

# CURRENT TOPICS

**JONATHAN P. DOLLIVER**, United States senator from Iowa died October 16 at his home in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Senator Dolliver had been ill for some time with an affection of the heart, although in the midst of it all he carried on his part of the tremendous fight in which he was engaged. He was a famous orator, a leading insurgent and was spoken of as a presidential possibility in 1912. Funeral services were held at Fort Dodge, Thursday, October 20.

**I**N THE HOUSE of deputies in the Episcopal church convention at Cincinnati the proposal to include in the ritual of the church a form of prayer for the sick as a means of healing, was defeated largely by the lay delegates. An Associated Press dispatch, reporting the meeting, said: "No subject that has arisen since the convention began has aroused so much interest among churchmen. The opinions expressed range from absolute faith in actual miracles through the power of God to unbelief in the power of anything but medical treatment to cure the sick. The fact that the so-called 'Emanuel movement' had its origin in the Protestant Episcopal church in Emanuel parish, Boston, has had a deep influence. Churchmen take the ground that expert medical advice is the prime essential in all cases of illness, but that if faith in ultimate cure can be inspired in the patient, either through religious ministrations or otherwise, the physician's work will be generally aided."

**J. PIERPONT MORGAN** was one of the lay delegates at Cincinnati. A dispatch carried by the United Press says: "J. P. Morgan, although he has had no difficulty in making two millions where one existed before, is emphatically not a believer in miracles. When the discussion on the divine healing of the sick by prayer and the application of holy oil was at its height, in the Episcopal convention house of deputies, the Wall Street wizard made haste for the door. 'What do you think of it, Mr. Morgan?' a delegate asked him as he paused a moment in the lobby. 'It is the most disgusting affair I have ever listened to. I have heard more absurd statements from that platform on this subject than I ever heard before,' was the reply of the money king. Believers in present day miracles and divine healing predominate among the clerical delegates. One of them, the Rev. H. H. Harrison of Elizabeth, N. J., is authority for the statement that he himself had been healed by unction and that he, in turn, had so cured in six weeks a man afflicted with a so-called incurable disease and given up to die by physicians."

**T**HEODORE ROOSEVELT went up in the air at St. Louis October 11. He made an aeroplane flight and declared that it was the finest experience that he ever had. An Associated Press dispatch from St. Louis says: "Mr. Roosevelt traveled two times around the aviation field at Kinloch, eighteen miles west of St. Louis, in three minutes and twenty seconds. He waved his hand at the crowd of thousands on the field below, most of whom were too dumfounded and frightened to move. When the machine alighted easily a few feet from the starting point a mighty shout of applause and relief went up. Arch Hoxsey, a Wright aviator with whom Colonel Roosevelt made his flight, said that his passenger made a good fellow-voyager for such a trip, except that, instead of being afraid, he was having such a good time that Hoxsey was afraid he would fall out or interfere with the engine, which was roaring at his side. The colonel waved his hands at the crowd below so vigorously that Hoxsey called out to him: 'Keep your hands on the rail, colonel.' Colonel Roosevelt, who had forgotten to hold himself in, waved his hands once more, and then obeyed orders. The colonel's flight was a complete surprise to everybody. Although he had been

invited to go, no one had the least idea that he would do so, and he himself did not decide to go until the moment before he stepped into the machine. The trip to the aviation field to watch the flights there was on the afternoon's program for the colonel's day in St. Louis. He went to Kinloch in an automobile at the head of a procession of motor cars which was half a mile long. The cars were filled with members of the republican state and city committees and business men. The spectators were massed in throngs on every hand and a company of militia-men kept them back. Hoxsey's machine, a great biplane, was standing directly in front of the grand stand. Colonel Roosevelt stepped from his automobile, with Governor Hadley at his side, and walked over to it. He inspected the brown planes and the huge shiny engine and shook hands with the aviator. 'I'd like to have you for a passenger,' said Hoxsey. The colonel looked at him without a word. Then he began to take off his coat. It was the first intimation that anyone had had that he would make the trip."

