

# CURRENT TOPICS

**A** WARRANT FOR the arrest of John D. Rockefeller was recently issued by the state authorities at Findley, Ohio, and is now in the hands of the sheriff of Hancock county. This warrant was issued on a complaint filed by Prosecutor David, charging Rockefeller with violating the anti-trust law in organizing and maintaining a monopoly in the oil business. The warrant directs the sheriff to "take the said John D. Rockefeller if found in your county, or if he shall have fled, that you pursue him to any other county in the state, and take and safely keep the said John D. Rockefeller, so that you have his body before this court to answer the said complaint and be further dealt with according to law." The warrant is signed by Judge Banker, of the probate court of Hancock county.

**JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER** is now at Campiegne, France. The Chicago Record-Herald printed a cablegram from Campiegne in which Rockefeller is quoted as saying: "I will make no statement whatsoever for publication." Rockefeller said this when questioned about the warrant for his arrest. To a Paris newspaper man who asked for his opinion on this warrant Mr. Rockefeller wrote: "This whole affair is a matter of politics." Prof. Strong, Mr. Rockefeller's son-in-law, said to the same newspaper man: "The issue of the warrant is absurd. A word of explanation from Mr. Rockefeller will dismiss it." The oil magnate seems, however, to be considerably worried, for in the Record-Herald's cablegram it is said: "Mr. Rockefeller played golf with the mayor and Dr. Biggar all this afternoon. He made good strokes, but he was nervous undoubtedly. Usually as gay as a schoolboy at the game, he did not smile once today. His face seemed heavy and drawn and hard as granite. Yet when the golf ended he remarked: 'I have had a delightful afternoon.'"

**A** FINDLAY, OHIO dispatch follows: "If John D. Rockefeller does not come to Ohio when he returns from abroad it will be impossible to extradite him in the suit brought against him in the probate court here for violation of the anti-trust laws. The offense charged is a misdemeanor under the laws of Ohio. 'Had it been a felony punishable by a penitentiary sentence,' said Prosecutor David today, 'we could have extradited him, but as it is only a misdemeanor punishable by a fine and jail sentence that can not be done.'"

**I**N THE ICE TRUST case in progress of hearing at Kansas City, W. F. Lyons, president of the Central Ice company of that place, stated that he had started in business in 1900 with a capital of \$600, had cleared \$45,000 in the following year, and that he now owned a plant valued at \$400,000. Mr. Lyons said that prices ought to be even higher than they are. Mr. Lyons told of making two advances this season in the price of ice sold to peddlers, on April 1 and on May 1. "How did you come to raise the price on the 1st of April?" was asked. "I heard that the People's Ice company was going to raise the price on that date, so I raised it." "Why?" "Well, I am not in the ice business as a philanthropist. I wanted to get all I could for my ice." The first advance was from 50 cents to \$1 a ton. Later he made an additional raise when he heard that the other companies intended doing so. Mr. Lyons said he knew of no combination in the ice business. "But it isn't necessary this year," he added. In reply to further questioning Mr. Lyons said: "If I had the making of the price of ice it would be higher in the business sales than it is now. The downtown trade today ought to be paying \$7 a ton. It is due to the timidity of the ice men that the price is not higher. I say timidity. I won't say cowardice, because it is business timidity and moral timidity." Mr. Lyons said he thought the cost of manufacturing ice was about \$1.75 to \$1.85 a ton.

**D**URING THE SAME hearing Harry T. Burk, secretary of the People's Ice Storage and Fuel company, admitted that his company dictates the price of ice. Mr. Burk denied that he had authority to make prices for any other com-

pany. He simply fixed the price for his own company and while he did not know, he said, that all the other companies promptly made the same price, he had not heard of anybody who had failed to follow his lead. He told how his company sometimes bought ice for \$2 a ton and sold it for \$5 without ever seeing the product. Witness said he was unable to tell the cost of production, and declared that the supply and demand fixes the price of ice.

**I**N THE PROCEEDINGS against the French Lick Springs Hotel company, charged with maintaining a gambling institution, the Indiana state authorities have demanded the privilege of examining the books of the hotel company. This is the concern owned by Thomas Taggart, present chairman of the democratic national committee. Dispatches say that Mr. Taggart makes no objection to the demand. In another proceeding brought by Taggart to oust the lessees of the gambling rooms, an order was issued granting Taggart's petition and ousting the lessees on the ground that they allowed gambling in the building in violation of the lease. The authorities claim that this suit is all a pretense on Taggart's part; that he received a large sum of money each year for the quarters, knowing that gambling was being carried on and they say that Taggart's suit to eject the gamblers was brought as a defense pre-arranged in an assumption that the gambling house would be raided. Many democratic newspapers insist that Mr. Taggart shall resign from the chairmanship of the national committee. He declares that he will not resign and his friends say that in view of his vigorous denial of responsibility for the gambling at his hotel, he should not be convicted in the public judgment until he has had a fair trial in the courts.

