

# CURRENT TOPICS

ONE OF THE most important movements in history is described in an Associated Press dispatch from Washington as follows: "The Democratic Federation of the United States of America has been launched, the central idea of which, according to the official pronouncements, is a federation of organizations throughout the country composed of democrats that shall stand for the needed improvement of party government and other progressive issues." One of its purposes will be to select in each state and in the nation by postal vote 'only those issues upon which public sentiment is agreed or can readily be brought to an agreement,' candidates in the respective states and in the nation are then to be systematically questioned on these issues and the replies published to the members of the party. Among the democrats who have originated this movement are United States Senators Owen of Oklahoma, Newlands of Nevada and Chamberlain of Oregon; former Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois, twenty members of congress from various states, democratic editors and others prominent in the party. George H. Shibley of the District of Columbia is the secretary of the federation."

ROBERT A. TAFT, the president's son, had the misfortune to knock down and run over with his automobile Michael Phisthwoolla, a laborer at Beverly, Mass. The following Washington dispatch printed in the New York World is interesting: "President Taft was greatly distressed when he learned of his son's unfortunate accident at Beverly, Mass. He immediately sent a long telegraphic message to his son, the text of which was not given out, but which is said to have contained instructions to do everything possible for the injured man. The following telegram then was sent to an old college friend of the president, Samuel Carr of 96 Ames Building, Boston. 'By an unfortunate automobile accident at Beverly my boy, Robert, struck a street laborer, fracturing his skull. He is at Beverly hospital. Will you not call up by phone the best surgeon in Boston and have him visit the hospital at once and tender service to the resident physician and do all he can for the injured man?—William H. Taft.' The president then sent a personal telegram to the injured man expressing his profound regret over the accident and conveying to the victim his earnest hope for a speedy recovery. This telegram was not made public."

LOUIS F. POST, writing in The Public, of Chicago, throws a sidelight upon Chicago newspaperdom in this way: "Senator Lorimer's speech of exculpation in the United States senate is regarded as having made it impossible to avert a crash in the republican politics of Illinois. To appreciate the political situation it is necessary to note the courses of the faction seams. There is the Lorimer faction, composed of straight-out machine elements, its newspaper representative being the Inter-Ocean. Then there is the Busse faction, also composed of machine elements, once in alliance with the Lorimer faction, but now, through its official advantage at the Chicago city hall (Busse being mayor), in alliance with big business interests. This faction has turned its back upon the Lorimer faction, and has no newspaper representative. Next, there is the Governor Deneen faction, a product of 'goo-goo' politics, which touches elbows with big business on one side, and on the other with machine elements in politics. Its newspaper representatives are the Record-Herald, owned now by H. H. Kohlsaat, and the News, owned by Victor Lawson. A fourth faction is of recent origin. It may be loosely distinguished as the Wayman faction, since the state's attorney for Cook county, Mr. Wayman, is the most conspicuous individual representative. Mr. Wayman was elected by the aid of distillery and brewery interests, and the newspaper representative of his faction is the Journal. The Tribune is its own faction, which is at the moment the master faction of all. It secured the fealty of the Wayman faction by obvious methods, Mr. Wayman having gubernatorial ambitions; it then secured the

complete obedience of the Busse faction by heading off ominous prosecutions for city hall offenses, which the Daily Socialist had proclaimed and the Merriam commission uncovered; after this the support of the Deneen faction was secured, which brought to Busse's support the News and the Record-Herald as coadjutors of the Tribune. Only the Lorimer faction remained outside the combination; and this faction was making itself dangerous to the combination, not only by staying outside politically and attacking the city hall through the Inter-Ocean, but also by threatening the Tribune's big business allies and fortifying itself through the establishment of a Lorimer banking interest. Such was the situation when the Tribune opened fire on Lorimer for bribery, and this the delicate structure that is supposed to have been jeopardized by Lorimer's speech in the senate."

THE EXECUTION of the man who assassinated the Egyptian premier is one of the echoes of Mr. Roosevelt's visit to Egypt. A Cairo, Egypt, cablegram carried by the United Press says: "Ibrahim Wardani, a nationalist student, whose assassination early in the year of Premier Boutros Pasha called for a scathing denunciation at the hands of Colonel Roosevelt, when the latter spoke before the students of the university of Egypt, was hanged today for his crime. The execution occasioned intense excitement, owing to the fear of a demonstration by the nationalists. The government, however, made ample provision against this and there has not been the least disorder, although the nationalists are holding meetings throughout the city. Wardani ascended the scaffold, proclaiming himself a martyr, a role that he had assumed since the commission of the crime. 'I die for the cause of Egyptian liberty,' were his last words. The hanging was secret, even newspaper men being excluded from the prison yard where the scaffold was erected. The prison was entirely surrounded by troops, while hundreds of troops patrolled the streets and mingled with the crowds on the streets. No large gatherings were permitted. Wardani shot Premier Boutros Pasha as the latter was entering his carriage. He has since then proclaimed that he killed the premier to bring the attention of the English government to alleged wrongs of the Egyptians."

