

CURRENT TOPICS

MR. BUCHTEL, the new governor of Colorado, is a Methodist clergyman, and at the time of his nomination was chancellor of the Denver University. After his election he expressed a desire that the inaugural ceremonies be held in Trinity Methodist church, which church he had much to do with building up. Many Colorado people objected to these ceremonies taking place in any church, insisting that the state house was the proper place. The governor had his way, however.

THE CAUSE OF arbitration and peace is taking on new impetus every day. The latest plan to promote the cause of arbitration is to establish a "press bureau," which shall serve to gather and convey interesting and popular matter favorable to the cause of arbitration and peace and against violence. It is also proposed to hold public meetings from time to time, and national conferences like those now held at stated periods in France and England. The American Peace society is promoting the plan and asks for contributions to pay the necessary expenses. Rev. James K. Tryon, is chairman of the society, 31 Beacon street, Boston. It is the aim of the society to furnish matter for the press and public speakers on call, and further the work of peace in every way possible.

THE FIRST ANNUAL report of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has been made public. It is pointed out in this report that denominational institutions are rigidly excluded from the benefit of this pension system, Mr. Carnegie's purpose being to provide a pension for superannuated professors of colleges not dependent upon denominational support. It is said that as fast as institutions throw off their church affiliations and conform to the educational standards required by the Carnegie pension rules, they will be admitted to a share of the fund. Under this rule John D. Rockefeller's University of Chicago will not share in the benefits of this pension system.

THE LIST OF "accepted institutions" in the Carnegie pension system now includes Amherst, Beloit, Carleton College, Case School of Applied Science, Clark University, Clarkson School of Technology, Colorado College, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, George Washington University, Hamilton, Harvard, Hobart, Johns Hopkins, Knox College, Iowa College, Lawrence University, Lehigh, Leland Stanford, Jr., University, Marietta College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Middlebury College, Mount Holyoke College, New York University, Oberlin, Brooklyn Polytechnic, Princeton, Radcliffe, Ripon College, Smith College, Stevens Institute of Technology, Trinity College, Tuft's College, Tulane University, Union College, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, University of Vermont, Vassar, Washburn College, Washington University at St. Louis, Washington and Jefferson College, Wellesley, Wells College, Western Reserve University, Williams College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Western University of Pennsylvania and Yale. In Canada they are Dalhousie University, at Halifax, and McGill University at Montreal.

EIGHTY-EIGHT professors, according to the annual report of the Carnegie pension system as printed in the New York World, have been retired on a pension. These are: William Cole Esty, of Amherst; George Huntington, of Carleton; William Porter, of Beloit; John K. Ress and Edward H. Castle, of Columbia; Hiram Corson, George C. Caldwell, Isaac P. Roberts, Charles M. Tyler and Charles B. Mandeville, of Cornell; James Liechti, of Dalhousie; H. P. Bowditch and Allen Danforth, of Harvard; S. J. Buck, of Iowa; H. de C. Stearns, of Stanford; H. M. Baird, of New York University; W. A. Packard, George Macloskie and Charles A. Young of Princeton; E. H. Merrell and C. H. Chandler, of Ripon; C. W. MacCord and Edward Wall, of Stevens Institute; T. W. Wright, of Union; G. Hambach, of Washington; Helen F. Smith, dean of Wells; E. M. Morley and L. S. Potwin, of Western Reserve;

E. L. Richards, A. W. Wright, G. T. Ladd, Mark Bailey and Addison Van Name of Yale. Eight widows of professors have been pensioned. Of the eighty-eight pensioned professors, forty-five were in "accepted institutions" and thirty-five were individual allowances to men, some of whom were not in the "accepted" colleges, but were conspicuous for services rendered to education. Among the number was W. T. Harris, United States commissioner of education. The Foundation trustees have adopted a sliding scale, under which a retiring professor who has a small salary gets a proportionately larger pension than one on a larger salary. The pensions vary from \$800 to \$3,000, and average \$1,552 to those in "accepted institutions," \$1,302 to individual professors, and \$833 to widows. In all, the pension list is now \$122,130. The administrative head of the fund is President H. S. Pritchett of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. President Eliot, of Harvard, heads the board of trustees.

