

CURRENT TOPICS

HERE IS AN interesting dispatch from Washington: "Two hundred and fifty-three thousand tons of coal, exclusive of that to be shipped in government colliers, will be required to get the Atlantic battleship fleet to the Pacific coast and properly coal it at Mare Island, according to the estimates made by the equipment bureau of the navy department, which has called for proposals for supplying the necessary fuel. Of the aggregate 133,000 tons are semi-bituminous and the remainder Welsh coal. The former is to be shipped from Atlantic ports in vessels either in American or foreign register according to the terms."

JUSTICE BREWER of the United States supreme court, to whom application was made for a writ of supersedeas restraining the redistricting of certain counties in Oklahoma, reserved consideration of the application until the matter can be brought before the supreme court when it meets next month. Speaking to a representative of the Associated Press, Justice Brewer said: "My action in deferring consideration of the application is due to two questions which have arisen in my mind. One question is whether Mr. M. A. Noah of Woods county, Okla., who submitted the petition to me, has the right simply as a taxpayer and citizen to bring this suit. The other is whether this is not a political move and one which the court should decline to consider at all. My action will not affect the election, which will go on as the constitutional convention provided, and the question of the right of the convention to divide the counties will come before the supreme court."

THE CHICAGO American says that President Roosevelt favored seating United States Senator Smoot, whose right to represent Utah in congress was contested on the ground that he really represented polygamy. In proof of Mr. Roosevelt's attitude the American reproduces from the Hamiltonian, the official organ of Chicago's Hamilton club, the following letter addressed to Senator Hopkins: "The White House, Washington, February 18, 1907.—My Dear Senator Hopkins: Just a line to congratulate you upon your excellent speech upon the Smoot case. It is not my business, but it is a pleasure to see a public servant show, under trying circumstances, the courage, ability and sense of right that you have shown. Sincerely yours, Theodore Roosevelt." "The letter has never before been published," said Senator Hopkins, "but I received President Roosevelt's permission to give it out for use in the Hamiltonian's biographical sketch of myself by E. M. Burst." The American says: "Publication of the letter at this time is intended to halt the damage to the senator's renomination prospects by the campaign of former United States Senator William E. Mason, who is touring the state, speaking nightly and making his strongest point on Hopkins' advocacy of 'Smoot and polygamy.' Reports from downstate indicate that Mason is stirring much feeling against Hopkins, especially in the southern part of the state."

FORMER United States Senator William V. Allen, the man who, on a memorable occasion, talked the highest law-making body to death to prevent the passage of bad republican measures; the big framed and big brained statesman of Madison, is now the recognized and able champion of that unfortunate branch of the genus caninus, known as "the tramp dog." A writer in the Omaha World-Herald says: "Senator Allen can not endure the sight of man or beast jumping onto the poor bedraggled, half starved dog, and to lead the animal to slaughter is, in the eyes of the former senator and judge, a heartless crime. So when it comes to a case of pinching necessity on the part of the homeless and friendless dog, the animal knows where to go. If there is nobody else to do it, Senator Allen pays the tax. It is said he pays annual taxes on a score or more dogs in the course of a year, and all the dogs seem aware of it, for they flock to Allen for a little recognition whenever he appears on the street. 'Senator Allen

is the humane society of Madison,' remarked John B. Donovan, editor of the Star-Mail, in Omaha a few days ago. 'His love for the dumb beast equals that of George T. Angell, president of the American Humane Educational society or Dr. George L. Miller. Every spring he pays the dog tax on every ownerless cur in Madison and on any others that stray in during the year. City Marshal Kennedy tells as a joke that whenever he wants a piece of spending money he hunts around and finds an untagged dog, ties a rope around its neck and leads it down to Senator Allen's office. He then informs the senator that the only thing that will save the dog from execution will be the payment of the \$1 tax prescribed by ordinance. This appeal always has the desired effect, for the senator will invariably go down into his pocket with one hand for the silver, while he pats the dog on the head with the other. Senator Allen's constant companion is 'Togo,' the most miserable looking mangy cur in town. Togo came to town two or three years ago and the senator saved him from the executioner by paying the tax. Something about the appearance of Togo—probably because he was the ugliest dog that had ever appeared in Madison—appealed to the senator and he concluded to give the dog a home. Since that time the senator is never seen on the streets without Togo at his heels. And the senator not only has a warm spot in his heart for dogs, but for everything in the brute creation. A few days ago a Dago with a bear made his appearance in our town. Bruin did something to displease his master, whereupon he dealt the brute a vicious blow on the snout with a big club he carried. He was just in the act of striking the bear again when Senator Allen jumped in and caught the fellow by the throat. The senator told the Italian if he abused bruin any more he would have him put in jail. The fellow grumbled a little, but it was noticed that he did not abuse the bear any more while he remained in Madison."

