

CURRENT TOPICS

A WILKESBARRE, PA., dispatch to the Philadelphia North American says: "The Rev. J. J. Curran, pastor of Holy Saviour Catholic church, this city, has informed his congregation that in the future flowers sent by breweries will not be admitted into the church. Recently a member of the congregation died, and one of the local breweries sent an elaborate floral design with the name of the firm, which could be seen all over the church. Father Curran says the church is no place to advertise breweries."

ARE WE TO HAVE national primaries? A Des Moines (Ia.) dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "Asserting as a reason the fact that the nominations for president and vice president may be and actually have been determined by the vote of delegates from states which cast practically no vote for the party ticket and never elect the party electoral ticket, Senator Albert B. Cummins today declared his intention of introducing in the senate a bill providing for the enactment of a nation-wide primary law. Senator Cummins points to the difficulty of making any change in the method of procedure in national conventions relative to the basis of representation, and declares that if congress does not act within a reasonable time upon his national primary bill, he will propose a law regulating national party conventions, making the basis of representation the party vote instead of population. At the recent republican state convention a plank was adopted in favor of a national primary law, and the republicans of the state are committed to it."

THERE WILL be introduced at the next session of the Kansas legislature a measure prepared by C. W. Trickett, assistant attorney general, which contains provisions which its author believes will bring every man of twenty-one or older to the polls at both primary and regular elections. These provisions are: One, An enforced holiday on days of primary and regular elections of cities of the first class, and also for the primary and regular elections for national, state and county officers. Two, A poll tax of \$3 on every male citizen above the age of twenty-one, with exemption for those who vote, and collection to be enforced against those who do not vote at the national, state and county elections. Referring to this measure, the Oklahoma City Oklahoman says: "While it is recognized that many of the governmental ills from which the country is suffering today are due to negligence on the part of the voting population, it is by no means certain that a law making voting compulsory will have the effect desired. It may be readily seen that such a penalty may have the effect of swelling the number of undesirable votes, for it is not to be expected that a matter of \$3 penalty will reform the negligent well-to-do citizen who is so often 'too busy' to attend to this duty of the good citizen. It is possible, however, that a provision effecting disfranchisement in the event of continuous neglect of the suffrage privilege might stir this latter class to militant citizenship, but there is no certainty that it would do so."

NOW JOHN HAYES HAMMOND who recently made a bitter attack upon republican insurgency is on the rack. The Philadelphia North American says: "Through a suit before Supreme Court Justice Brady today, in which John Hays Hammond and his son Harris are defendants, it came out that the Hammonds are associated with Henry Clay Russell Wade, who has been in Sing Sing, in the promotion of an automobile machine gun. Mr. Hammond is one of President Taft's personal friends. During the presidential campaign he became president of the League of Republican Clubs, and worked very hard to elect Mr. Taft. Since the inauguration, Mr. Hammond has been one of the president's closest political advisers. Letters written by Wade to aid in the sale of stock have stated that through Hammond's friendship for

President Taft the promoters expect to sell the gun to the United States government for at least \$25,000,000. The letters do not name Hammond but refer to him as a man 'very wealthy, of very high standing and closely associated with President Taft.' The letters state that Hammond has purchased all the treasury stock. It was learned that Hammond and his son paid \$40,000 in cash for all the \$75,000 treasury stock and \$25,000 more that Wade and one of his associates turned over. The other associate is Arthur M. Rose, formerly a Pittsburg promoter, who was let into the company by Wade because he asserted to be able to interest Hammond. The present suit was brought by William Rose, Arthur's brother, to recover \$8,000 from Wade, the Hammonds and Arthur Rose."

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, who died recently in London, aged ninety-one years, became famous through her work for the relief of suffering humanity. A writer in the Chicago Inter-Ocean says: "Florence Nightingale had just completed a course of training as a nurse with the Protestant Sisters of Mercy at Kaiserswerth in Germany when the Crimean war began. That was a very badly managed war. The British military organization had fallen into a rut and into dry rot during the long peace that followed the fall of Napoleon, when for over a generation there was no real war in Europe. The bogging and blundering in every department were such as to excite a public indignation which was not exaggerated by its reflections in the press, the most accessible specimens of which now are to be found among the minor writings of Charles Dickens. At this juncture Florence Nightingale appealed to the women of England to volunteer for nursing duty, not so much in the field as in the base hospitals at Scutari, crowded with the sick from an ill-provided army exposed to the wet and cold climate of the Crimean peninsula. The sufferings of war are always more from sickness than from battle wounds, and this was notably the case in the Crimean conflict, where the British supply service simply went to pieces and in every quality save personal courage the British army exhibited the most abject incompetence. The British government was glad of anything that would divert popular attention and give its men of real power time and a chance to straighten out the tangles into which an incompetent military bureaucracy had brought the operations against Russia. It gave Miss Nightingale and the corps of nurses she enlisted practically a blank card. Of course Miss Nightingale had her troubles with official stupidity at home and at the front, and plenty of them. Fortunately for her fame and for her backers in the high places of government she had a genius for organization that enabled her to make the most of a great opportunity."