**JOHN W. ECKHART**, president of the Iroquois club, Chicago, has received a letter from Mr. Bryan, accepting that club's invitation to a reception or dinner in September. The Chicago Record-Herald says that in his letter to Mr. Eckhart Mr. Bryan stated: "Your cable addressed to me at St. Petersburg was forwarded to me here. I have wired you and now write in explanation. \* \* \* The reception or banquet should be as simple as possible. My views on this subject are known in the United States, and they have been strengthened by what I have seen abroad. There are more democratic ways of spending money than on high-priced dinners and costly receptions. As people do not attend political dinners, primarily, for the purpose of eating, but for the communion together, \$2 or \$3 per plate is enough, and I really prefer the dollar dinner. I very much appreciate the compliment paid me by your club in tendering me the banquet (a reception without a banquet would be equally acceptable) and hope that your members have not been deceived by the report in the newspapers that I have become conservative. My views on public questions have not undergone any change and my opposition to trusts and the corporate domination of politics is more earnest, if that is possible, than at any time in the past. I think the people are beginning to recognize that it is really more conservative to correct abuses than to allow predatory wealth to load its sins upon honest accumulation and legitimate business."

**U**NDER DATE OF London, July 11, the New York Times prints the following cable dispatch from its London correspondent: "Is it true," I asked Mr. Bryan yesterday, "that President Roosevelt caught you in swimming and stole your clothes?" Over in America they say that is what has happened. "He didn't get all my clothes," Mr. Bryan answered laughingly, and quickly added: "I doubt whether what he did get fitted him very well." Mr. Bryan went on: "It is hard, uphill work for Mr. Roosevelt to make his administration respond to the country's evident demand for reforms, for the country gave him no mandate. The platform on which he was elected does not declare that our laws and our government should aim at the welfare of the whole people, but if a democratic president is chosen in 1908 he will undoubtedly represent a party com-

mitted to this reform idea and will be in quite a different situation. There is no doubt about the people's wish in this respect. Views that were considered revolutionary a few years ago are now accepted as sane and necessary. A change has come over the country. An American asked me today: "Mr. Bryan, how do you explain the change that has come over some of our rich men in respect to their attitude toward democratic principles?" I replied: "The explanation is very easy. People who live in a valley watch the dams above them, and if a flood is threatened they know that the higher the dam, the greater the danger, and some of them have made up their minds that they can not afford to dam public sentiment any longer." There is another thing to be considered, Mr. Bryan remarked after a pause, namely, the ethical movement. A great many men are beginning to learn that there is something in the world more valuable than money, and it has gratified me to hear of numbers of cases where men have taken a larger view of their relations to their fellows and of their responsibilities. This introspection is making some of them ashamed of the questionable methods to which they have resorted in the past."

**A**LTON B. PARKER has taken issue with some of the statements made by Secretary of War Taft, in his speech delivered at Greensboro, N. C. Mr. Parker declares that the secretary sought to have the public draw the inference that the recent prosecutions of alleged illegal combinations are due to new statutes. To this Judge Parker takes exception and to support his contention he quotes from his letter of acceptance and a speech subsequently delivered during the last presidential campaign. In both the speech and the letter Judge Parker is quoted as saying that the laws then on the statute book were entirely adequate, if enforced. Judge Parker, in his statement, says: "The inference that Mr. Taft would have the public draw from his utterances is that these things are due to new statutes; that the vindication which the law is now receiving is due to congressional action since 1904. But that is not so. Not one of the successful prosecutions for which the existing administration is now entitled to credit is based on any new statute. Every single one of them down to this date rests solely upon the law as it stood in 1904; and it should not be lost sight of by a discriminating public that the law could have been enforced in 1904, and in 1903, and in 1902, just as well as today. Had it been, the wrongs from which the people have suffered would not have so multiplied."

**T**HE ATCHISON, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad company is spending \$10,000,000 to save 6.7 miles. The Kansas City Star tells the story in this way: "An army of men and machinery are working day and night to complete the new Belen cut-off between Texico, N. M., on the Peccos Valley line of the Santa Fe, and Rio Puerco, thirty miles east of Albuquerque, N. M. The length of the main line to Emporia is 124 miles, while by the cut-off it will be 109.9 miles. It is asked why this vast expenditure of money if the distance saved is only 6.7 miles? As a matter of fact, the Santa Fe is really spending this money for the purpose of avoiding half a mile between Albuquerque, N. M., and La Junta, Colo. The other 6.2 miles saved is not material. It is the 2,000 feet difference in altitude between the Raton Mountain, the highest point on the present line, and the Abo Pass, the highest point on the proposed cut-off, that is really material."

**S**ENATOR TILLMAN'S only opponent in his candidacy for the United States senate—Colonel W. W. Lumpkin—has withdrawn and Senator Tillman will probably be re-elected without opposition. Even the New York World pays a tribute to Mr. Tillman. While contending that Mr. Tillman is "lacking in dignity" the World says that there should be no opposition to his reelection and adds: "Mr. Tillman is not only morally but intellectually honest. And he has not only fidelity but courage. He fights—not only with his brain and tongue, but sometimes, unfortunately, with his fists. Nobody ever accused