

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE LATEST reports are to the effect that Senators Cummins and Dolliver of Iowa, Bristow of Kansas, together with Theodore Roosevelt and Chauncey M. Depew, will speak for Senator Beveridge in Indiana. An Indianapolis dispatch says: "The democratic managers are equally active, and U. S. Jackson, state chairman, said that among the democratic speakers that have accepted invitations to speak in behalf of the candidacy of John W. Kern for the United States senate, were Champ Clark, of Missouri, Senator Bailey of Texas, former Governor Folk of Missouri, and Mayor Gaynor, of New York."

SENATOR LAFOLLETTE will submit his chances for re-election to a republican primary to be held in Wisconsin next September. C. H. Crownheart, Senator LaFollette's campaign manager, has issued this statement: "Senator LaFollette will accept the judgment of the people at the primary as final. If he is not indorsed he will not be a candidate before the legislature. If he is indorsed at the primary he will expect the legislature to ratify the choice of the people."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT has announced that he will make two tours of the country. He has chartered a private car and will speak from the rear platform at most places. Mr. Roosevelt's itinerary is given as follows: The western trip is to begin on August 25, and will end on September 11. The southern trip will extend from October 6 to October 13. The itineraries follow: Western trip—August 25, leave New York; August 27, arrive Cheyenne; August 29, Denver; August 31, Osawatimie, Kas.; September 2, Omaha; September 3, Sioux Falls, S. D.; September 5, Fargo, N. D.; September 6, St. Paul; September 7, Milwaukee; September 8, Freeport, Ill., and Chicago; September 10, Pittsburgh; September 11, arrive New York. Southern trip: October 6, leave New York; October 8, Atlanta, Ga.; October 10, Hot Springs, Ark.; October 12, Peoria, Ill.; October 13, speeches in Indiana for Senator Beveridge at a place not yet chosen.

A COMMONER reader at Bellevue, Idaho, writes: "The Commoner, issue of July 1, 1910, contains an article which caused me to ponder not a little, 'Political Parties of Tomorrow.' Even that short article is good food for thought, but the author should, for the good of his country, write and publish an extended treatise on the science of government, and especially that of a democratic republic. I think it would be both interesting and edifying, and I am sure it would clip no honors from Mr. Bryan but, quite to the contrary, I think it would add strength and vigor to the great truths and political gospel that Mr. Bryan has been so ably expounding for twenty years. Best wishes for Mr. Bryan and success to The Commoner."

SPEAKING ABOUT remarkable women, the Louisville Courier-Journal pays a fine tribute to Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, superintendent of schools in Chicago. The Courier-Journal says: "Mrs. Young was elected president of the National Educational Association in Boston the other day. When Mrs. Young wants an honor of that kind all she has to do is to say so and leave the rest to her enthusiastic friends. The nominating committee of the National Educational Association did not favor the election of a woman as president of that body. The committee was against Mrs. Young, and it recommended a man for the place, but Mrs. Young's friends got busy immediately, and when the voting was over Mrs. Young's name 'led all the rest.' It was the same way a year ago when Mrs. Young ran for superintendent of the public schools of Chicago. Half a dozen men wanted the job, and strove for it with might and main. These men had influence in a political way. She had never attended a ward convention in her life. She knew nothing of party rules or usages.

She had never cast a vote or 'fixed' a precinct, but she knew a lot about schools, for she had been teaching a long time. The board of education took the sensible view that school knowledge and experience were more important to educational progress than a political pull. Therefore Mrs. Young got elected and the politicians got left. Chicago has about 500 public schools and Mrs. Young is boss of every one of them. Chicago has 300,000 school pupils, and Mrs. Young is to a large extent the arbiter of their educational destiny. When she was first elected some persons had their doubts as to whether she would measure up to the requirements of the situation. Nobody seems to have any such doubts at the present writing. It is generally conceded that she has made good in every particular. The schools were never better conducted, and the system was never more harmonious. The teachers like Mrs. Young, the pupils adore her, and the taxpaying public is well pleased. Mrs. Young is sixty-five years old, and does not hesitate to say so. In the light of her achievements the Osler theory isn't worth a cent. The National Educational Association has done itself credit in selecting her as its president."

