

CURRENT TOPICS

HERE IS A good story printed in Mack's National Monthly: "Judge Martin J. Wade, the Iowa member of the democratic national committee, is noted for injecting a lot of good stories into his campaign speeches—and the big Iowa is a noted campaigner. Here is one he told a few times in last year's campaign: 'An old friend of mine named Hennessey, was being taken home in a wheelbarrow by a faithful friend one night. This friend was giving Hennessey some good advice, saying: 'There's no use your trying, Jerry, you can't drink all the whisky in the world.' They were passing a brilliantly lighted distillery at the time, and as Jerry opened his heavy eyes and beheld it, he replied: 'Well, be gorrah, I have them work-in' night.'"

THE WASHINGTON correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald prints this interesting bit of gossip: "There's a new force to reckon with on the democratic side in the United States senate. It is Charles James Hughes, Jr., of Colorado. A corporation lawyer and an expert in mining and irrigation law; wealthy, without any previous legislative experience, now holding his first official position—the nearest he ever came to being a public servant before having to refuse twice the nomination for governor of his state—Senator Hughes, at the age of fifty-six years and a statesman of three and one-half months' standing, has made his colleagues sit up and take notice. Senator Hughes' recent encounter with Senator Bailey over a question of political ethics involving the binding force of party platforms gives much added interest to the always interesting democratic situation. Mr. Bailey, who is not the titular leader of the minority—that distinction resting with his colleague from Texas, Senator Culberson—but assumes to be the actual leader, and is half accepted as such by those democrats who are willing to follow any leader at all, is too far advanced for party platforms, and has finally emancipated himself completely from the 'intellectual slavery' which platforms impose. Mr. Hughes believes in platforms when campaigns are fought on them. What Senator Hughes lacks in legislative experience he seems to make up for in natural ability and a high order of political sense, a combination which spells influence. W. J. Bryan will be interested. Senator Bailey has thrown Bryan on the scrap heap, along with his alleged platform. Senator Hughes, heretofore nothing more than a mere delegate to national conventions, has interposed. Senator Hughes was on the resolutions committee at Denver, and informs us 'one man' did not write the platform. When the democrats have internecine warfare hereafter the leader of one side may be the new senator from Colorado. Consider all the entertaining possibilities before another national campaign. And hail to Hughes of Colorado, a new candidate for leadership honors, who enters to assist the democratic party's function of adding to the gayety of nations. Keep an eye on Mr. Hughes. He's a coming figure in democratic national politics if he has not already arrived."

THE WASHINGTON correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald says that President Taft gave a dinner to the republican members of the senate finance committee, Senator Root, Speaker Cannon, Chairman Payne of the ways and means committee, and Representative Dwight of New York, the house whip, bringing these forces together to consider the corporation tax provision designed to be substituted for the income tax amendment to the Payne-Aldrich tariff measure. The conference agreed upon the following points: First, A 2 per cent tax on the net earnings of corporations after deducting from the gross earnings expenses of maintenance and operation and certain fixed charges. Second, Earnings up to \$5,000 to be exempt from the tax. Third, Bond interest to be exempt from the tax when the bonds do not exceed the capital stock; when bonds exceed capital stock to be taxed in proportion to the excess. Fourth, The tax to be assessed upon

statements rendered by corporation officials; where there is presumption warranting belief of false statements the secretary of the treasury to have authority to order an inspection of the books."

REPUBLICANS who pin their faith to the anti-monopoly qualities of President Taft are greatly distressed these days. Washington dispatches announced that during the past week the ship subsidy boomers had held a banquet at the national capitol and that President Taft himself had dropped in upon the banquet in order to assure the boomers that he was with them. It was then stated that an effort would be made, with the president's help, to push a bill that would be introduced by Representative Humphrey of Washington. Several days later Mr. Humphrey introduced his bill. The Associated Press describes the measure in this way: "It is patterned after the bill which was considered in the last congress but contains several new features approved by the merchant marine league. The bill provides that the pay for ocean mail service on vessels of the second class on routes to South America, to the Philippines, to Japan, to China and to Australasia should hereafter be the pay now accorded vessels of the first class. In addition the new bill provides for 'free ships.' American citizens are to be permitted to purchase vessels in any country they may choose and run them under the American flag in the foreign trade or in the trade with the Philippines. The bill reduces the tonnage taxes on vessels in trade with nearby countries and increases the tax in the trans-oceanic trade. In the former trade American vessels are now well represented, while in the trans-oceanic trade foreign ships are found almost entirely."

