

# CURRENT TOPICS

IN AN ARTICLE written in a democratic newspaper, John W. Kern, the democratic nominee for senator in Indiana, says: "In the next political contest the chief question for solution will be whether the economic policy which lays unnecessary burdens upon labor and production for the benefit of the favored few shall be continued. The democratic party must continue to be the champion of the masses in that contest, and it must present an unbroken front. If we have in our party councils men who stand for special privilege in any form we must be rid of them, for they belong on the other side. It must be understood that our party platform declarations two years hence and always must be religiously carried out, and that party honesty is as essential to party success as personal honesty is essential to personal success. So long as there is doubt whether our leaders will perform the party's promises, so long will there be doubt in the minds of the American voters as to whether our party can be trusted. Broken platform pledges destroy confidence, and without confidence there can be no victory."

THE PEOPLE of Hutchinson, Kansas, are laying themselves liable to the charge of lese majeste. A Hutchinson, Kans., dispatch printed in the Denver Times says: "Because of an article by Theodore Roosevelt in the last issue of the Outlook, that number of the magazine has been barred from sale in Hutchinson. An ordinance recently was passed following the agitation over the fight films to bar prize fight pictures, newspapers containing accounts of prize fights and magazines, books or pamphlets containing such matter. Because of Mr. Roosevelt's comment on the Reno prize fight the last issue of the Outlook came under the ban and was not placed on sale. To see that the ordinance was enforced, City Commissioner Oswald made a tour of the book stores yesterday asking for the Outlook in each place. None of them would sell it, as the ordinance provides a heavy fine for the violation. Mayor Martin was a victim of the ordinance. He attempted to buy a copy of the magazine, but the bookseller said, 'Can't sell it. It has an article on prize fighting by Roosevelt and would be breaking the ordinance.'"

THE LATE King Edward paid his income tax under the Lloyd-George finance bill even before he gave that measure his royal assent. Referring to that incident the New York World says: "The rate is very high. The king was not obliged to pay at all, since parliament has no legal power to levy on the crown. He preferred to follow the excellent example of Queen Victoria, who voluntarily shared the burdens of British taxpayers. There are American 'kings of finance' of far greater wealth and fewer financial burdens of obligation than King Edward's who fight by every means in their power all attempts to secure legislation such as every other civilized nation of consequence has adopted to insure that wealth shall bear a reasonable part of the public burdens along with poverty. Organized wealth in New York is almost solidly against the adoption of the income tax amendment, for which President Taft is still pleading. Is the New York legislature prepared to take the position that this organized wealth should have privileges transcending those which the British crown claims for itself?"

SPEAKER CANNON has been making several addresses in Kansas and has defied his republican opponents. In a speech at Emporia he said that he would not take himself out of the race for the speakership but would abide by the will of the republican caucus. On this point he said: "I am speaker and on March 4 next I will have been speaker for eight years, a longer continuous term than any man ever served as speaker since the foundation of the government. There has been only one man who has had a longer service of speaker than I have had, and there was an interim of four years in his service. That was when Henry Clay, who in the aggregate served ten years as speaker. Somebody has got

to be the scapegoat through magazines and letters. Candidates for congress are asked, 'Will you pledge yourself not to vote for that old czar for speaker?' Oh, the scapegoat! This little 154 pounds of clay can not bear many sins off into the wilderness. If my constituency is as kind to me as it has been for thirty-six years I will go back, if God spares my life, and be in the next congress, either in the majority or in the minority, and I would rather be there in a republican minority, a real, virile republican minority, than to be one of an apparent majority that could not take account of stock and know from one day to the other whether it was the majority or the minority. They wanted me to pledge that I would not be a candidate for speaker if the republicans have a majority of the next house. They will meet in caucus and select a candidate for the speaker. I will be in that caucus and I will vote for the man the caucus selects. I know of no crime I have committed that should bar me from entering a republican caucus. If you ask whether I want to be speaker of the house of representatives longer than eight years, I have been speaker that long because my friends thought I could be most useful as a member of congress in that position. But, as long as God lets me live, the muckraking periodicals and the so-called independent or progressive republicans shall not make me say that I will not be a candidate for speaker any more than they shall make me say, if I am again elected to congress, that I will not vote when my name is called."

