

CURRENT TOPICS

REPRESENTATIVE CHAMP CLARK has introduced in the house a bill which provides that ten cents worth of any kind of American stamps placed on a letter in addition to the two-cent postage will guarantee its delivery by special messenger if the words "special delivery" are written on the envelope. The Kansas City Star says this bill is a good one and adds: "There is no good reason why a particular style of special delivery stamp should be required any more than there is reason why the government should insist that 10 cents postage should be evidenced by a 10-cent postage stamp rather than five twos. The bill has passed the house without objection and it is to be hoped that the senate will not hunt around for a reason to defeat it."

A DISPATCH to the New York World under date of Pittsburg, February 18, is particularly interesting at this time. That dispatch follows: "Pittsburg people who denounced Senator Philander C. Knox's speech in the senate advocating that Reed Smoot be not unseated, were astonished today when Judge James S. Young returned from Washington and declared President Roosevelt had been among those who hastened to congratulate Knox. Such a statement from Judge Young is equivalent to having come from Senator Knox. Judge Young hastened to Washington to see the senator when the storm of indignation over the speech broke here."

ALEXANDER LAW, president of "the Eight-Hour League of America," writes to the New York World to say: "The cartoon in today's World and the editorial 'A Railway Question Repeated' are very timely. Our so-called great railroad kings with no other conception of their duties than to amass fortunes for themselves and the inside ring of stockholders, employing the cheapest and consequently the most inefficient kind of labor, overworking their employees with a disregard for consequences absolutely appalling, is the condition and not the theory that confronts us. The sooner the government recognizes its responsibility in the matter and takes control of the railroad system, puts the entire working force on the eight-hour basis and encourages by rewarding efficiency, the sooner will this disgraceful state of affairs cease to exist. The time has come to take the system out of the hands of men who represent nothing but the stupidity of the people who allow this state of affairs to continue, and place it in the hands of those who can be held responsible for its efficient and impartial management."

ARTICLE 1 of the treaty upon which the Japanese base their claim to equality in the public schools of California provides that citizens of each country shall enjoy in the other full liberty of travel and residence, and full protection for persons and property; that in these matters they "shall enjoy the same privileges, liberties and rights as native subjects or citizens of the most favored nation." The Literary Digest, however, directs attention to the claim that Richard Olney, former secretary of state, has given this Japanese claim a body blow. Mr. Olney holds that since the treaty of 1894 with Japan specifies that it is not to be construed into a limitation of the police powers of the states, and inasmuch as the regulation of the public schools falls within the lines of police supervision, neither Japan nor the federal authority has any ground of action against the authorities of San Francisco.

THE LAST PARAGRAPH of article 2 of the Japanese treaty on which article Mr. Olney lays stress reads as follows: "It is, however, understood that the stipulations contained in this and the preceding article do not in any way affect the laws, ordinances, and regulations in regard to trade, the immigration of laborers, police, and public security, either in force or which may hereafter be enacted in either of the two countries." After quoting this paragraph in his letter Mr. Olney goes on to say: "I am unable to see how the meaning and effect of the paragraph just quoted can be misunderstood. It embodies an expressed declaration that the stipulations of article 1, are in no way to affect the laws, ordinances, and regulations with regard to 'police and public security which are in force or which may hereafter be enacted in either of the two countries.' In other words, the congeries of important powers, known as the police power, is untouched and unimpaired by this treaty. * * * It fol-

lows that, as it has never been doubted and will not now be, that the regulation of its public schools is an exercise of the police power belonging to each state, what California has chosen to do with reference to the San Francisco schools raises no question under the treaty with Japan, and is a subject-matter with which the national government has no right to concern itself."

WRITING to the New York Evening Post, Charles T. Haviland of New York takes issue with Mr. Olney. Mr. Haviland says: "The words 'police power' have many times been referred to and often construed by the supreme court of the United States, although no attempt has ever been made exactly to define them. The police power of the state extends generally to making regulations promotive of the physical or moral health and safety of the community. * * * Any restrictions upon school attendance in the state of California based upon physical, moral, or mental conditions and which, applied alike to all persons, would unquestionably come within the legitimate police power of the state, and would not infringe the provisions of the treaty. Thus an age limit upon the pupils who should attend the schools, or physical or mental conditions imposed, or, in general, any restrictions actually necessary to the welfare of other pupils and applicable to all alike, would be within the police power, but to exclude a class of people on account of race alone cannot within a reasonable interpretation of the words be considered as coming within that power. Were such a power possessed by a state, it might equally be exercised against every provision of the treaty, and thus all of its provisions be absolutely nullified."

THE CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL recently passed a "vivisection ordinance" and a storm of criticism among the members of the humane organization is the result. A Chicago dispatch to the New York Herald says: "This much criticised measure authorizes the pound master to surrender unclaimed dogs to medical colleges for experimental purposes. Mayor Dunne will urge in a message that the instructors in the medical colleges be compelled to employ anaesthetics before a painful operation upon a dog, and if the experiment proceeds to any length that the animal must be killed before it can regain consciousness. Before the mayor's decision became known the feeling of indignation against the measure had become so strong that a delegation of prominent women, representing the Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago, announced their intention of calling upon the mayor to urge him to veto the ordinance."