PROFESSOR Charles Zueblin, sociologist of the University of Chicago, declares that the industries built by Rockefeller, Morgan and Harriman will result in the reign of socialism. Professor Zueblin made this statement in a lecture delivered at the university. He said: "The real friends of socialism today are Rockefeller, Morgan and Harriman, men who are organizing great international industries. Eventually it will be a comparatively easy matter for the government to take these industries over. The socialistic zealots are enemies to their creed, as compared with these men. The man who conceives his mission to be to get up whenever opportunity offers and say that socialism is the only thing that will save society is retarding evolutionary socialism. The people who are trying to be altruistic, trying to accept a modified new society, are the ones who are forcing us into new lines of thought, and not the people who get up with their shibboleth and hope by saying a few mystic words to steer the masses who have not thought the thing out. When the Standard Oil company had imposed on it a great fine the other day it was following popular drift when its defense was that 'everybody does it.' This is the defense for all kinds of business chicanery. Many business men have made the same defense for Banker Walsh, who happened to be caught, although it was maintained that 'all the other bankers were doing the same thing.' This defense is one of the results of economic orthodoxy."

THE FIGHT in Cleveland will, it is said, be of more than ordinary interest. A Cleveland, Ohio, dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says: "The contest between Mayor Tom L. Johnson and Congressman Theodore E. Burton as the democrat and republican nominees respectively, for mayor of Cleveland, promises to be the most exciting political event in the history of this city, not excepting campaigns some years ago, in which the late Senator Hanna was the central figure. The indorsement of Mr. Burton's candidacy by Theodore Roosevelt and Secretary of War Taft, it is said, may be followed by speeches here by both later on in the

campaign. The president is to start from Cleveland with the inland water ways commission on its tour of inspection and investigation of the great lakes and the Mississippi river, and republican leaders believe that while here he may be induced to make a speech urging Burton's election. Cleveland is regarded as a normally republican city by from 7,000 to 10,000 majority in national elections, and up to the advent of Mayor Johnson six years ago the republicans had ruled the city and county for years with the exception of isolated cases, such as the election of Mayor Farley, following the defeat of the McKisson administration and the rehabilitation of the faction led by Senator Hanna. In the last two campaigns made by Johnson he succeeded in increasing the plurality which he gained in his first election six years ago, and in his last race, which was two years ago, he piled up a plurality of nearly 12,000. The county as well as the city administration has, as a result of the Johnson leadership, become nearly solidly democratic. In selecting Mr. Burton to oppose Mayor Johnson the democratic leaders admit that the republicans have put forward their strongest man and, while they claim Johnson will win, they concede that the race will be close. It was Burton who defeated Johnson after the latter had served two terms in congress, having been previously elected as a democrat in a district which was largely republican. Since that campaign Mr. Burton has continued to represent the district in congress, and has been returned biennially without opposition in his own party and either unopposed by the democrats or with only perfunctory opposition. Mr. Burton's political managers assert that his probable candidacy for the seat of Senator Foraker is no way affected by his race for mayor, whatever the result of the election in November may be, and that he will retain his seat in congress and the chairmanship of the rivers and harbors committee at least until after the mayoralty elections."

THE NEW YORK Press (republican) is not greatly elated over the Taft Ohio victory. The Press says that the state committee which endorsed Mr. Taft is manned by those who either are federal officeholders themselves or fill the federal offices with their henchmen and relatives. The Press says: "Just as surely as there are practical questions in the selection of candidates for the presidency, the result of this Ohio fight, though Mr. Taft should take the majority of the Ohio delegation, as we anticipate, will show him in the convention not strong, but weak—the representation from his own state divided for and against him, the protectionists in Ohio angry with his tariff views, the Foraker followers in Ohio determined, secretly perhaps, but persistently, upon satisfaction at the polls, and the colored voters of Ohio openly slaughtering the republican ticket. Thinner and thinner appears the presidential shadow of Taft, with every indication that, for practical reasons which can not be ignored, it will fade away entirely before the delegates to the national convention take their final vote on the republican party's candidate for president."

GEORGE O. MILLER, one of the old time detectives on the local police force at the national capital, died recently at his home in Washington City. Mr. Miller was a great friend of the late Robert G. Ingersoll, and it was at the grave of Mr. Miller's boy that Colonel Ingersoll delivered, in 1882, the funeral oration which attracted world-wide attention. Colonel Ingersoll's address follows: "I know how vain it is to gild a grief with words, and yet I wish to take from every grave its fear. Here in this world, where life and death are equal kings, all should be brave enough to meet what all have met. The future has been filled with fear, stained and polluted by the heartless past. From the wondrous tree of life the buds and blossoms fall with ripened fruit, and in the common bed of earth patriarchs and babes sleep side by side. Why should we fear that which will come to all that is? We can not tell. We do not know which is the greatest blessing, life or death. We can not say that death is not