A TERRIBLE aviation accident happened at Leichlingen, Rhenish, Prussia, recently. A dirigible balloon invented by Oscar Ebsloeh was destroyed in mid-air through the explosion of a benzine tank. Ebsloeh and his crew of four men dropped to their death. The Omaha Bee says: "The death of Oscar Ebsloeh and four companions increases the list of deaths from aviation to seventeen. The death roll follows: September 17, 1908—Selfridge, Lieutenant Thomas E., U. S. A., killed in fall with Orville Wright near Washington. September 7, 1909—Ena, Rossi, Italian, killed in Rome in machine of his own invention. September 7, Lefebvre, F., killed in Wright machine at Juisi-Sur-Orge, France. September 22—Ferber, Captain Louis F., killed at Boulogne, France. December 6—Fernandez, Antonio, Spaniard, killed at Nice, falling 1,000 feet after motor exploded. January 4, 1910—Delagrang, Leon, killed at Bordeaux, France. April 2—Herbet, Le Blon, instantly killed, falling on rocks at San Sebastian, Spain. May 13—Micheln, Chauvette, killed at Lyons, France. June 17—Speyer, Eugene, killed at San Francisco. June 18—Robl, killed at Stettin, Germany. July 3—Wachter, Charles, killed at Rheims in Antoinette monoplane. July 12—Rolls, Captain C. H., killed at Bournemouth, England, while operating a Wright biplane. Baroness De La Roche was almost killed by a fall in her Voisin biplane at the Rheims meeting on July 8."

IN ITS ISSUE of July 16 Collier's Weekly prints a letter written by W. H. Batting, a subordinate of Secretary Ballinger in the interior department, which letter was written to George R. Baker, a republican newspaper editor at Sandpoint, Idaho. The Batting letter follows: "I have your letter of the 16th, and have also received your previous letters, but have not had an opportunity to answer them. I will not take an opportunity to explain my position on the matter of the notices sent out from this office to the newspapers as related to the situation at Sandpoint. It has long been the practice in the department for the register of the land office to designate the paper in which certain notices shall be published. Naturally, under a republican administration such notices go to the republican papers. When I assumed my duties as register of the land office at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, there was but one controversy as between newspapers, and that was at Sandpoint between the North Idaho News and the Pend d'Orielle Review. The editors of both these papers consulted me, as did their friends, and reasons were given pro and con as to patronage being extended to each paper. I decided at that time that I would divide such patronage equally between them. I had on different occasions consulted with both editors and given them to understand, or intended that they should understand, that

this arrangement would continue only so long as they continued to conduct their papers properly in accordance with republican principles. Thereafter I had occasion to observe that your paper was not in sympathy with the republican party. In order that you may understand this fully, I will cite you to the specific instances in which your paper, in my opinion, has not shown itself entitled to present consideration in this matter: 1. At the time of the hearing of the case against the Washington Water Power company, the Spokesman-Review published an editorial in which the good faith of Secretary Ballinger, Senator H—, and myself was questioned in connection with that case. This same editorial was copied (verbatim, I believe) by your paper. 2. At the time of the contest in the house of representatives against Speaker Cannon, you published an editorial attacking Cannon and also our Representative Hamer. 3. In a recent issue of your paper you published an editorial in which you made a bitter personal attack on Senator Heyburn. 4. You have also taken occasion to disparage the candidacy of announced candidates for state offices, without making any specific charges against them, and who may or may not be the candidates of the republican party in the coming campaign, but who, if they are, will expect the support of republican papers. The grounds stated constitute, to my mind, sufficient evidence that the republican party in this state is not getting the support from your paper that it expects and is entitled to. Your record as a republican seems never to have been questioned prior to the last state campaign, and I never questioned it until the matter contained in the first 'statement' appeared, which was followed by the matters contained in the second, third, and fourth 'statements.' The above constitutes the basis of my action in not having recognized your paper as a proper medium for the publication of notices. If, however, in the future conduct of your paper these political acrobatics are eliminated, I will be glad to reconsider the matter and extend to you the full consideration to which you may be entitled."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT has written for Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott's magazine an article related to prize fighting. In this article Mr. Roosevelt says: "I have always been fond of boxing, and have always believed in it as a vigorous, manly pastime, one of those pastimes which have a distinct moral and physical value, because they encourage such essential virtues as courage, hardihood, endurance and self-control. Until within a few years I used to box a good deal myself, and when I was young several times took part in contests of a public or semi-public nature—generally, I am bound to say, with ill success. I think boxing is a sport which should be encouraged among boys and young men generally. I have been glad to help it so far as I could in the army and navy, where, I believe, it has been an excellent thing for the enlisted men. When I was police commissioner I was much struck by a statement made to me by Jacob Riis to the effect that the establishment of boxing clubs in many of the poorer districts had resulted in good, in rather unexpected ways; that is, it had not only given the vigorous young fellows who otherwise would join 'gangs' a legitimate outlet for their activities, but had also markedly reduced the number of affrays in which the knife was used. The spirit produced by the boxing had told against knife-fighting, and distinctly discouraged unfair play."

WHILE MR. Roosevelt says that prize fighting is doomed, still he does not mind a bit of boxing. In his magazine article Mr. Roosevelt says: "Therefore, from every standpoint, I believe in the encouragement of boxing as a sport. Moreover, boxing as a profession has its good side also. Among the men whose friendship and regard I have really valued I could name a number of professional boxers, including several ring champions. The men to whom I refer I found square, decent men, who showed themselves good citizens when their good citizenship was tested. I approved of the