

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE TALLAHASSEE (Fla.) Morning News prints the following resolution introduced by Mr. Alexander, and adopted by the Florida legislature: "Whereas, The Hon. Frank Clark, member of congress from the Second district of Florida, has upon the floor of the congress of the United States assailed the democracy of the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, who has three times gallantly led the democratic host, therefore, Be it Resolved, By the house of representatives of the legislature of Florida, which is entirely democratic, That we, the people's representatives, heartily endorse the democracy of the matchless and peerless leader of the democratic party, William Jennings Bryan."

THOMAS L. HISGEN, who was the presidential candidate of the Hearst independent party in 1908, has issued a statement announcing that hereafter he will act with the democratic party. Mr. Hisgen says: "The campaign of 1908 demonstrated that the battle for national reforms must be fought out within the lines of the two largest of the national parties. The great danger to this nation is the rule of the autocracy of wealth through far-reaching and subtle trust interests. Powerful and wealthy and their wealth and strength directed by some of the ablest men in the work, they form a force whose influence can not be measured and whose grasp can only be destroyed by continued and vigorous attack. The repulse which such interests received during the Roosevelt administration has been magnified by the popular mind into a rout. The interests are as strong as ever, but for four years they have been held at bay. One by one their tools are returning to place and power. Those who look to see Theodore Roosevelt the candidate of his party in 1912 will be disappointed. Business interests will unite with strong predatory interests to prevent another radical being placed in the presidential chair 'y means of the republican organization."

THE FEDERAL grand jury in session at Tulsa, Oklahoma, refused to indict Governor Haskell. The jury was dismissed by Federal Judge Marshall of Utah, and a new jury called. An Associated Press dispatch from Tulsa says: "The prosecution of these cases from the start had been directed principally by Sylvester R. Rush of Omaha, special assistant to the attorney general. Sensational allegations concerning the official conduct of Sylvester R. Rush and United States District Attorney Gregg of the northern district of Oklahoma are made in two petitions filed in the federal court here this afternoon in connection with the Muskogee town lot fraud cases. One of the petitions is signed by nine members of the grand jury that was discharged on Saturday last by Judge John A. Marshall upon motion of District Attorney Gregg, who asserted that the jury had been subjected to improper influences. This petition refutes this charge and in turn makes serious allegations against both Messrs. Gregg and Rush. It alleges misconduct before the jury, efforts to intimidate and coerce the jury to return indictments against Governor Charles N. Haskell and the other defendants, regardless of and contrary to the proof presented, and petitions the court to investigate the jurors' allegations. The defendants also filed a response to the motion of District Attorney Gregg, disputing the charges of improper influences. This response alleges misconduct upon the part of Gregg, asserting that he has used the Tulsa World, of which he is reported to be part owner, to mold sentiment, and to prejudice the court and grand jury against the defendants; that he stated that he was after Haskell and associates, and that no one else would be prosecuted; that he stated to Mr. Allen of Muskogee that he was a personal enemy of William T. Hutchings and would send him to the penitentiary at all hazards; that Gregg's partner in the Tulsa World had stated to a prominent merchant of Tulsa that it was a political prosecution started by William R. Hearst, the New York editor, and by Theodore Roosevelt against Governor Haskell. The allegations are used to prove the de-

fendants' claim that Gregg is an improper person to conduct prosecution before grand jury."

NOW "THE interests" are after Secretary of Agriculture Wilson. A special dispatch to the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal (rep.) under date of Washington, May 17, says: "President Taft is so far displeased with the constant friction over the enforcement of the pure food laws, that there is persistent report of a possible change at the head of the department of agriculture before the summer is over. The present enforcement of the pure food laws, it is widely charged, involves the most serious discrimination. In some cases preserves and colors are allowed which are almost universally regarded as extremely injurious; in others so simple and harmless a process as bleaching flour is prohibited. The result is that the dairy and food commissioners of the states are planning a great fight on the national pure food authorities and propose a series of extensive experiments to decide who is right in these matters. The state and federal authorities have taken almost opposite courses in a number of instances. Thus most of the state authorities have long established the view that sodium benzoate is improper for food purposes and preservation, while they have permitted bleaching of flour. The federal authorities have reversed them on both these questions and on a number of others. President Taft has been much annoyed by the charges of favoritism and the move for a complete reorganization of the food law administration is becoming serious. Mr. Taft did not want to retain Secretary Wilson in his present position, and only did so as a last resort, owing to the insistence of farmers all over the country. The secretary is stronger with the farmers than any other man in sight but he has not been so fortunate in commanding the confidence of the food manufacturers."