**A**T PEORIA, ILL., Mr. Roosevelt made a speech in which he said: "Last winter I visited various Catholic missions in Africa, and just about Christmas I was at one of them, Bishop Hanlon's on the shores of the great Victoria Nyanza lake, just under the equator. There I met one of our fellow Americans, Mother Mary Paul, who was at the head of the religious sisters of the establishment. She had already been in correspondence with me, saying that I must not go through Africa without stopping and seeing their mission, because she was the only American missionary there in Uganda, right in the heart of the dark continent. So of course I stopped, and it was really like being suddenly brought home, for Mother Paul promptly gave me a message contained in a letter she had just received from two New York policemen whom I had appointed on the force when I was police commissioner. Now the mission to which Mother Paul belongs is doing a really striking and admirable work there in Africa, and I promised her that I would publicly tell about this before some Catholic body, and ask that the Catholics of the United States take an active interest in this Catholic mission in mid-Africa, where such good work is being done by an American nun. Uganda is one of the places where missionary effort has been signally successful. From personal knowledge I say this, and from personal knowledge I wish to bear hearty testimony to the good work being done there by the Catholic missions, and I hope the charitable Catholics in the United States will gladden the heart of Mother Paul by backing in substantial fashion the missionary work to which she has given her life. There is no other country in the world where there is such really broad religious toleration, such kindly good will, among good people of different religious creeds. There is no other country where Catholic and Protestant get on as we do here, each treating the other on the basis of our common citizenship, and judging him not as to how he worships his Creator, but on his conduct toward his fellow men, on his own worth as a man. We must never permit anything to make us deviate from this standpoint. Perhaps I can give you my own theory in short form by telling you of a correspondence I once had. Of course in every church there are some good men who are narrow, as well as some men who are narrow without being good, and one of these good narrow men, a Protestant clergyman, wrote me a letter of protest about my receiving Cardinal Satolli at the White House. I wrote him back saying that I had received the cardinal just as, for instance, I had received bodies of German Lutherans and Welch Methodists, and as I am expected to receive the Archbishop of Canterbury, and that I would hold myself to be a poor representative of the American people, an unworthy president of the United States, if I failed to treat with good will and friendliness all good men, no matter what their religious faith might be, and I then added that I could best explain my position by saying that I believed our country would last a very long

time, and that if it did, there would be many presidents, and some of these would be Catholics and some Protestants, and that I, a Protestant, wished to act toward my Catholic fellow-citizens exactly as I hoped that a Catholic president would act toward his Protestant fellow citizens. I think that expressed my views about as clearly as I can put them."

**A** "LITTLE RED book" figured in the Illinois Central graft investigation. This book was the personal expense record of Henry C. Ostermann, former president of the Ostermann Manufacturing company. The Associated Press report of the proceedings at Chicago says: "The book, tendered by the prosecution as its trump card, was presented by Henry C. Dolph, one time head of the Ostermann concern who spent several hours on the witness stand. Dolph was permitted to refresh his memory by referring to the book. In this manner a number of pages in the book were admitted as evidence against Frank B. Harriman, John M. Taylor and Charles L. Ewing, the defendants. The defense, however, fought the admission of each page. The name of Ira G. Rawn, late president of the Monon road and former vice president of the Illinois Central, appears frequently in the book. So do the names of Harriman, former general manager of the Illinois Central, and Taylor, former general storekeeper. Dolph testified that Harriman was paid a monthly sum of \$2,500 and that Rawn was given a flat payment of from \$10 to \$20 a car for each one repaired. In addition, said Dolph, Rawn, Harriman, Taylor, Joseph G. Buker and Ostermann received a special two per cent per month dividend from the Ostermann company. An account, alleged to be a brief summary of the special account occupying one page of the book, follows: F. B. Harriman et al., monthly, \$2,500; I. G. Rawn, \$20 per car; H. Barrisfore, former superintendent of terminals, monthly, \$150; W. J. Lahy, superintendent of terminals; J. M. Barrowdale, superintendent at Burnside; H. M. Dunlap, J. M. Taylor's chief clerk, and C. H. Polley, Ostermann's chief clerk, \$100 each, monthly; R. G. Ransom, agent at West Pullman, \$10; John Waters, conductor, \$25; J. H. Bowers, engineer, \$25; Mathew Morgan, \$25; E. A. Jones, inspector, \$100."

**A**N ITEM found in the book was the alleged contribution of \$300 on March 24, 1908, for Earnest Bihl's campaign fund for alderman of Chicago. Three subsequent items of \$100 each for the same purpose were found. Dolph said the money had been given as the result of small favors done the manufacturing company. None of these items were permitted in the court record. "How frequently did Ostermann call for that \$2,500 for Harriman?" asked counsel for the prosecution. "Every month," Dolph replied. Dolph testified that Ostermann told him in 1909 John M. Taylor asked him whether he had heard the business methods of Ostermann's company were going to be investigated. The witness said Taylor asked Ostermann if he thought the records of the company would stand investigation, and that Ostermann replied he would not welcome an inquiry. "Later it was learned a storekeeper named Stokes was sent out to the plant to make inquiries," continued the witness. "He bore a letter from Taylor. He went through the plant and we never heard from Stokes again."

## SPEECH VS. PLATFORM

Yes, Mr. Roosevelt made a speech at the New York convention, but the standpatters made the platform. Query: Which is the more important to make, a speech or secure the platform? A speech is good insofar as it is acceptable, but it is not binding on any one except the one who delivers it; while a platform is binding on all who run upon it. The more one thinks about that New York convention the stronger grows the suspicion that in the struggle over the ear of corn the standpatters got the grains and Mr. Roosevelt the cob.