

they say, strictly in the presidential class. He has proved himself both a constructive statesman and a practical politician. He has 'produced the goods' both as the governor of a state and in the larger realm of Washington and national affairs. He is regarded by almost everybody except Mr. Roosevelt, apparently, as more nearly the parallel to Roosevelt than any other man in public life. But the president seems studiously to avoid dragging in the name of LaFollette when presidential matters are discussed. If he is not absolutely opposed to the Wisconsin man, it is at least strongly believed in Washington that he is prejudiced against him. When LaFollette first came here his relations with the White House were no more cordial than with the conservatives of the senate. It was said that the president regarded LaFollette as a 'demagogue.' There was the impression in many quarters that the president did not like to brook opposition in his own particular sphere. He was accused of regarding LaFollette as a rival of himself, whom he might not be able to dominate, and whom, therefore, he chose to oppose. Nothing has done the president more harm, in the estimate of Washington people who have observed him at short range, than his attitude toward LaFollette. Spooner, than whom few men prominent in public life were more elementally opposed to the ideas of Mr. Roosevelt, received the most distinguished consideration at the White House, and got what he asked in patronage, while LaFollette was apparently ignored. The president made some tardy concessions to the Wisconsin man after, the latter had proved that he could make headway even without the alliance of the White House. There is a large element in the Roosevelt wing of the republican party which regards Roosevelt as not a constructionist, while it looks upon LaFollette as both an agitator and constructionist."

ON THE OCCASION of the opening of the Jamestown exposition, April 26, Hampton Roads was the scene of a great naval review, fifty great war vessels taking part. The Associated Press report says: "The illumination of the combined fleets of Great Britain, Germany, Austria, the Argentine republic and the United States, crowned with magnificent splendor the picture which had been presented when President Roosevelt, aboard the naval yacht, Mayflower, sailed around the anchored squadrons and received the welcome of their guns fired in the presidential salute. The daylight decorations of various colored signal flags stretched in fluttering strings from stem to stern gave way with the setting sun to the glow of thousands of electric bulbs and the far-reaching flash of a hundred playing searchlights. The vessels of the American fleet were completely outlined in incandescent bulbs. Military masts and turrets, water line and free board were strung with the fairy-like filament lanterns and in bold letters across the bridge the name of the vessel burned the identity of the sea fighter into the night."

ON THE exposition grounds, President Roosevelt was introduced by H. St. George Tucker, president of the exposition. The president was greeted with great enthusiasm. He delivered a speech in which he discussed the abuses of corporate wealth, saying: "The corporations have nothing to fear if they obey the law."

THE INDICATIONS are that the Jamestown exposition will be a great success. Referring to this great enterprise, a writer to the New York World says: "The period from the discovery of America to the foundation of the first English settlement in the new world was almost as long as the lifetime of the republic. It is 131 years since the declaration of independence was signed, 118 years since the beginning of constitutional government. So slowly began the movement that has grown so swift that 115 years passed after Columbus sighted Watling's island before the Jamestown settlement, in 1607, whose tercentenary celebration is to begin this week. With the St. Louis exposition the United States has passed the series of centennials advertising the bigness of achievements. A notable series it has been: the Declaration, the Constitution, the Northwest Ordinance, the Lewis and Clark expedition in advance of the prairie schooner and the railway, the Louisiana Purchase. Jamestown belongs with the Chicago Columbian celebration and with such two hundred and fiftieth anniversaries as old towns in the east, in Florida and in the Spanish southwest from time to time hold. It takes us back to rude beginnings. The place is appropriate. Charleston, St. Augustine, Boston, Philadelphia, New York and Jamestown are centers of antiquarian tradition in regions where patriotic pilgrimages have many sources of in-

spiration. The past makes but a faint cry in a bustling big city, but on the plain where Jamestown was and has vanished—the exposition is some miles away—modernity is less insistent. The stately homes of tidewater Virginia make it easy to imagine the days when the ship straight from London landed at the planter's dock the miscellaneous cargo his tobacco had bought for the year's provisioning. And first of all those noble homes, but a little way from the exposition, is one which every American citizen should visit in his youth, the most solemn shrine on earth of generous patriotism, the home of Washington at Mount Vernon. From the colonial period, the revolutionary war, the British invasion of 1814 and the sharpest struggle of the civil war the mouth of the Chesapeake is full of memories. It will do no bustling American harm to cultivate them for a few days."

ACCORDING TO the Wall Street Journal, probably within a year or two the open hearth process of steel making, which had its origin and early development in America, will have displaced the older method known as the Bessemer process in this country. The Journal says: "Last year of 23,246,000 tons of steel manufactured in this country 12,275,000 tons were by the Bessemer and 10,971,000 tons by the open hearth process. The Bessemer process has hitherto held sway most widely. Other varieties of production have had some vogue here and on the continent, but generally the method followed has been that which Sir Henry Bessemer invented and brought to perfection in England after spending a fortune or two in the effort. The open hearth process which had for some years been looked upon as hardly worthy of being regarded as a competitor of the Bessemer process, and will soon take the place of its older rival, is an achievement that does honor to the United States, because here the newer method was brought to such a degree of perfection as to demonstrate its superiority over the other, especially in dealing with ores of anything except a very low phosphorus content. The credit of this invention and its adoption here and abroad rests largely with Talbot, the American engineer, by whose name it was formerly known. Within recent years the latter process has received very general recognition in the British steel manufacturing practice. In this way the United States is paying back a debt to inventive genius which was begun with the introduction of the Bessemer system into the United States."