REPLYING TO Senator Bristow's recent charges concerning the tariff on rubber Mr. Cannon said: "Senator Bristow, in his speech at Winfield, charged that Senator Aldrich and others brought about an increase of the duty on manufactured rubber, and thereupon organized a rubber trust. Senator Bristow said that under the operation of the Payne tariff law there was a decrease in the amount of manufactured rubber imported, and therefore a loss in revenue. Either knowingly or ignorantly, Senator Bristow did not state the facts. The truth is, as shown by the official figures of the bureau of statistics for the nine months ending March 30, 1910, under the Payne law there was an increase in the importations of rubber manufactures amounting to \$356,332. For the same period the revenue derived from imports of manufactured rubber increased \$126,384. The senator further said that for the same period as indicated above there was an increase of more than \$40,000,000 in the amount of crude rubber imported. I submit that the senator intended his audience to understand that, notwithstanding the increase and importation of crude rubber, the imports of manufactured rubber decreased. The truth is, as I have shown from official figures, that the importations of manufactured rubber increased under the Payne law, despite the five per cent higher duty. Since May 30, 1909, there have been increases in the price of crude rubber amounting to forty-five and one-half per cent due to the increased use of rubber in the everyday life of the people, for automobile tires, electrical purposes, etc. But the price of the crude rubber as given is that of the open markets of the world, and can not be ascribed to the tariff, for rubber is on the free list. The figures I have given show that even the increased rate is not sufficient to prevent the large increase in importations of manufactured rubber made by foreign labor in competition with labor of America. Upon these misstatements which Senator Bristow makes himself responsible for he builds his charges against his brother senator. So far the statement is Mr. Bristow's. Then he proceeds to put in quotation marks—what his authority is, God only knows—that Senator Aldrich and others organized a rubber trust. I don't know whether Senator Aldrich and others organized a trust. Being uninformed, I neither deny or affirm, but if Senator Aldrich, occupying his great position, did organize a trust, then, under the Sherman anti-trust act, provided trusts engaged in interstate commerce, he is liable not only to severe punishment by fine, but by imprisonment in the penitentiary. Let me suggest to Senator

Bristow and his constituents that, instead of endeavoring to make political capital by misstating official figures and making charges against the brother senator, he had better, as a good citizen, give the information that he professes to have to the appropriate grand jury and to the department of justice for their action in the enforcement of the laws that cover us all."

SENATOR BRISTOW replied to Speaker Cannon on the rubber trust charge. "Mr. Cannon," said Mr. Bristow, "forgets that there is rubber and rubber. When he says that the increased duties on manufactured rubber did not result in a decrease in importations he would seem to refer only to hard rubber, the kind that is sometimes used in making rules. Let the speaker look up the rubber question and he will find that there are several kinds of elastic or soft rubber to which my statements apply exactly. I am told that Speaker Cannon said he did not know that Senator Aldrich organized a trust. In my Winfield address I set forth facts as contained in official documents, in Poor's Manual and in the Wall Street Journal, which are considered reliable authority by every business man in this country. Whether or not Senator Aldrich is guilty of a technical violation of the statutes I do not know. It is the duty of the attorney general of the United States to investigate violations of the Sherman anti-trust law. But I do know that he is guilty of violation of political decency, of political dishonesty."

REPRESENTATIVE Victor Murdock, insurgent republican, replied to Speaker Cannon in his speech delivered at Emporia. Mr. Murdock declared that Cannon is a "standstill" and has been opposed to every law giving reform. He declared the speaker is a "living denial" of the right of the people to rule, and he added: "There have been corrupt votes in the American congress; there have been servile votes in the American congress; but I stand here to tell you never was a more servile and slavish vote cast in your congress by your representatives than when, under the lash of Dalzell, the slave driver of Pennsylvania, your representatives in Kansas, from all the districts but the Seventh and Eighth, voted under the lead of that Tammany democrat to bind that corrupt bargain with Tammany and the New York machine. Can you imagine Webster voting with that gang? Or Clay? Or Jefferson? Or Jackson?"

THEY ARE HAVING a stirring campaign in Tennessee. Zach McGhee, correspondent for the Columbia (S. C.) State is writing a series of letters on Tennessee politics. Mr. McGhee says: "Everybody in the whole state of Tennessee seems to be terribly wrought up, and the atmosphere is everywhere thick with those classic expletives and epithets, which when attempt is made to print them, melt the type into a dash or a blank space, but which, they say, add, in the spoken language, to the picturesqueness of life, especially politics. Kentucky, you know, is the place where the poet hath said: 'The landscape is the grandest, and politics the damndest,' but Kentucky is not and never was a circumstance to what Tennessee is this year. Everybody is a liar; pretty nearly everybody is a thief, a large portion of the population are murderers, the exact number depending upon the election returns, while a heap of folks heretofore considered at least fairly respectable, are things which we just can't put into print. Now the center of all the disturbance is the governor of the state, Malcolm R. Patterson, of Memphis, commonly known from his youth as 'Ham.' He is the center. The crowd and with it the eulogy storm surrounds him. 'Ham' calls them things, and they call 'Ham' things. About the mildest thing he calls them is a pack of curs, which he says are barking at the heels of the mastiff. What the other fellows call him I haven't yet found a printable word for. Their meaning, though the ordinary anti-Patterson Tennesseean may not express it so mildly or so respectfully,