IN THE OPINION of George T. Angell, editor of "Our Dumb Animals" and president of the American Humane Education Society, there are "lots of honest people in this world." Mr. Angell explains: "Some years ago my doctor, experimenting for the cure of asthma, ordered one prescription after another up to the number of perhaps half a dozen. On carrying in the last to that prominent druggist, the late Theodore Metcalf, he said to me quietly, 'I think Mr. Angell, the less of this stuff you take the better off you will be.' In Jacksonville, Fla., some years ago I called upon a druggist (an entire stranger) and asked who was the best doctor in Jacksonville to treat asthma. He replied promptly that Dr. Sabal was undoubtedly the best physician in Jacksonville to treat asthma, but added that the doctor had never sent him a prescription in his life. Some time ago I consulted a Boston dentist, asking him what improvement he could make on my teeth. It was a good chance for him to get \$15 or \$20, but he replied that he would not advise any change. There were lots of honest people in the world."

SENATOR CARMACK of Tennessee, speaking in the senate on the Japanese treaty, voiced the sentiments of some of the critics of the administration when he said: "I believe, speaking in plain words, that the effect is that a foreign power has browbeaten the government of the United States and browbeaten a sovereign state of this union into a surrender of its rights to control its own affairs. The attitude of this government toward California has been harsh and turbulent and offensive to the last degree. Its atti-

tude toward Japan has been cringing, obsequious and almost pusillanimous. One of the president's favorite aphorisms has been to speak softly and carry a big stick. He seems to have interpreted that in this instance so as to speak softly to foreign nations and carry a big stick for the backs of his own people. I object to this provision because I believe that it will, and that it is intended to, arm the executive with power to coerce the people of a sovereign state into a surrender of a right to control their own affairs, and this is being done upon the demand of a nation made without a shadow of reason, without a shadow of right, without a shadow of foundation based upon treaty stipulation or the constitution of the United States."

WILLIAM MAHON, president of the Street Railway Men's International Union, was one of the speakers at the recent Civic Federation dinner given by Mrs. Potter Palmer in Chicago. The press reports of the meeting indicate that Mr. Mahon talked straight from the shoulder. One speaker advocated lunch rooms and bath rooms in all factories. "What we want is a sufficient wage to enable us to have bath rooms in our homes," exclaimed Mr. Mahon. "We want a wage that will enable us to put sufficient nourishing food on our tables for our wives and little ones, as well as to enable us to have well filled lunch buckets. Give us the right kind of homes and we'll take care of ourselves." Mr. Mahon told a pathetic little story during his speech. A little boy walking down street with his mother saw a rich boy walking with his father. "I wish I had a father like Willie Smith," said the boy to his mother. "Why, my dear, you have a father. That is he, that motorman on the car coming this way." "O, that ain't my father," said the boy. "That's the man that sleeps at our house Sunday afternoons."

THE PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN says: "The inventor of eau de cologne was an Italian, Giovanni Farina. Farina offered vainly to sell his recipe for \$3,750 in 1803, but a few years ago it was sold by his heirs for \$200,000. Chartreuse, the liqueur of the Carthusian monks, was the invention of an aged baker. On the expulsion of the Carthusian fathers from France the Chartreuse recipe was sold at auction for \$1,750,000. The French buyers undertook, however, a losing business, for the monks are now making their liqueur in Spain, and epicures prefer it to that of the French firm. The thin paper on which the Oxford Bible is printed is made after a secret process by the Oxford University Press. The secret is valued at \$1,250,000. Absinthe's secret once belonged to a French chemist. He sold it to a distiller for \$75. The distiller sold it for \$50,000. It is now not worth its original \$75, having leaked out."

IN ORDER to study the saloon problem at first-hand an eastern minister donned the habiliments of a tramp and spent several weeks hanging around liquor shops. Then he returned to his congregation and told them a few things. He told them that the saloonkeeper found it a good investment to maintain a watering trough for horses, for while the horses were drinking the teamster stopped in and got one for himself. The saloon doors were always open, and a hungry man could always find food therein. He told them that the saloonkeeper was always kindly, always sympathetic and always ready to help. Then he wound up by saying: "For \$500 men join exclusive political and social clubs on the avenue of the metropolis. For \$5 some men join Young Men's Christian Association clubs, but for 5 cents the multitude of men whom only God and the saloonkeeper and the ward boss know nightly join the one democratic club in American life, the American saloon." His conclusion was that if the saloon is to be eradicated it must be done by substituting for it something that will furnish the social element so craved by men without mixing with it the ills of the saloon.

A LONDON cablegram says: "The British embassy at Washington is now the best-paid post in the British diplomatic service, the salary of the ambassador having been raised with the appointment of James Bryce to \$50,000 per year. Paris, up to the present, had been considered the best post in the service. It pays \$45,000."