Va., was selected as the next place of meeting. The dedication of the monument to Jefferson Davis will take place in Richmond next year. Among the resolutions presented and adopted were: Commending the action of congress in marking confederate graves; starting a movement for a monument to southern womanhood; expressing sympathy for the earthquake sufferers, and asking the southern states to pay pensions to the negro slaves who remained loyal to their masters during the war.

GENERAL C. A. EVANS, chairman of the committee on history for the confederate veterans, read a report from his committee, of which the following is an extract: "The reputation of the people of the south is so dear to themselves that they insist upon a fair portraiture in history. The true story of the people who formed the confederacy and fought its battles is of more value to the future citizens of the south than all the property lost in that struggle. The character of a people, who, in the language of Gladstone's famous compliment, had 'created a nation,' is worth, for future influence, more to the United States than the billions expended in preventing their success in their effort to secede. When the general character of our wondrous nation has been formed, it will be known that the south brought its fairest offerings to construct the nobler nationality of this republic. It is truly gratifying to ourselves as confederate soldiers that the great interests dependent on accurate history and pure literature have not been neglected during the general commercial advance. This fair field is more pleasing to contemplate, because it is becoming cleared of such noxious weeds and thorns as unpatriotic suppressions, sectional expressions, ungenerous treatment of illustrious men, and other stimulants of hatred. In the main, the writers of all literature which

specially concerns the events of confederate times have become better informed, more sincere, less partisan, more national. The increase of books relating to the south has been remarkable, and in the general tone of the new issue there is a decided abandonment of the former sectional rancor and unfair treatment."

THEY ARE BOOMING "Uncle Joe" Cannon for president. The republican paper printed at Danville, Ill., the speaker's home, has announced that Mr. Cannon is its candidate for the presidency, while the republican paper printed at Springfield, the capital of the state, makes a similar announcement. The Washington correspondent for the New York World says: "Numbers of these newspapers have been circulated among members of congress here. The speaker is not credited with having inspired the announcement, but it is known that it is pleasing to him. 'Are you going to be a candidate?' he was asked. 'No man is ever a candidate for such a high office,' the speaker said gravely, shifting his half-chewed cigar from the left to the right hand corner of his mouth. All day the speaker was receiving congratulations from members. He wore his happiest smile and a big white carnation as he mingled with 'the brethren' in the cloak rooms. One fact which his friends say is a sure indication that the speaker is a candidate is that during the last two months he has always kept his waist-coat buttoned. Speaker Cannon has no autographed photographs of himself. Vice President Fairbanks, who is also a candidate, is giving away his autographed photographs. One of the speaker's friends said today: 'These will come later.'"

THE NEW YORK grand jury for April, upon the completion of its duty, made a report to Recorder Goff, in which it explains its failure to investigate political contributions by insurance officials on the ground that District Attorney Jerome had advised the jury not to do so. It will be remembered that the grand jury in Judge O'Sullivan's court failed to make such an investigation because the district attorney neglected to co-operate with it, and now for similar reasons the grand jury in Recorder Goff's court has failed. The jury in Recorder Goff's court reported that Mr. Jerome had been asked for the evidence, but that he had opposed action, saying that he desired first to secure an opinion from the higher court as to the validity of Judge Greenbaum's decision that such political contributions constitute larceny. Mr. Jerome said to the jury: "If Justice Greenbaum's ruling be sustained, it will be necessary to call as witnesses Cornelius N. Bliss, treasurer of the republican national committee, and George B. Cortelyou, its chairman and postmaster general, and indict a large portion of the officers of every financial institution in this city." Recorder Goff discharged the jury, but told its members that they had not done their full duty, although they had rendered a signal service in authenticating the "unequivocal responsibility" which now rests upon the district attorney.

PIERRE CURIE, the co-discoverer with his wife of the wonderful element of radium, met death recently through an accident in a Paris street. The London correspondent for the New York Sun, says: "Nothing is known at the moment of the work on which Dr. Curie was actually engaged at the time of his death, but his unremitting devotion to science and his despatch of all public distinction and social distractions had led the scientific world to look to him and his wife to lead the way to further epoch-making discoveries. It was characteristic of the man that he refused the decoration of the Legion of Honor as useless, that when he had obtained some few decigrammes of radium he rejected a rich man's offer of half a million francs for them because he wanted the precious stuff to work upon and that he only accepted the Nobel prize and certain subventions so that he might consecrate the money to further research. When he accepted the professor's chair at the Sorbonne in 1905 it was on condition of having a laboratory furnished there where he could continue his labors in company with his wife. It is a coincidence that the min-