

CURRENT TOPICS

A NEW YORK society woman has created quite a stir by the publication of a book in which she advocates "marriage on trial." The daily newspapers are filled with comment on the abominable proposition and the New York woman's book is receiving considerable free advertising. General Horatio C. King, of Brooklyn, president of the Society of the Army of the Potomac, exhausted the subject when, in commenting upon the New York publication, he said: "If my wife were to advocate such principles she would have to choose another place to live pretty quickly. Such an idea as trial marriages is a direct insult to every home in this country, and I hope the American women will rise and show their true sentiment in regard to this latest form of fanaticism."

HETTY GREEN, known as "the richest woman," recently made, to a Boston newspaper reporter, a direful prediction. The Boston correspondent for the Denver News explains that Mrs. Green thinks that trusts are as bad as lawyers and that when Mrs. Green says this, "it is the limit of her condemnation," because Mrs. Green has a pet aversion for lawyers. But this is what Mrs. Green says with respect to the trusts: "There is going to be a revolution in this country, and the people are going to revolt against the oppressions of the trusts. There will be a deluge, and these streets will run with blood when the people are aroused. The people are gradually finding out about the trusts and when they realize a little more fully how they are ruining the chances of the people there is going to be a revolution. They are as bad as lawyers. It will be a deluge, I tell you."

THE NEW YORK PRESS, a republican paper, describes the New York situation in this way: "The tremendous votes polled by the democratic candidates on the state ticket, outside of Hearst, show two things beyond debate: One—that Mr. Hughes was saved by democrats who have no use for the republican party except as an instrument to slay Hearst. Two—that Hearst has cut the republican party into ribbons. The meagre, appalling vote given to republicans when democratic support is subtracted can mean only one thing: Governor-elect Hughes and the republican legislature must put an end to the conditions that have enabled a Hearst to take republican votes away from the party by tens of thousands. They must make the corporations the servants, not the masters of the public. They must break the grasp of the traction trust, the gas monopoly, the financial autocracy and the corporation mercenaries on legislation and public offices."

SOME ONE SUGGESTED that a monument be erected to the memory of Robert Fulton. A Champlain, N. Y., reader of the New York World writes to say that "Robert Fulton is falsely heralded as the 'inventor of the steamboat.'" This reader adds: "As early as 1793 John Fitch was running a steamboat of his own construction on the Delaware river. This was years before Fulton's creation was brought to public attention. Every history and encyclopaedia records these facts. Why, then, is the credit so persistently withheld from the man to whom it really belongs? The poet has written that 'Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again,' but it seems to be sadly belated in this instance. This is the age of the 'square deal,' and great metropolitan papers should be as vigilant in spreading the truth concerning historical events as in relating the current events of the day."

NEWSPAPER REPORTERS say that certain powerful interests seek to bring about a continuance of the American protectorate in Cuba. Captain Cook, who says that he represents a group of American capitalists, declared to a New York World reporter that the liberals and the moderates in the Cuban congress are getting together for the purpose of working with foreign capital. According to Captain Cook, who gained his military title by service in an Ohio regiment in the Cuban campaign, much preliminary effort

already has been made in Cuba. A careful canvass has been made of the property owners, merchants and professional men in Cuba, with the result that eighty-five per cent of them have expressed themselves in favor of the continuance of the protectorate, to insure stability and safety in commercial affairs. The program is to submit bills to amend the Platt amendment. Some of the agitators favor immediate annexation to the United States, but the prevailing sentiment is for an indefinite continuance of the protectorate. Captain Cook says that men representing \$230,000,000 English, Canadian and American investments in Cuba, are in league with the 'prominent Cubans' he refers to. Part of the plan is for eighty or one hundred well known Cubans to unite in an appeal to their countrymen to sign a petition to the president and congress of the United States for a protracted American protectorate. Manuel Hernandez, representing a New York banking house, is said to have departed on Saturday for Cuba bearing drafts of the proposed bills for the congresses of the two countries to be submitted to prominent attorneys in Havana and Santiago for their approval. Senator Beveridge, Captain Cook says, will introduce the American bill. "At the December elections," said Captain Cook, "Alfred Zayas will probably be elected president by the liberals, but we doubt whether the liberal party can keep its people in line. We shall ask for a congressional committee to visit the island in January to study conditions, especially the monstrously rotten condition of the country's finances."

WASHINGTON DISPATCHES say that Senator LaFollette may be denied admission to the republican senatorial caucus. The Washington correspondent for the Omaha World-Herald says: "Republican leaders are anxious to discipline the belligerent Badger senator. His course the past summer has greatly incensed many of his colleagues, especially those to whose records he has devoted especial attention in his speech-making tours. The chief difficulty about excluding him from the caucus is that many of the politicians suspect that to do so would be playing into LaFollette's hands; that it would make a martyr of him and give the country the impression that there was a corporation tone to their caucus. The senator's record in the late campaign is recounted as evidence that he is not a republican, but as the folks in Wisconsin seem to think he is one, the senate is expected to be dubious about overruling that impression."