THIS HEROINE knew how to appeal to the public imagination for her work as well as how to do her work itself. The Inter-Ocean writer adds: "She made the doing of what medical science had said ought to be done in the way of provision for the casualties of war a vivid interest of the man in the street to get done. She put popular enthusiasm behind the demand of experts that England should be better prepared for war on the side of supply and medical relief. The spectacle of this woman and the women with her freely giving their strength and their lives to repair the blunders of men who ought to have had intelligence enough not to make those blunders made her ideas an irresistible force. Florence Nightingale thus left an ineffaceable mark on the military organization of England and of every civilized nation. Before the Crimean war and her work the thought of planners for war was mainly of supplies of arms and ammunition and that the soldiers should somehow be fed. Since then the plans have broadened. The soldiers must be properly fed and competently cared for when disabled, and not through the makeshifts of individual sympathy and the sacrifices of religious devotion alone, but as a distinct business and

aim of government, to be planned for and thought out and provided for as carefully as any other business of government. She had her reward in the gift of a fortune from the English people, which she devoted to the endowment of a school for nurses; in the love and honor that followed her throughout her long life, and in the renown that enshrines her name upon history's pages."

CALIFORNIA'S insurgent leader is described by a writer in the Los Angeles Examiner in this way: "Hiram Johnson, the insurgent who has been nominated for governor of California by the republicans, is a native son of California, having been born in Sacramento, September 2, 1866. His father was Grove L. Johnson, ex-congressman and himself, for years, one of the leaders of republican politics in the state. After attending the public schools in Sacramento, Hiram Johnson entered the University of California when he was eighteen years old. He did not graduate, however, leaving in the middle of his third year to marry, and enter upon the practice of law. For a long time he was associated with his brother, the late Albert Johnson, who identified himself with the reform element of the republican party. During his many years of practice in Sacramento Mr. Johnson was an active opponent of the regular party organization, and on two occasions succeeded in swinging his county delegation to state conventions into the insurgent ranks. He took an active interest in municipal affairs in Sacramento, and was largely instrumental, through his independence and originality of campaigning, in the election of William Clark as mayor of the capital city. During Clark's administration, Johnson, in the advisory capacity of city attorney, was responsible for the legislation that closed the gambling houses of Sacramento. In 1902 Mr. Johnson moved to San Francisco. Here he quickly took a place in the front rank of the trial lawyers. One of his first cases of note was as attorney for Frederick H. Marriott in his suit for damages against Thomas H. Williams, growing out of the shooting of Marriott by Williams, as the result of an alleged slanderous publication. Johnson won for his client, who sued for \$45,000. As a prosecutor he achieved fame by convicting George D. Collins, the San Francisco attorney, who was accused of bigamy. Mr. Johnson came into particular prominence through his association with the graft prosecution, and it was largely through his work, undertaken after the shooting of Francis J. Heney, in court in 1908, that the conviction of Abe Ruef was brought about. Mr. Johnson first came into political notice in San Francisco when he took part in the Taylor-Langdon campaign of 1907, his efforts being devoted to the aid of Langdon. He was also an effective factor in the last municipal campaign, and subsequently was chosen by the Lincoln-Roosevelt league as the candidate for governor."

IN A SPEECH delivered in New Hampshire Former United States Senator William B. Chandler declared that the work of the insurgents alone has saved the republican party from annihilation. In his argument against continued rule of the state by the Boston and Maine railroad he quoted a speech formerly made by United States Senator Gallinger, now the able supporter of railroads. Mr. Chandler said in part: "The need of continued reform is to protect the people against the corporations which had taken possession of nearly everything in modern life. Especially have our railroad corporations become most pernicious in New Hampshire. Let us see what the railroad corporations have done in New Hampshire; or rather what the one railroad corporation has done. It is best stated in the language of our able and distinguished United States senator, Doctor Gallinger. He said: 'I regard the invasion of our state by the Boston and Maine corporation with alarm. I believe it will be highly detrimental to our best interests and it ought to be resisted by every man who has at heart the welfare of New Hampshire. * * * I stand by that declara-