

CURRENT TOPICS

REFERRING TO Representative Fowler's letter to Speaker Cannon, the Denver News says: "That Fowler's charges are true is a matter of common knowledge. Joe Cannon has held the speakership for years, and in no one of those years has it been to him a means of doing his duty. He has valued it, partly for the arbitrary power which it conferred, and partly for the chance to make combinations with Senator Aldrich and keep up the good old rule of politely named graft. Speaker Cannon is ignorant, not only of finance, but of every other matter with which a public man should be acquainted. He neither knows nor believes in the ethics of real representative government. He has no more conception of public duty than a leopard has of brotherly love. He realizes Macaulay's definition of the perfect hypocrite—the man who makes the vice which he has no objection to show a stalking horse for the darker and more profitable vice which he wishes to conceal." He has tried to make his coarseness pass for democracy; his brutality for honesty; and for a good many years he achieved a pretty fair measure of success."

PAULHAN, THE French aviator, broke the world's record at Rheims, France, August 25, in a flight through the air of two hours, fifty-three minutes and twenty-four seconds. An Associated Press cablegram says: "During twenty minutes of the time Paulhan had a heavy rain and wind storm to contend against. The previous official record for time in the air was made by Wilbur Wright at Lemans December 31, two hours, twenty minutes, twenty-three and one-half seconds. The unofficial record was two hours, twenty-seven minutes, fifteen seconds, made by Sommer at Marmelons. Paulhan's new record for distance was about 134 kilometres, or eighty-three miles. He made thirteen circuits of the course and the wind squall passed as he was coming down the home stretch for the last time. Simultaneously, the dirigible Colonel Renard, appeared to the westward, plowing its way majestically through the smoke of the city of Rheims. When Paulhan finally came down it was because the fifty-six litres of essence which he carried in his tank was exhausted. He said immediately after he landed that both the machine and the self-cooling Gnome motor had stood up perfectly and that he could have continued indefinitely if the tank had been replenished. No one who witnessed the marvelously impressive flight now entertains the slightest doubt that aerial navigation with heavier than air machines has a glorious future."

BEVERLY, MASS., dispatches say that in his annual message President Taft will recommend the establishment of postal savings banks. The Associated Press says: "President Taft believes that several hundred million dollars would be placed at the disposal of the government through postal savings banks. It is suggested that this money might well be employed in taking up the \$600,000,000 or \$700,000,000 of government two per cent bonds which are outstanding and which have given much concern to the treasury department officials. Already the two 2 per cent bonds are selling below par and there is fear of further depreciation in view of the three per cent issues which have been authorized and which soon may be placed on the market. The president believes that the postal banks would appeal to those timid persons who are afraid to trust to ordinary banks and who would rather get the two per cent or less interest which the government would give than to place the money in the regular savings banks where it would draw from three to four per cent interest each year. By placing the interest to be allowed by the postal banks at less than two per cent, Mr. Taft is convinced that no harm would be done to the ordinary banks of commerce, for discriminating persons who now place their money in these banks are appreciative of what the banks are doing for the community, would not withdraw money drawing a higher rate and place it under government care at half the interest offered by the ordinary savings banks. Secretary Meyer of the navy, formerly

postmaster general, is strongly in favor of postal banks. He has given much thought and study to the subject and is convinced of its importance to the government. Idle funds would be placed at the disposal of the government at an exceedingly low rate of interest. The government's guarantee, it is believed, would stop the flow of gold across the Atlantic to foreign banks under government control. President Taft expressed himself again today as he did so often during the campaign a year ago, as unalterably opposed to a guarantee of bank deposits. Mr. Taft said he did not believe in making one set of bankers stand responsible for another set and he does not think that the national government or the states should undertake to extend a guarantee to institutions which are not under direct government control and direction. Tomorrow afternoon the president will have a conference with Senator Aldrich, chairman of the senate finance committee, and Secretary McVeagh of the treasury. The postal banks will have a share in the discussion."

THOMAS J. DUCEY, one of America's famous clergymen and founder and pastor of St. Leo's Roman Catholic church, New York, is dead. Father Ducey was known the world over for his brave battles for civic righteousness. A writer in the New York World, referring to "Father Tom" as he was known affectionately among rich and poor, says: "Early in his pastorate Father Ducey was known as 'the ecclesiastical dandy,' but as he went on in his work the less frivolous title of 'the priest of the genteel' was substituted. The results of his powerful and beneficent influence were never successfully attacked. He worked in the pastures in his own way and some, if not many, did not understand his way. From the pulpit of the quaint little church in East Twenty-eighth street Father Ducey raised his voice for political purity, fought the Tweed ring in its day, assailed Tammany Hall and struck at the trusts. Archbishop Corrigan censured him for attending the sessions of the Lexow investigation, when testimony as to vile conditions was given. In 1894 a report came from Rome that Father Ducey had been made a Monsignor, and though rumor had it that Pope Leo had conferred the honor on the priest he never bore the title officially. His parishioners used to call him Monsignor, and he was reminded by higher dignitaries of the church that he should not countenance the title. Many friends firmly believed that the pope did elevate Father Ducey and that the appointment to higher honors was pigeon-holed in Archbishop Corrigan's desk. Father Ducey was a warm friend of Rev. Dr. Edward McGlynn, whose cause he espoused in the latter's bitter fight for reinstatement to priestly duties. Father Ducey was born in Lismore, Ireland, February 4, 1843. He was brought to this country at the age of five by his widowed mother. Judge Thomas T. Brady met the boy, took a liking to him and adopted him, and he was brought up among luxurious surroundings. On the death of Judge Brady his ward came into a large fortune."

