

CURRENT TOPICS

DETAILED figures of the estate of the late Marshall Field are given by the Chicago correspondent for the New York World and show that Field had accumulated more than \$100,000,000. The taxable personal property of the estate amounts to \$49,977,270, on which more than \$500,000 must be paid this year in taxes. This is as against the valuation of \$2,500,000 placed on his personal estate by Mr. Field himself, and the valuation of \$25,000,000 which the assessors, under protest by the executors, took as a basis for taxation last year. To the figures must be added \$30,000,000 in real estate, from which actual money paid in taxes will be more than \$350,000, making a total of taxes to be paid to the public by the Field estate of about \$1,000,000 annually. The estate consists of personal property totalling \$42,851,804.15 with stocks and bonds listed at par, but with an estimated market value of \$55,000,000; \$30,000,000 worth of real estate in Cook county, and \$8,000,000 realty in New York.

IN AN INTERVIEW with the New York Herald correspondent, Senor Palma, former president of the Cuban republic, said it is for the American people to say by what means they shall fulfill their obligation to Cuba. But the former president plainly showed that he favored the American protectorate, although the Herald correspondent says he carefully avoided the use of the word "protectorate." On his own motion the Herald correspondent says: "It is universally admitted that the people of the towns wish Americans to continue in control for a protracted period, but one constantly hears that in the country the people desire the withdrawal of the American troops, and an independent republic. Investigation shows this is not true of Santiago Province, which in the past has always been foremost in uprisings."

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES M. GRIGGS, chairman of the democratic congressional committee, in reply to a letter from Perry Belmont, president of the National Publicity Bill Organization, suggesting that, notwithstanding the failure of the Publicity bill, he should voluntarily make a general statement in regard to the contributions received by his committee, says: "To publish a partial list would be improper and trifling with a serious subject. We had no very large contributions. Among the several thousand received not over half a dozen were in excess of \$500, and by far the greater number less than \$100. So far as I know or can ascertain, no corporations were contributors to our fund. It was all given by good democrats in the hope and for the sake of democratic success. The entire fund collected by this committee was a small one, and was barely more than sufficient to conduct the headquarters here and in Chicago, and to pay for the printing incident and necessary to every campaign. We agree thoroughly with the publicity idea."

THE NORTH CAROLINA state senate has received a letter from Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, widow of the great southern general, declining to accept a pension of \$100 a month as provided by a resolution recently introduced. In this letter Mrs. Jackson says: "I most welcomingly appreciate this patriotic and loyal tribute to the name of my hero husband, but I do not feel that I would be justified in accepting it. I am informed that the laws of North Carolina limit all pensions to those who have not \$500 of personal property, and as I do not come under this law I respectfully request that this bill be withdrawn." Mrs. Jackson suggests that the proposed pension in her behalf be appropriated for the relief of destitute widows of confederate soldiers. As it was the desire of Mrs. Jackson, the bill calling for the pension was withdrawn from the calendar.

THE ORIGIN of the valentine is told by a writer in the February Housekeeper in this way: "A fact in natural history, to-wit, that birds in southern Europe pair about the middle of February, is said to have inspired a custom of the ancient Romans to which the origin of the modern valentine can undoubtedly be traced. At the feast of the Lupercalia, held in honor of the great god Pan, the names of the virgin daughters of Rome were put in a box and drawn therefrom by the young men. Each youth was bound to offer a gift to the maiden who fell to his lot, and to make

her his partner during the time of the feast. How this secular custom became allied to the name of a saint is altogether a different matter. St. Valentine was a bishop of Rome during the third century. He is said to have been a man of very amiable nature and most eloquent of speech, wherefore he was very successful in converting the pagan Romans to Christianity. Marcus Aurelius was then emperor, a relentless persecutor of the Christians, and by his order the bishop was beheaded. The date of his death was February 14, 270 A. D. We find the statement in Archbishop Wheatley's 'Illustrations of the Book of Common Prayer' that 'St. Valentine was a man of admirable parts and so famous for his love and charity that the custom of choosing valentines upon his festival took its rise from thence.' But probably the connection of name is wholly due to a coincidence of date. When the saint's name was placed in the church calendar the day of his death was made a festival to offset that of the Lupercalia, on the 15th. In Allen Butler's 'Lives of the Saints' we read that the zealous Christian fathers tried to substitute the names of saints for those of girls in the lottery game, but without success. So the 'valentine' custom spread from Rome through Europe to Great Britain, always in high favor, and later, in the form of sending tender missives, came to America and down to the present time."

OKLAHOMA'S constitution makers are having trouble with the "Jim Crow" proposition. This is a question of inserting in the constitution a clause providing for separate cars and waiting-rooms for the black and white races in Oklahoma. Colonel Robert Owen recently returned to Oklahoma from Washington and stated that President Roosevelt had declared himself strongly opposed to a "Jim Crow" provision and had intimated that he would not approve the constitution if such a provision were included. A committee of the constitutional convention reported in favor of the provision. Some members favored adopting the "Jim Crow" provision and sending it to the president in advance of the main constitution, while others thought that the provision should be included and then hold a later convention for the purpose of correcting any portion of the constitution that does not meet with the president's approval.