HENRY H. ROGERS, of the Standard Oil trust, and said to be the organizing genius of that concern, died at his home in New York City. An Associated Press dispatch says: "Mr. Rogers arose about 6 o'clock, and about 6:30 o'clock he began to feel ill, complaining of numbness and nausea. Before anything could be done he sank and died. He went on Friday last to his country place at Fair Haven, Mass., and returned yesterday. Mr. Rogers was for many years one of the most prominent financiers of the country. He took a leading part in all the enterprises undertaken by the Standard Oil group of capitalists, was vice president of the Standard Oil company, and was the active spirit in the organization of the Amalgamated Copper company of which he was president up to the time of his death. He also was interested in a number of railroads, serving as a member of the board of directors of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Union Pacific. The news of the death came as a surprise to Wall Street. Mr. Rogers was at the office of the Standard Oil company yesterday and appeared to be in good spirits. His health had been falling somewhat for several years past and he had curtailed his financial operations to some extent on that account, but he continued to perform the duties of vice president of the Standard Oil company. The death of Mr. Rogers follows closely upon completion of the great railway project to the accomplishment of which the energies of his later years, his genius for organization and a very considerable portion of his private fortune was devoted. This was the building of the Virginia railway, a line which opened up a rich bituminous coal country in West Virginia, extending 443 miles from Deepwater, W. Va., to a tidewater terminal at Sewalls Point, Va. This road was distinctly an individual undertaking of Mr. Rogers and he probably bore the greater part of its construction, which has been estimated at \$40,000,000. Early in April, only a few weeks ago, the road was opened to traffic, and Mr. Rogers invited some friends of his from New York to visit the new line and witness the arrival of the first trainload of coal at Sewalls Point. Governor Swanson of Virginia, United States senators, members of congress and sev-

eral hundred business men of Virginia and West Virginia were guests of Mr. Rogers on this occasion. His death coming so soon after the end of this work and before he saw the fruit of his labor in the development of the section served by his road is regarded by his friends and associates among New York financiers as a regrettable ending of a brilliant career in the business and financial world. Mr. Rogers rose, as he usually did, about 6 o'clock this morning. At 6:30 o'clock he complained of feeling ill and a physician was hurriedly summoned. His heart action was weak and it was apparent that he was suffering from a stroke of apoplexy. This was the second illness of this nature suffered by Mr. Rogers, the first having occurred in July, 1907. Following the seizure of apoplexy in 1907, Mr. Rogers began putting his affairs in order and he has been out of the market entirely for months. His interests and all of the corporations with which he has been identified, were placed in other hands during the past year. This step was taken in order to safeguard his properties in the event of sudden death."

SEVERAL YEARS ago Thomas W. Lawson wrote a series of magazine articles entitled "Frenzied Finance." In one of those articles Mr. Lawson gave the following character sketch of Henry H. Rogers: "Away from the spell of dollar-making, this remarkable man is one of the most charming and lovable beings I have ever encountered; a man whom any man or woman would be proud to have for a brother; a man whom any father or mother would give thanks for as a son; a man whom any woman would be happy to know as her husband, and a man whom any boy or girl would rejoice to call father. But once he passes under the baleful influence of 'the machine' he becomes relentless, ravenous, pitiless as a shark, knowing no law of God or man in the execution of his purpose. Between him and coveted dollars may come no kindly human influences—all are thrust aside, their claims disregarded in ministering to this strange cannibalistic money-hunger which, in truth, grows by what it feeds upon. Above all things, Henry H. Rogers is a great actor. He knows the human animal from the soles of his feet to the part of his hair and from his shoulder blades to his breast bone, and, like all great actors, he is not above getting down to every part he plays. \* \* \* Truly a man of blood and iron, as Bismarck or Von Moltke was, his erected will is a sword and a vise. To gain a predetermined goal, Henry H. Rogers will go through hellfire and water, swing about and make the return trip and then repeat until death interferes or his object is attained. Such men as he in other days subjugated kingdoms or made deserts where they operated; in religion they became St. Pauls and Savonarolas."

WRITING IN the Louisville Courier-Journal Henry Watterson says: "The plea of some of the democratic senators who voted for a duty on iron ore was that the government needs the revenue. In the first place, a duty on iron ore is not a revenue, but a protective duty, producing only nominal revenue and vast subsidy. In the second place, if their object is revenue for the government they should abolish such duties as that on iron ore and impose essentially revenue duties, which would yield abundance of revenue and little or no protection. In the third place, if the pretext they allege in this instance is to govern in all the tariff schedules there can be no removal of duties, for all protective duties which are effective at all and which are not prohibitive yield some revenue, while those which are prohibitive could be made to yield revenue by reducing instead of abolishing them."

## UNPLEASANT OF COURSE

Some of the republican senators did not seem to enjoy Senator Tillman's use of the word "hog" in describing the scramble of the protectionists to get everything within reach. Well, the word does sound a little unpleasant to the ear, but Mr. Tillman's record for the truth prevented his using the lamb to illustrate his point.