ALMANDER CHURCHILL, of Exeter, N. H., writes a letter to the Boston Herald on "the strategy of trade." Mr. Churchill's letter follows: "In your issue of the 11th I notice an article on 'The Strategy of Trade.' A wise and practical consideration of this subject is of vital importance to our nation, now convalescing, let us hope, from its lost commercial status. Having been a close student of this question, especially since we sacrificed our foreign commerce on the altar of high protection, and during those years having personal experience in Boston and New York in manufacturing and selling, importing and exporting merchandise, I hope you will allow me a few inches of your valuable space to express a few thoughts of a practical merchant. It is an axiom in ethics or secular logic that a reliable conclusion must be based on incontrovertible reasoning, or better yet, on stubborn facts. We know the late A. T. Stewart of New York, John Wanamaker of Philadelphia and New York have been eminently

successful manufacturers and merchants; that they were endowed with superior sagacity and taste in the selection of styles, patterns or designs adapted to their market, and presented their wares in attractive cases, packages or cartoons, thus catering to the judgment or fancy of their customers is very true, but above and beyond all they owned their merchandise at a minimum cost, which enabled them to cope with all competition. A large proportion of the export trade of this nation is agricultural products, but we are awakening to a knowledge that we can successfully compete with the world in manufactures and are no longer infants in the mechanical and scientific industries. But we must bear in mind that the same means by which our local manufacturers and merchants with the home trade were successful will bring success with the foreigner. Of all the European states, why is Germany so remarkably successful in her foreign trade? That the German manufacturer is truthful, that his trade-mark is reliable, and under the same brand is uniformity in quality is true, all of which inspires confidence and is a very good example for our manufacturers to follow. But the key to his success is the fact that all raw materials are admitted to Germany free, which enables him to undersell us or any other nation oppressed with a tax on imported raw materials. Thus giving another evidence of the wisdom and astute foresight of the great Bismarck, who was in his day the power behind the throne. In his remarks upon the action of the congress in extra session, referring to free hides, ex-Governor Douglas (the largest manufacturer of boots and shoes in the world) says: 'I believe we shall now be able to increase our exports of boots and shoes from \$11,000,000 to \$100,000,000 per annum, which will increase the demand for labor in a marked degree, and all wage-earners know that this means higher wages.' Let us have free raw materials, an income tax, with a reliable executive at the helm, and we shall again see our commercial marine dotting the waters of foreign seas laden with the products of our shops and factories, thus producing a greater demand for labor than was ever before known in this land of the free."

LIGHT IS THROWN on cash registers as they figure in the new tariff law by a writer in the Lincoln (Neb.) Evening News. He says: "Cash registers have been reduced in the tariff law from 45 per cent duty to 30 per cent, but no one need build thereon any hope that there will be any corresponding reduction in the price. There is a reason. There are no cash registers imported, and there won't be any under the new law. The business in this country is practically in the hands of one company. At one time there were about sixty companies engaged in the manufacture of registers, but nearly all have been battered out of business by the usual trust methods or else have been bought up. As a result every business man has to pay tribute—and it is a heavy one—to the company that has almost an absolute monopoly of this business. Most of this monopoly, however, comes from its ownership of patents, and not because of the tariff. The aid the tariff has been was to keep out foreign competition while the monopoly was putting the other fellows out of business. The average person may imagine that he isn't much interested in the price of cash registers or the tariff thereon, but that is where he overlooks something. The cash register is a business necessity, and when a business man, the grocer, butcher, baker, etc., has to pay double price for his cash register he passes it on to his customers. The sales of cash registers in this country amount to \$10,000,000 a year, and there are at present 500,000 of them in use, representing an investment by retail merchants in them of \$75,000,000. In America, where the trust has no competition, the price of machines it sells is almost twice what they are in England. When the matter was before the senate Senator Beveridge produced photographic copies of the company's price lists, which showed, for instance, that for style No. 451, the American price is \$250; English price, \$135; style No. 452, American price, \$300; English price, \$150, and so on