TWELVE YEARS ago William January, then twenty-one years old, was convicted of robbing a postoffice in Oklahoma and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary at Leavenworth. For three years he was a model prisoner and, with the allowance for good behavior, had only eight months more to serve. Then one night he took advantage of a sleepy guard and escaped. The Kansas City correspondent for the New York World tells the rest of the story in this way: "The next day Charles W. Anderson made his appearance in this city looking for work. A few days later he found it in a restaurant. He proved to be industrious and honest. He saved his money and within three years took a wife. They lived happily at No. 1117 Holme street. So far as the wife knew his life had always been exemplary. Three years ago a baby was born. In time Anderson got enough to start in business for himself. He was straightforward in his dealings and required every employe to be the same. Yesterday afternoon a city detective met Anderson on the street and recognized in him the escaped prisoner and arrested him. This morning he had a parting interview with his wife in jail before being taken to prison in Leavenworth. 'Be brave, Charles,' sobbed the heart-broken woman, 'and remember there are a wife and baby who will always believe in you. We will wait for the time when you will be released. Then we will be happy again.' Then handcuffs were fastened on his wrists and he started on his way to prison."

THE UNITED STATES supreme court, speaking through Justice Harlan, has upheld a Missouri state law, which provides that the suicide clause in life insurance policies is ineffective. The Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "The statute was passed in 1879, and thousands of policies were dependent upon the decision in this case. It was of such importance that Attorney General Hadley, on behalf of the state, joined in the petition with an intervener in order to hasten the decision, if possible. The case in point was the suit of Mrs. Amanda S. Whitefield, widow of James Whitefield, former sporting editor of the Kansas City Star, against the Aetna Accident Insurance com-

pany of Hartford, Conn. Mrs. Whitefield claimed the full amount of \$5,000 which the company promised to pay in event of death of her husband from accidental causes, but the company would agree to pay only \$500, or one-tenth of the amount of the policy, because there was proof of suicide. There was an agreement on the facts in the case when it came to the supreme court, Mrs. Whitefield admitting as the proofs of death had shown that her husband's death was due to a self-inflicted pistol wound, but claiming that he was mentally irresponsible at the time. The insurance company had a clause in its policy to the effect that it would pay only one-tenth of its face in case of death by suicide. The Missouri statute, however, permits recovery of the full amount, notwithstanding any clause to the contrary in the policy in case of suicide. The supreme court today upheld this statute while the trial court and the court of appeals at Kansas City had sustained the insurance company's contention."

IN THE COURSE of his opinion Justice Harlan said that the law which forbade any insurance company doing business within that state from using suicide as a defense unless it were shown that the insured contemplated suicide at the time the policy was applied for was a legitimate exercise of power by the state, and that the limitation fixed by the policy was an attempt to evade its provisions. It was not, he declared, an interference with the freedom of contract, because the insurance company was not compelled to enter into such contracts, and he found nothing inconsistent with the policy or public morality in the claim that it offered a premium or bounty on suicide, for the reason that the companies would be relieved of liability in cases where it was shown that the insured contemplated suicide at the time the policy was issued.

THIS PECULIAR story comes all the way from New York, and is vouched for by the World: "Probably the Audobon society will be interested in the poetic and bird-loving burglar who robbed Joseph Beini of a canary, a pair of shoes and a razor yesterday. Beini loudly complained at the East Fifty-third street police station that the door of his room on the fourth floor of No. 926 Second avenue had been forced. 'And read what the rascal had the impudence to write to me,' said Beini. He tossed before Lieutenant Ellis a big sheet of manila paper on which was rudely scrawled:

'World-weary as I passed along,
From yonder casement came a sound,
A soft persuasive, mellow thrill,
All listening hearts with joy to fill.

'With sweet appeal the captured bird
Told of its woes, and as I heard
I felt that I the one must be
To set the tiny prisoner free."

"P. S.—The man who keeps a bird in a cage, deserves to lose more than his boots and his razor." "I don't care a rap about my shoes and my razor, but I want my canary," said Beini, who is a cigarmaker. "It is not only a sweet singer, but an animated alarm clock. It wakes me up early every morning by singing to me." Ellis sent out Detectives Toben and Cummins, but they had caught neither bird nor burglar at an early hour this morning.

WRITING TO THE New York Press, "a thoughtful observer" says: "See if any of your readers can explain why, without any exception, a person having met death through violent means is picked up with either one or both shoes removed intact. I have been employed in railroad work for twenty-seven years, and have witnessed hundreds of instances which lead me to consider such facts as nothing short of mysterious phenomena. Last Saturday night I was riding from Albany to Troy on the belt line, and the engine struck and instantly killed a man walking on the track. While the excitement was going on I remarked to a fellow passenger: 'Look and see if he has both shoes on.' We both looked, and discovered that the left shoe had been removed without the string having been loosened. How can you account for it?"

UNITED STATES Senator Borah is one of the attorneys prosecuting Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone for the murder of the late Governor Steunenberg of Idaho. Senator Borah has also been indicted in connection with the timber fraud. Washington dispatches say that Borah has asked delay in the indictments in his case in order that he may prosecute these three officials of the Western Federation of Miners.