THE FOLLOWING is taken from the Lincoln (Neb.) Daily Star: "William Jennings Bryan, Jr., and Miss Helen Virginia Berger were united in marriage at Grand Lake, Colo., June 24, Harry F. Huntington, pastor of the Methodist church in Crete, Neb., being the officiating clergyman. The groom is the only son of William Jennings Bryan and the bride is the only daughter of Alexander Berger, a prominent business man of Milwaukee. Mr. Berger has a picturesque log house, known as Kinnikinic Lodge, at Grand Lake. It stands on a low ridge a few rods from the lake, which is surrounded by lofty pine covered hills. The wedding occurred outdoors. From the Lodge a winding path leads down the hill and then, turning abruptly, parallels the lake shore. Young spruce trees were set across this path, forming a back ground in front of which the marriage took place and behind which the musicians sat. The path was covered with white canvas. Samuel Berger, the bride's brother, served as best man, Miss Edna Baker of Lincoln as bridesmaid, and little Mary Berger, a cousin of the bride, as flower girl. While Lohengren's wedding march was being played by Mr. Lohman of Denver, and two other members of his orchestra, the bride on her father's arm, preceded by the bridesmaid and the flower girl, made their way down the circuitous path to where the groom, his attendant, and the minister awaited them at the improvised altar. To the right of the altar stood the guests, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bryan, their daughters Grace and Mrs. Ruth Bryan Leavitt and grand-daughter Ruth, and Mrs. F. D. Levering, with whom the bride has made her home most of the time since her mother's death. The ceremony took place at 8:30 a. m. The morning was mild and clear; the pine clad hills, the snow covered mountains and the lake shimmering in the sunlight formed a beautiful setting for the unpretentious but impressive ceremony. So many incorrect statements have appeared in regard to the courtship of this young couple that it may be interesting to know the facts. Miss Berger has spent the summer at Grand Lake for a number of years. In July, 1903, William went to Grand Lake for an outing and it was there they first met. They became greatly interested in each other and their friendship, ripening into a deeper affection, resulted in an

engagement two years later. Their courtship has been an ideal one, and they enter upon married life with a multitude of well wishers. William Bryan, Jr., looks very much like his father did at the same age. He is studious, of exemplary habits and has high ideals. He is a member of the Methodist church at Normal, near the Bryan home, and has been an active worker in the university Y. M. C. A. His acquaintances anticipate a bright career for him. Mrs. Bryan, Jr., a cultured, refined, Christian girl, is worthy of her husband. She is modest and attractive and has a host of admiring friends. She finished her musical education in Europe. The young couple will spend the summer at Grand Lake. In the autumn they will go to Tuscon, Arizona, where a bungalow awaits them. Mr. Bryan will attend the university there, and contemplates practicing law after finishing his education. The arrangements for the wedding were interwoven with romance. It was at Grand Lake under the pines that they first met and there, six years later, they were married. It was Mr. Huntington who accompanied William in 1903 when they tramped from Georgetown to Grand Lake, a distance of sixty miles, and since Mr. Huntington was present when the love match began he was called all the way from Crete, Neb., to perform the ceremony which united them in the holy bonds of wedlock."

THEY ARE having fun with Senator Burkett of Nebraska. A Washington dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald says: "A low and unworthy suspicion has gone abroad concerning Senator Burkett's beet sugar factory for the North Platte valley. It will be recalled that the senator voted against taking away the graft of the sugar trust, represented in the Dutch standard provision of the sugar schedule, on the ground that it might injure the beet sugar industry. Soon after that the senator announced that he had inside information that a beet sugar factory, to cost \$1,500,000, was to be erected at or near Scottsbluff, in the North Platte irrigation district; and that it was going to do great things for that part of the state. Recently efforts were made to induce the Nebraska to change his mind and vote against the trust protection when the sugar schedule gets final consideration, but it has been a failure. 'They've promised Burkett a \$1,500,000 beet sugar factory, you know,' explained a man who was discussing the situation with Senator Bristow. 'Only one?' demanded the Kansas man. 'That's all.' 'Well, he ought to do better. They've promised me five and even sent some people into the state to make preliminary examinations to find where they ought to be put. Don't you know they've promised 'em all over the west this summer, everywhere they seemed to need to do something for local opinion on the sugar schedule? Why, I thought everybody knew all about that.' And the Kansas senator went away chuckling. It seems that anybody can get the promise of a sugar factory these days from Henry T. Oxnard, who is representing the sugar trust and the beet sugar interests in Washington. Oxnard, whose company built, among others, the Norfolk factory, which was afterwards removed, admits that 20 per cent of his stock is owned by the trust; but it is commonly understood that 51 per cent is so held. Anyhow, the sugar trust maintains no lobby of its own here nowadays, but relies on Oxnard to take care of it. He recently told senators that the removal of the Dutch standard provision in the law would be a great blow to the beet sugar interests. The men who have studied it, however, have discovered that the trust invested about \$25,000,000 in beet sugar plants in order to secure them as a protection to the refining business."

WAIT FOR THE PEOPLE

Senator Root and Senator Flint got quite worked up over the lemon schedule, but they were not half as much worked up as the people will be when they are handed the Payne-Aldrich-tariff-bill lemon.