REPRESENTATIVE Charles H. Wesse, democrat of the Sixth Wisconsin district, has given an interview in which he suggests a fusion in the next congress between the democrats and tariff-revision republicans; the object being to oust Joseph Cannon from the speakership. "If the republicans are really in earnest in their desire for a revision of the tariff schedules," said Mr. Wesse, "they will have the support of the democrats. But revision can not be accomplished with Mr. Cannon in the speaker's chair. With him anything but a 'standpat' policy is believed to be impossible. If the republicans consent to this union the democrats will consent to the selection of any man whom the tariff-revision republicans name for speaker. But a revision of the house rules will be asked in return. The democrats say this, too, is impossible while Mr. Cannon rules the house. It is not the desire of the democrats to obtain more house patronage; simply a revision of the house rules which will enable a revision of the tariff."

SECRETARY OF THE Treasury Shaw, referring to the proposed currency legislation, has issued the following statement: "In his previous reports, Secretary Shaw has recommended currency legislation, but has never recommended any particular plan to the exclusion of others. He has been much gratified at the attention given the subject by chambers of commerce, by bankers' associations and by committees appointed by each. He has remained in the cabinet largely in the hope of securing some legislation

on the subject, but he has not, and will not, recommend details of legislation. That is the province of congress, under such advice as it may deem wise to invite, or to which it may have the opportunity of listening. The secretary will be pleased beyond measure if congress will adopt every detail of the plan recommended by the recent committee of bankers and business men. He thinks congress will have no difficulty in working out a plan thereby satisfactory to all, though in details meeting the wishes in every particular of no one man, whenever it decides to legislate on this subject. When congress decided to pass a tariff law the Dingley bill was promptly put on the statute books. When it decided to enact a gold standard measure, the act of March 14, 1900, was the quick result. When it decided to pass a rate bill no unnecessary delay ensued. If it shall undertake to add an elastic feature to our present currency system the secretary has no doubt of favorable results in short order. That such legislation is imperative he thinks recent treasury experiences make apparent. In his report he will strongly urge that something be done, and may suggest several methods for the consideration of congress. The secretary of the treasury, being charged only with the responsibility of administering his department under the law as it exists and of making report to congress, will not assume the responsibility involved in recommending the details of needed legislation. The subject matter and the end necessary to be attained he will fully discuss."

THE AUGUSTA (Ga.) Chronicle is greatly impressed with Mr. Roosevelt's versatility and in a burst of enthusiasm makes editorial comment as follows: "On Monday Mr. Roosevelt lectured the people of New York on how they ought to vote; today, Friday, he is on his way to Panama to teach the laborers there how to dig a ditch. On his return next week he will doubtless correct our doctors of divinity as to their erroneous conceptions of the Cosmogony of the Soul. Was there ever such a flibbertigibbet since the one Mr. Justice Shallow depicted long ago: 'I remember at Mile-end green (when I lay at Clement's inn) there was a little quiver fellow, and he would manage you his piece thus: and he would about and about, and come you in and come you in, 'rah, tah, tah' would he say; 'bounce' would he say; and away again would he go, and again would he come.—I shall never see such a fellow.'"

AN INTERESTING sample of what a little thing will do to start a run on a bank is reported from Chillicothe, Ohio. A local savings bank having been called upon to make its regular report included among other items the following: "Balance on hand at the close of business, November 10." A depositor read it and immediately conceived the idea that the bank had quit business on November 10. He told another man what he had seen in the paper, and this man told another, and so on, until a mob of breathless and excited men and women and children was lined up in front of the bank's doors. They withdrew upwards of \$10,000 before the run was stopped, which was soon done when the bank management ascertained the cause of the trouble.

JOHN MITCHELL, president of the United Mine Workers, introduced Rev. Charles Stelzle to an audience of 2,000 people at Minneapolis on Sunday, November 18. Both gentlemen were attending the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor as delegates. Mr. Mitchell representing the United Mine Workers and Mr. Stelzle the Presbyterian church's department of labor. The occasion was enlivened by a sharp difference of opinion between the two speakers. Mr. Mitchell, in introducing Mr. Stelzle, severely criticized the church for what he characterized as its "lack of sympathy with the aims of organized labor." Continuing Mr. Mitchell said: "If the church and its workers would come out openly and from the pulpit condemn the crime of child labor and other injustices against the workers they would find their churches crowded.