

CURRENT TOPICS

A HURRICANE STRUCK the city of Mobile, Alabama, Wednesday, September 26. The loss of life is estimated from 100 to 120, and many persons were injured. Five thousand houses were damaged, and the business section devastated, property loss being estimated at \$18,000,000. Great damage was done all along the Gulf coast. Pensacola, Fla., also suffered greatly.

THE UNITED STATES has intervened in Cuba. On Friday, September 23, President Palma tendered his resignation as follows: "To Congress: The condition to which public order has been reduced since the initiation of armed rebellion in the province of Pinar del Rio, and the fact that there is now in operation in this capital an American commission said to be one of peace and representing the government at Washington, and that in consequence the executive has practically lost all authority while the rebels continue in arms and in a threatening attitude; and the writer, on the other hand, desiring sincerely and ardently that the country return to its natural state of order and tranquility, and as it is absolutely impossible to accept the conditions which the said commission proposes as the only means of terminating the rebellion, I have resolved, considering it to be patriotic and decorous, to present formally to congress, and in irrevocable form, my resignation from the presidency of the republic to which office I was elected by the citizens and the vote of the electoral college May 16 last. Trusting that this will be at once accepted, I extend my thanks to both legislative bodies, to whom I offer this testimony of my highest consideration."

ALL EFFORTS TO persuade President Palma to withdraw his resignation were futile. Secretary Taft ordered immediate landing of marines for the purpose of guarding the treasury department. Secretary Taft also issued a proclamation creating himself provisional governor of Cuba. General Funston arrived at Cuba and took command of the troops. Six thousand troops have been ordered to Cuba, and it is reported that an extra session of congress may be held.

ISAAC R. HILL, for many years connected in some official capacity with the house of representatives, died recently at Washington. A Washington dispatch says: "Colonel Hill has been known to every member of congress for a generation as 'Ike Hill, of Ohio.' Away back in the seventies he came to Washington as doorkeeper in the house. No matter which party was in power 'Ike' remained on the payroll. He knew no politics when congress was in session, and that fact led to his long service and popularity. When the democrats were in power 'Ike' had a job as assistant doorkeeper. When the republicans were in charge 'Ike' was the democratic whip. He was long past three score and ten, but never would tell his age."

A STAFF CORRESPONDENT for the St. Louis Republic wires to his newspaper from New Orleans an interesting story from which the following extracts are taken: "One week ago today, sitting in the lobby of the hotel at Roanoke, Va., I heard a native citizen of good repute say that the only problem his state faced was that of the negro. Driving to the fair grounds, where Bryan was to speak, I heard negroes use language toward white men that would have provoked a fight, to say the least, in Missouri. In North Carolina, where whisky is not common, the negro was more civil, and the same thing may be said of parts of South Carolina; but at Atlanta on Thursday, I heard half a dozen men say that the negro question is the only one of real moment to the south. One gentleman said that he expected every day to be the last of peace between the two races. Crossing into Alabama I read in a prominent paper a declaration that the south would know no peace until the last negro had

been deported. It is not for the purpose of sensationalism that I say that the south is at this moment sitting on a powder magazine, the ignition of which may come tomorrow, or next year, or in a decade. The trouble is not with the white race. The negro has mistaken liberty for license, and he gets more than any white man in the same walk of life. Fifty southern towns go to sleep every night looking for the sort of thing that has occurred in Atlanta, and to most of them it will come sooner or later. Kindly correspondents, who naturally shelter the real feelings of the people, say that boys are responsible for the outbreaks against law and order, but every expression I have heard on the subject came from men of repute who face the subject with genuine regret and every misgiving."

THE SIMPLIFIED spelling authorized by President Roosevelt is not meeting with plain sailing, even in the departments of government at Washington. Comptroller of the Treasury Tracewell recently ordered some stationery from the public printer. When it came it bore the phonetic spelling, "controller of the currency." Mr. Tracewell refused to stand for it, declaring that his was a constitutional office and there was no such office as "controller of the currency." Assistant Secretary Keep said that he guessed the president's order would have to stand, but Mr. Tracewell called attention to the fact that there was no authority for a "controller" to either receive or pay salaries, and that settled it. It will remain "comptroller" until Oyster Bay is communicated with. Then the secretary of the navy had a complaint. The bureau of navigation received certain printed orders from the big print shop wherein appeared the titles "past assistant paymaster" and "past assistant surgeon." The bureau balked, insisting that "past" meant gone, while the officers referred to were still on duty having merely "passed" the rank given. The argument waxed furious for a time, and then the matter was referred to Oyster Bay. Then the secretary of the navy had another complaint. The hydrographic office complained that the printers had changed the spelling on the maps, causing great confusion. The secretary then threw up his hands and admitted that he didn't know a thing about spelling. "Referred to Oyster Bay" was the official dictum.