THE GERMAN PROVINCE, Hanover, according to a writer in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, owns 1,967 miles of highways, on which there are 175,794 fruit trees—pear, cherry, plum and apple—sufficient, if set out eighty to an acre, to form an orchard of more than 300 square miles. The fruit raised on these trees is a source of income for the province, which sometimes makes \$40,000 a year by selling the products of this elongated orchard. The province maintains a nursery of 403 acres to supply young trees for roadside use and for promoting the interests of fruit culture. The profit of a tree is very small, but the Hanover people do not worry about that. Shade is afforded in summer, the roadbed is free from dust, the presence of trees retards the washing out of the soil from the banks into the roadside ditches, and the attractive appearance of the roadsides stimulates an interest in tree culture and benefits the province in many other ways. They find it worth while.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, with customary enterprise, gives a detailed statement of the embezzlements and kindred thefts for 1906. The Tribune presents the following figures, presumably taken from the dispatches: "The total of embezzlements and kindred thefts for 1906 amounts to \$14,739,653, about \$5,000,000 more than last year. Of this total \$10,745,387 was stolen by officials of banks, \$1,684,554 by public officials other than postoffice employees, \$22,585 by the latter, \$379,581 by agents, \$248,100 from loan associations, \$223,687 by means of forgeries, and the other defalcations, amounting to \$1,428,969, were so varied in their nature that they must be classed as miscellaneous. The comparison with last year is not so much to the discredit of this year when it is remembered that more than \$10,000,000 of the money embezzled was taken by three men—one in Chicago, one in Philadelphia and one in Cuba, the agent of a New York house. In each of these three cases the figures represent the total of many years of stealing which was discovered only this year. It is unfair to charge it all against the year 1906."

AN AMERICAN business man who has resided for twenty years in the Mikado's realm, made this statement to a representative of the New York Herald: "We are not allowed to own real property or to have any mining rights. We can only buy certain securities. We can not hold Japanese on certain mortgages. When, in order to do business, we place certain properties or securities in the name of a Japanese, and the said Japanese absconds, the courts will not even consider his act as a criminal one. We are not allowed to attend Japanese schools, old or young. We are permitted to reside only in certain sections. At the theaters the Japanese rate is 60 sen. No foreigner is admitted under 200 sen. The hotels are on a similar basis. It is a known fact that justice can not be had except in the higher courts, and every case against a foreigner is carried to the supreme court before justice is given. The legation at Tokio knows this point only too well. In taxes foreigners pay double the rates paid by the Japanese. On the last steamer

for San Francisco, the Nippon Maru, about eighty soldiers embarked. Dining at a tea house I happened to occupy a room adjoining the banquet room, where about one hundred Japanese had assembled. During the dinner a major of the regiment the soldiers belonged to made a speech in which the Japanese were told not to forget that Hawaii was but a stepping stone to the mainland and that when they reached the mainland they must not forget that the Pacific belonged to Japan; that while the United States pretended to be friendly with Japan at present it was only because they were afraid of Japan."

THE SAN FRANCISCO Star quotes the statements made by an American business man, and intimates that before President Roosevelt undertakes to remove the beam from San Francisco's eye he should try to take the mote from Japan's eye. The Star says: "We advise Mr. Roosevelt to see to it that Americans in Japan are treated with at least the same decency and respect as British residents, before he again uncorks the vials of his hasty wrath and vast misinformation upon the heads of Californians who object to having their little children seated side by side with immigrants from Asia, whose vices are of such a nature that decency can not name them. Let him sauce the Japanese goose before he begins to sauce the California pedagogical gander. We may listen to him scolding us when he has shown the courage to talk boldly to Japan concerning the mistreatment of our fellow-citizens by that power. Until then, he may as well save his breath to cool his porridge."

GENERAL INTEREST in the new state of Oklahoma is felt throughout the civilized world. The Ardmore Ardmoreite gives this timely information: "Oklahoma county is first in population. The census of 1900 gave it 57,655, whereas Muskogee county is estimated at 40,000. Pottawatomie has over 44,000, Logan over 37,000 and Garfield over 30,000. Of the other new counties Sequoyah has 30,000, Hughes 25,000, Tulsa 25,000, Pittsburg 30,000, Bryan 35,000, Carter 42,000, Grady 25,000, Comanche 30,000, Caddo 31,000, the remainder of the counties running from 18,000 down to 5,000. Latimer, McCurtain and Harper counties have 8,000 each; Cimarron county, the smallest in valuation, has 5,000 people (estimated). The largest of the Oklahoma counties untouched is Kiowa, with 1,515 square miles. A singular fact is that Custer, Dewey, Grant and Washita counties are of the counties averaging 946 square miles. New La Flore county is 1,500 square miles, Pushmataha 1,400 square miles, McCurtain 1,600 square miles, and Pittsburg 1,368 square miles. Murray and Marshall are the smallest, with 450 square miles each."

FOR SOME TIME the interstate commerce commission has been investigating the traffic alliances and other business deals of the Harriman railroads. When the commission adjourned at Chicago it was announced that the investigation would be resumed at New York when Harriman, William Rockefeller, H. H. Rogers, H. C. Frick and James Stillman would be called as witnesses. The Associated Press report says: "The attorneys who are for the government conducting the investigation into the management of the Harriman lines announced that they had determined to take steps to prevent E. H. Harriman, Henry C. Frick and H. H. Rogers from leaving the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission. In order to prevent this, steps will be taken to cause the issuance of writs of ne exeat, by authority of which they will be compelled to remain within the jurisdiction of the commission."

AN INTERESTING witness before the interstate commerce commission was James H. Hilland, traffic manager of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad. He said that the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific were formerly competitors for Pacific coast business. Mr. Hilland was asked if competition between railroads would still exist if all the railroads in the country were