IN HIS ADDRESS to the students of the Egyptian university on March 28, Colonel Roosevelt set Egypt by ears by denouncing the crime. In part he said: "All good men, all men of every nation whose respect is worth having, were inexpressibly shocked by the assassination of Boutros Pasha. It was a greater calamity to Egypt than a wrong to the individual himself. The type of man who turns assassin is the type possessing all the qualities which alienate him from good citizenship; the type producing poor soldiers in time of war and worse citizens in time of peace. Such a man stands on the pinnacle of evil and infamy. Those apologizing for, or condoning his act, by word or deed, directly or indirectly encouraging such an act in advance of defending it afterward occupy the same bad eminence. It is of no consequence whether the assassin is Moslem or Christian, or whether his crime was committed in political strife or industrial warfare. The rich man's hired act, performed by a poor man, whether committed with the pretense of preserving order or of obtaining liberty is equally abhorrent in the eyes of all decent men and in the long run equally damaging to every cause the assassin professes." Again in his Guild hall speech Roosevelt called upon England to adopt a firmer policy in ruling the Egyptians or get out of Egypt and turn that nation over to some country that would.

THE OLD DRY goods firm of Lord & Taylor, New York, has been absorbed by the United Dry Goods Companies, otherwise known as the dry goods trust. John Clafin is president, and J. P. Morgan has a big interest in this concern. The New York correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "The history of

the founding of the firm of Lord & Thomas reads like a romance. While George W. Taylor was acting as warden of the Tombs of his day (1830) his kind treatment of a prisoner induced the man to reveal a secret that gave the warden a fortune. It was that the crown jewels of Holland, which had been stolen, and for which \$50,000 reward was offered, were then being brought to America on board a sailing vessel by one of the men concerned in the robbery. The warden boarded the ship down the bay, got the passenger to confess and hand over the crown jewels, which Mr. Taylor carried to Holland. He returned with the \$50,000 reward. Then he went to his dearest friend, Samuel Lord, an iron founder, and with their combined capital they formed the dry goods concern which to this day retains the original name of Lord & Taylor. In the panic of 1873 the firm was in financial trouble and Mr. Hatch, Sr., was asked to finance the concern. A million dollars was added to its capital. It put the house firmly on its feet and new prosperity followed until the business became of colossal proportions. Today the firm in dry goods and banking circles is in excellent standing. It was incorporated April 19, 1904, with an authorized capital of \$5,000,000, divided into \$2,500,000 six per cent accumulative preferred stock and \$2,500,000 common stock."

THAT JENNY LIND, the once noted Swedish singer who toured America in 1851 under the management of P. T. Barnum was married in Boston is not generally known. A Boston dispatch printed in the New York Herald says: "Up to that time there had been no such popular admiration for a foreign singer in the United States as was accorded Jenny Lind. She appeared only in concerts, her contract with Mr. Barnum especially interdicting opera. The regular accompanist of the organization was Otto Goldschmidt, who in Boston became the husband of the singer. The ceremony took place February 5, 1853, at the residence of Samuel G. Ward, a well known Bostonian, who was the local agent of Baring Brothers, London bankers of that era, and with whom the song bird from the north transacted her business. Mr. Ward's residence was at No. 21 Louisburg square. For some months prior to her marriage Mlle. Lind and her company, under her own management, had given forty concerts in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, her last appearance in this country being made in the latter city in December, 1852. Of this Goldschmidt-Lind wedding the Boston Courier of February 6, 1853, has the following brief description: 'Although St. Valentine's Day has not quite reached us, yet the first bird of the season has already chosen her mate. The queen of song has committed matrimony. Jenny Lind is Jenny Lind no longer, but Mrs. Goldschmidt. In plain English, the following record was made yesterday on the books of the Boston city registrar: 'Married in this city, at the residence of Mr. S. G. Ward by the Rev. Charles Mason, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Wainwright, of New York, the Swedish consul, Hon. Edward Everett, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Ward, Mr. N. I. Bowditch, her legal adviser, and other friends, Otto Goldschmidt, of Hamburg, to Mlle. Jenny Lind, of Stockholm, Sweden.' Mr. Goldschmidt has attended Jenny as her pianist for many months past. The match has taken everybody by surprise, though we must say that we were struck with something confoundedly arch and roguish in the twinkle of her eye when she sang 'John Anderson, My Jo,' the last time she appeared in public in this city. Such, however, has been the discretion of the parties that it may have been a 'foregone conclusion' for years. The next song of the nightingale will, of course, be 'Home, Sweet Home.' May she live a thousand years and sing it every day.'"

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