A HOUSTON, TEXAS, dispatch under date of September 20, to the Chicago Record-Herald follows: "One thousand democrats of Harris county have formed the nucleus of an anti-Bailey movement and have ordered printed and distributed 500,000 copies of a circular entitled 'The Shame of Texas,' attacking Bailey and urging all the counties of the state to organize to prevent Bailey's return to the United States senate. Attention is called to the charges against Bailey in newspapers and magazines, which, it is alleged, he utterly failed to answer in a satisfactory manner. His connection with Standard Oil and other monopolies, the big fees he has secured and the great wealth he has acquired are cited as proof positive that he has betrayed the people and gone over to their interests. The resolutions conclude as follows: 'It is inexpressibly sad that this man, so magnificently endowed for leadership, and once idolized by every Texan, should have surrendered to the demoralizing influence of Wall street associates, but he has sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. He has been morally perverted. What would be the moral of the lesson taught our children by Mr. Bailey's re-election to the United States senate?'"

FROM DALLAS, TEXAS, September 25, Senator Bailey made a lengthy statement in reply to the charges made against him. He says: "My traducers do not expect to prevent my re-election or to discredit me in Texas, where all the facts and circumstances are known, but they hope to injure me in the estimation of the country at large and to impair my usefulness in the senate. The democrats of Texas have not forgotten that exactly this same kind of a fight was made on me when I was first elected to

the senate, six years ago. After I had won the senatorship in a fair contest before the people, a coterie of dissatisfied politicians made a desperate attempt to defeat my election by the legislature. The present agitation was largely inaugurated by the same men, with some outside assistance and is predicated upon exactly the same transactions. My candidacy for re-election to the senate was submitted to a direct ballot by the democratic party of Texas, and I received within 2,000 votes of the number cast for four of the candidates for governor." Senator Bailey denies that the Standard Oil owned the Tennessee railroad properties for which he was attorney. He presents a letter from H. Clay Pierce in which Mr. Pierce assured Senator Bailey that the interests for which he acted as attorney were not identified with the Standard Oil. He denies that he helped John H. Kirby sell an east Texas railroad to the Santa Fe system, declaring that the railroad was sold years before he had any relations with Kirby. Senator Bailey concludes the statement in these words: "I have given to the service of the people of Texas fifteen of the best years of my life, and in all that long time I have been actuated by the single purpose of promoting their happiness and their welfare. I would like to continue in their confidence and their affections, but I will not suffer even them to deny me the right to provide in my own time and in a proper way for myself and my family in my old age. Wholly apart from the question of a competence, I will never admit that I am so weak in character that I dare not pursue an honorable profession out of a fear that I will thus be led to sacrifice the public interest. God pity my country if it is to be governed by men so selfish and infirm that they can not trust themselves to pursue their private business without betraying the public interest. With a congress composed of men like those who seek to utilize the power of the government to increase their private fortunes would find an easy way to corrupt our representatives and prey upon the people."

WRITING FOR THE American Federationist, Samuel Gompers reviews the campaign against Representative Littlefield in the Second district of Maine. Mr. Gompers gives to organized labor the credit for the reduction of Mr. Littlefield's majority from 5,419 in 1904, to about 1,000 in 1906. He says that "labor did not undertake to defeat Mr. Littlefield, because he was a republican nor because his conspicuous opponent was a democrat. It made a clean fight against Mr. Littlefield because of his bitter, relentless antagonism to the best interests of the wage earners as well as the common people of our country." He charges "the interests" with a direct effort in Mr. Littlefield's behalf and declares that "the commercial railroad and shipping trusts poured immense sums of money into the campaign and the methods used to 'get' the nomination were amply employed to secure Mr. Littlefield's election 'at any cost.'"

IN THE SAME ARTICLE Mr. Gompers pays his respects to Speaker Cannon, Secretary Taft and other republican leaders who went to Mr. Littlefield's assistance. Referring to Speaker Cannon's part Mr. Gompers says: "He totally misrepresented the aims and purposes of labor in his speeches," and he charges the speaker with "so constituting the committees of the house that the wrongs of labor might be continued and the rights of the people denied," and he adds that "Mr. Littlefield was one of his capable lieutenants in carrying out that policy." Of Mr. Taft, Mr. Gompers says: "As for the affinity of Secretary of War Taft with Mr. Littlefield and solicitude for his re-election, I need but refer to the fact that when Mr. Taft was judge of the federal court he issued one of the earliest injunctions against which labor so justly complains. Mr. Littlefield, as a member of the judiciary committee in congress, always used his position to prevent any remedy of the injunction evil and abuse. Whatever other merit Secretary Taft's speech may have had, his misrepresentation of labor's position on the question of injunctions could only