

CURRENT TOPICS

THE RECENT DEATH of Mrs. Jefferson Davis recalls to mind the fact that her daughter, Mrs. Hays, of Colorado, furnished a room at the Union Printers' Home in Colorado Springs, and it is known as the "Jefferson Davis Room." It contains several interesting relics of Mr. Davis, and a splendid portrait of him adorns the wall. The well furnished room is one of the attractions of the home.

SENATOR CULLOM, of Illinois, says that unless the republican party speedily and effectively revises the tariff, the people are likely to entrust the democratic party with that work. The senator advises that President Roosevelt call congress in extra session immediately after March 4, 1907, for the purpose of taking up this work. He adds: "The result of the elections, to my mind, means that the people are determined that there shall be revision, and I believe the president will heed the warning."

IN ITS ISSUE of November 10, the Baltimore News printed a remarkable interview with Secretary of the Navy Bonaparte, in which interview Mr. Bonaparte suggested the creation of a "legalized boss" for each political party in every state and city, the "boss" to be empowered to select candidates for the various elective offices, thereby doing away with nominating conventions. Mr. Bonaparte said: "It is hard, indeed, very hard, often impossible, to get the men who are fit for public office to become candidates. Unfit candidates can be secured by the bushel, but public life in this country involves such grave sacrifices of both inclination and interest for men of character, ability and high standing in the community that they have to be driven into it by a sort of compulsion, through appeals to their sense of public duty, in some cases of party loyalty. Now, by a 'legalized boss' I mean an individual authorized on behalf of one of our parties to choose all candidates of that party for elective offices within a designated territory—to do intelligently, deliberately and carefully the work which is supposed to be done by nominating conventions or 'Crawford county' primaries, but which is done usually, in fact, by the local 'boss' or ring in secret. Of course, every facility should be offered for making 'independent' nominations, whether within the organized parties or without, so that all citizens who may be dissatisfied for whatever reason with the 'regular' nominations may be able to vote effectively according to their convictions."

MR. BONAPARTE was asked how he would choose the proposed "legalized boss." He replied: "He ought to be elected annually by the legal voters of his party, at a primary held under all the sanctions of law, and at which only this one office, or rather position, should be filled. Each voter would have only to say whom he considered the best man in the party to be constituted a nominating convention of one for all elective offices within the state, city or county, as the case might be. I think it probable that no one of the persons who have been known as 'bosses' since I have known something about politics would have been elected at such a primary. Perhaps it might be wise to provide that the 'nominator' or 'legalized boss' I have suggested should be himself disqualified to hold public office, but of this I am not sure." The secretary was then asked whether he expected to get up an agitation in favor of establishing "legalized bosses." He replied in the negative, but added that, if somebody with half his years and four times his leisure would take these ideas up seriously, he might, perhaps, work out something of benefit to the public.

THE FAILURE OF organized labor to stand by its best friends was well emphasized in the Colorado election. Buchtel, the successful republican candidate, could not have been elected without the votes of thousands of union men in Denver, Pueblo, Cripple Creek, Victor, Colorado Springs and other cities where organized labor is strong. Yet at the meeting of the State Federation of Labor a resolution was unanimously adopted calling on organized labor to refuse "as one man to vote in his (Buchtel's) favor." Had

organized labor voted anywhere near unanimously in favor of Governor Adams he would have been elected, and certainly Governor Adams has at all times shown himself to be a true and tried friend of organized labor. If organized labor expects to profit by cutting any particular figure in politics, it will have to quit spending so much time in drafting resolutions, and spend a great deal more time in studying up on how to best conserve its own interests at the polls.

BEING THE RELATIVE, either by blood or marriage, of a prominent character has its disadvantages, as Representative Nicholas Longworth is discovering. For obvious reasons Representative Longworth was much in demand as a campaign spellbinder, but since the election a man who has a mania for such things has been investigating. Representative Longworth spoke in five congressional districts during the recent campaign, and in each one of the five the republicans met with a sharp reverse. He spoke in the Sixth Ohio district, and Hildebrand, the republican candidate, was defeated. Then he spoke in the Ninth district and McClelland, the republican candidate, was defeated. He spoke in the Eleventh Indiana district and Landis, the republican who was up for re-election, was defeated. Then he returned to Ohio and spoke in the Eighth district, and the republican candidate, Representative Cole, suffered a loss of 5,000 in his plurality. In his own district, the First, Representative Longworth drew enormous audiences, but on election day his plurality of two years ago was cut down 10,000. This doubtless would not have been noticed had it not been that Representative Longworth is the son-in-law of President Roosevelt.