REFERRING to the opinion expressed by the census officials that in the United States the growth of insanity is out-distancing that of the population, a writer in Appleton's magazine says there is good ground for the claim and good ground also for the assertion that the lesser mental ills are increasing with ever-growing rapidity. This writer adds: "The need of a remedy is plainly urged both by humanitarian and economic considerations. The maintenance bill for American asylums already amounts to more than \$20,000,000 annually, over 90 per cent of the insane in the United States being wholly or partially dependent on public support. And no nation thus constantly and increasingly weakened may hope to retain political, industrial or commercial headship."

STATISTICS showing the percentage of insane to the population are given by this same writer in this way: "It appears that, as regards the countries of the European continent, the minimum is found in Hungary with a total of 2,716 insane, or 14.1 per 100,000 of population, and the maximum is reached in Switzerland with a total of 7,434 insane, or 22.4 per 100,000. Germany has 108,004 insane, or 191.6; France, 69,190, or 177.5, and Italy, 34,802, or 109.2. In the British empire the ratios are far higher: Ireland, 22,138, or 490.9; Scotland, 16,658, or 363.7; England and Wales, 113,964, or 340.1; and Canada, 12,819, or 238.6. Turning to the United States we find a total of no fewer than 150,151 insane, and while this is a ratio of only 186.2 per 100,000 of population, there is good reason to suspect that insanity is increasing in the United States more rapidly than in any other country. In any event it is increasing so rapidly as to assume the aspect of an urgent social problem which must be solved if the best interests of the nation are to be conserved. Investigation shows that though the present ratio of 186.2 per 100,000 refers only to the insane immured in asylums, it exceeds by 16.2

the ratio of 1890 for all the insane in the United States, whether in or out of asylums, and exceeds by 63.0 the ratio of the same year for the asylum insane. Doubtless, as has been suggested, the increase is in part attributable to kinder and more rational methods of treatment whereby the lives of the insane are prolonged. But this can explain only a small part of the increase, when the fact is borne in mind that during the decade 1880-1890 the population of American asylums increased from 40,492 to 84,028, and by 1903 had leaped to 150,151, or more than double the total for 1890."

AN AUSTIN, Texas, dispatch to the New York World follows: "J. D. Johnson, of St. Louis, attorney for the Waters-Pierce Oil company, in his testimony last night before the legislative committee investigating Senator Bailey, gave an account of a conference between Waters-Pierce Oil company and Standard Oil company officials held at Standard Oil headquarters, No. 26 Broadway, New York, last fall, at which Mr. Bailey was present. He said Mr. Bailey was informed at that conference for the first time that he had been deceived into believing that the Standard Oil company owned none of the stock of the Waters-Pierce. Mr. Bailey became very indignant and left after telling J. D. Archbold and other Standard Oil men present that they all ought to be in the penitentiary and that he would help put them there. F. J. Hall, sheriff of El Paso county, referred to in one of the charges made by Mr. Cocke, was called to the stand. Mr. Hall said that he did have Mr. Bailey look after the payment for a lot of heifers he had sold to the government, but denied emphatically that he had paid Mr. Bailey anything as a fee, loan or gift in this connection. He said he had tried to pay Mr. Bailey's expenses, but Mr. Bailey would not consent. The transactions referred to occurred ten or twelve years ago."

ACCORDING to the Washington correspondent for the Richmond, Virginia, Times-Dispatch, there is considerable talk in Washington in favor of nominating for president a southern democrat in 1908. This correspondent adds: "Senator Daniel, of Virginia; Senator Culberson, of Texas, are two names most frequently heard mentioned when the proposition to name a democrat from the south as the party standard-bearer next time is advanced. Recent mention of the name of Senator Daniel has elicited favorable comment from the democratic press of all sections of the union. Many papers express the opinion that the time is ripe for the selection of a southern man, and that a valiant veteran of the confederacy who has done much to restore good feeling between the two sections would be the proper man to choose for the honor. Senator Daniel 'fills the bill.' A member of the Virginia democratic association of the District of Columbia said today that the association would in a short time take up for consideration a proposition to launch a Daniel boom. It is proposed to indorse him for the democratic nomination next year, and to have democratic organizations all over Virginia follow suit. Delegates to the next national convention would be instructed for Senator Daniel, and he would go into the convention with the delegation from his own state as the nucleus to which delegations from other southern states could rally. It is believed by the advocates of the nomination of Senator Daniel that other southern delegations will be glad to rally to the support of Virginia's candidate."

SENATOR BACON of Georgia is in a peculiar situation. The senator's official term expires March 4, but the Georgia legislature which stands ready to re-elect him does not convene until June. Referring to this strange condition, the Augusta, Ga., Chronicle says: "The constitution of the United States provides that 'if vacancies happen, by resignation or otherwise during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies'—Act 1, sec. 3; and it is understood that the senator is to receive an executive appointment under this clause when his term expires in March till the legislature can meet in June. But, as it is held by some that as 'va-