SECRETARY METCALF went to San Francisco at the president's request to investigate the Japanese trouble in that town. The San Francisco board of education made an order that all Japanese students be debarred from the public schools and received only at a separate school maintained for the Orientals. The Japanese counsel at San Francisco protested and the Japanese ambassador at Washington appealed to Secretary Root, saying that the course of the San Francisco authorities was a violation of Japan's treaty rights. Japanese cablegrams say that great indignation has been manifested throughout Japan and that there is a growing hostility toward America. Secretary Metcalf reports that the board of education has no authority to make such an order, inasmuch as it is in contravention of Japan's treaty rights; and it is maintained that the state authorities must be controlled in whatever action they may take by the terms of the treaty entered into between this government and foreign nations.

IT WOULD BE impossible for the administration to conceal its anxiety to do away with all grounds for Japanese hostility. Newspaper dispatches say that the Philippine Islands make it inadvisable for the United States to have any difficulty with Japan. While the authorities at Washington are greatly disturbed, the newspapers at San Francisco seem to think that it is a case of much-a-do about nothing. The San Francisco Chronicle presents the San Francisco view in this way: "A dispatch represents the Japanese press and people as exceedingly angry at the anti-Japanese feeling on this coast, and especially at our exclusion of all children of Oriental parentage from the schools of this city, except the special schools designed for their accommodation. Very likely there is much talk. Japan has its irresponsible sensational press as well as this country. The report that the Japanese government is taking the matter up, however, may be dismissed as all rot. It would be fortunate if it would take it up, for it would probably lead to a rational discussion of the entire racial question by cool, level-headed men of both countries. In due time it will probably come to that, but probably not quite yet. As to the schools, the Japanese government perfectly understands that the people of this state are not under the slightest obligation to tax themselves to teach Japanese the English language or to admit Oriental pupils at all into our schools where their presence may be distasteful to our own people. In view of the

fact that we have not in this city sufficient buildings to accommodate our own pupils, the Japanese government will see that our provision of special schools for the instruction of Orientals is an act of the most kindly consideration on our part. The Japanese government also knows that, in view of the restrictions placed on our people in Japan and its dependencies it is in no position to complain if we should conclude to exercise the right which the Japanese have formally recognized by treaty, to exclude those classes of their people whose presence here is certain to result in conditions and acts which would interrupt the friendly relations between the two nations. There is no objection here to the presence of any number of Japanese students, merchants, travelers, and financiers. No other classes of Americans desire to go to Japan. We are in a position to demand of Japan that she shall give to Americans of those classes the same perfect freedom in Japan and its dependencies which the Japanese of those classes enjoy in the United States. At present there is no such freedom to our people. We are in a position, either with or without the consent of Japan, to exclude the classes who live by manual labor. Japan is at perfect liberty to exclude American laborers from that country. We desire to continue on friendly terms with Japan both for sentimental and commercial reasons. There is but one way to do it, and that is to keep Japanese manual laborers out of the country. Our workmen will never bother Japan. As for giving up our civilization for that of Japan, which must follow the free admission of Japanese coolies, we won't do it, and the Japanese and the United States governments combined can not make us do it."

AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS print conspicuously a London cablegram under date of November 14, as follows: "According to the Tokio correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, the Satsuma, the biggest battleship in the world, which is to be launched in Japan today, embodies all the lessons of the last war. The woodwork has been reduced to a minimum; she is fitted with elaborate fire apparatus, and her upper works are kept as clean of top-hamper as possible. Her details in the main follow those of the British battleship Dreadnaught, whose steaming capacity she is expected to exceed. The correspondent says there is every reason to believe that the Japanese and British admiralities exchanged plans and ideas previous to the construction of this warship. As the Satsuma has been built by Japanese labor exclusively, her launching will be regarded as a great historical event and the emperor and the crown prince of Japan will be present."

THE VICTORY scored in Pennsylvania by the machine seems to have encouraged the state house grafters to believe that they can brazen out the investigation of the rottenness in connection with the building of the new state house. State Treasurer Berry, who was elected by democrats and independent voters, was the first to call attention to the enormous steals. Now Attorney General Carson is making inquiries, and the replies of those who are being questioned shows that the grafters have taken the defeat of Emery as a condoning of their crimes. But the attorney general shows a disposition to probe the matter to the bottom. John H. Sanderson, who seems to know something about this affair, has been questioned by the attorney general, but he has seen fit to make replies that are extremely vague when they are not impudent. One of the big "graft" items was in the furniture line.

THE PHILADELPHIA Public Ledger says: "The facts, which do not appear to be denied, show that the schedule on which bids for furniture were invited contained many items describing particular articles of furniture, and on these there were competitive bids. Item 22, however, included 'designed furniture, fittings, furnishings and decorations' of any material, on which bids were asked 'per foot.' No one but Sanderson knew what 'per foot' meant in such connection, and Sanderson was awarded the entire contract on this item. Thus it came about, in the instances presented by Mr. Berry, that