

CURRENT TOPICS

EUROPEAN newspapers are having a great deal to say concerning the results in New York. A Paris cablegram carried by the Associated Press says: "The French press continues today its comment on results of the American election and directs attention to the international significance of the democratic success and lower tariffs in the United States and the consequent opening up of a bigger market for the products of Europe. The Figaro expresses the opinion that the result was 'a crushing defeat for Mr. Roosevelt,' to be explained in part by his abuse of his popularity and partly by the country's apprehension that in his over-powering ambitions spelled a danger to the democracy, paving a way to an autocracy, a one-man power and perhaps a life presidency. The Gaulois, royalist, thinks the Catholic clergy influenced the check on Mr. Roosevelt because of the unpleasant incident with the vatican when the colonel refused to accept certain terms as conditional to an audience with the pope."

ONE OF THE interesting results of the recent election will be the retirement of Chauncey M. Depew from the United States senate. A New York dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "With a safe democratic majority assured in the next state legislature, which will select a United States senator, political prophets are picking a probable successor for Chauncey M. Depew. Several candidates are expected to seek the position and in the opinion of political observers the race promises to be interesting. Already the names of four men in New York City have been advanced as having performed party service meriting this reward. They are William F. Sheehan, former Judge Alton B. Parker, Edward M. Shepard and John B. Stanchfield. In view of the fact that many of the changes which made democratic control of the legislature possible occurred upstate, it is considered certain the claims of men residing outside of New York City will be advanced. So far, however, no names of upstate democrats have been mentioned. Parker and William F. Sheehan are law partners. The latter is a former speaker of the house and former lieutenant governor. Edward M. Shepard of Brooklyn was the democratic candidate for mayor of New York City in 1901 and was one of the men mentioned for the gubernatorial nomination at the Rochester convention. John B. Stanchfield was the democratic nominee for governor in 1900 and received the complimentary nomination of his party for United States senator in 1901." Judge Parker has authorized a public statement to the effect that he would not accept the office of senator if elected. Senator Depew says that he is "happy in defeat." He says he is seventy-seven years of age and has spent fifty-four of these in active politics. The entire democratic state ticket in New York was elected.

THE FIRST conviction on finger print evidence was secured when, in a Chicago court, Thomas Jennings, a negro was found guilty of the murder of Charles A. Hiller on the night of September 19. An Associated Press dispatch says: "The jurors felt so confident of the guilt of Jennings that the first ballot resulted in a unanimous vote for conviction, with eleven of the jurors demanding the death penalty. On the third ballot the death sentence was made unanimous. Counsel for Jennings asked for a new trial on the ground that the finger print evidence should not have been allowed. As a result it is probable that the supreme court will be expected to rule upon the use of such evidence in criminal cases. Judge Kavanaugh, who presided at the trial, declared, when objection was first made to the evidence presented by the state, that in his opinion the murderer of Hiller wrote his signature when he rested his hand upon a freshly painted porch railing at the Hiller home. Following the murder of Hiller, this porch railing was sawed off and taken to detective headquarters, where photographs were made of the finger prints. These photographs were enlarged, and following Jennings' arrest were compared with new imprints

of his left hand made at the police bureau of identification. Finger print experts testified at the trial that there were thirty-three points of similarity on the first three fingers on the left hand of the murderer. Hiller, who was chief clerk of the Rock Island railroad, was shot to death in the front hall of his residence at Washington Heights, Ill., by a negro burglar. Hiller had encountered the burglar in an upper hall. The two grappled and fought their way down a stairway to the first floor. When the police took hold of the investigation it was only known that a negro had killed Hiller. Jennings was arrested less than half an hour after the shooting at a point three-quarters of a mile from the Hiller home, where he had boarded an electric car bound for Chicago. Detectives who were sent to the Hiller home immediately following the report of the murder found the hand imprint on the porch railing."

GENERAL WONDER has been expressed that something has not been done to avoid mine disasters which have been so frequent of late. A Washington dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "Two government rescue cars, fully equipped for coping with mine disasters, will start early next week on a tour of inspection in which miners and mine owners will be taught the use of the oxygen helmet and the best methods of preventing disasters or of meeting them when they occur. Incidentally squads of men in the various mines visited will be organized into rescue companies, so that they will be available instantly when called upon to assist the experts of the bureau of mines. One of the cars will leave Chicago Monday. Stops will be made at La Salle, Rock Island and Sherrard, Ill.; Colfax and Des Moines, Ia., and Omaha, Neb. The other car will leave Pittsburgh Tuesday, traversing West Virginia and Maryland. Stops in these two states will also be made at Morgantown, Fairmont, Clarksburg, Grafton, Tunnellton and Piedmont, W. Va., and Frostburg and Cumberland, Md. The car leaving Chicago is en route to Rock Springs, Wyo., where it will be stationed in readiness for any call in that region."

THE STORY of one Lincoln-Douglas debate is told by the New York Sun in this way: "Professor James T. McCleary of Mankato, Minn., who for fourteen years represented a district of his state in congress, not only brought to town recently a report on political conditions in Minnesota, but also told a new Lincoln story. 'A friend of mine out west, who is now about sixty-five years old, told me that when a boy he attended, with his father, one of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates in Illinois,' said Professor McCleary. 'My friend's father was a Lincoln man, but the place in which this particular debate took place was a Douglas stronghold. Douglas spoke first and he was frequently interrupted by vociferous applause. The cheering and the handclapping at the end lasted four or five minutes. When Lincoln was introduced the crowd broke out into cheers for Douglas and kept it up for several minutes. Lincoln meanwhile waited patiently. When at length the enthusiasm had subsided, Lincoln extended his long right arm for silence. When he had partly got this he said in an impressive tone: 'What an orator Judge Douglas is!' This unexpected tribute to their friend set the audience wild with enthusiasm. When this applause had run its course Lincoln, extending his hand again, this time obtained silence more easily. 'What a fine presence Judge Douglas has!' exclaimed the speaker earnestly. Again tumultuous applause followed the tribute. More and more easily the tall, gaunt lawyer got silence as he went on with admiring exclamations: 'How well rounded his sentences are! How well chosen his language is! How apt his illustrations are!' ending up with: 'What a splendid man Judge Douglas is!' Then when the audience had again become silent at his call, Lincoln leaned forward and said: 'And now, my countrymen, how many of you can tell me one thing Judge Douglas said?' My friend told me he searched his own heart for an answer and found

none. Afterward he asked his father if he could remember anything Judge Douglas had said, and the latter remembered practically nothing. 'But,' my friend said to me impressively; 'even now, half a century later, I can recall practically all that Lincoln said.'

THE AMERICAN minister to Mexico reported an anti-American demonstration in Mexico City. Ambassador Wilson's dispatch said that riots grew out of the lynching of a Mexican at Rock Springs, Texas, November 3. Mr. Wilson's dispatch said the riotous students who paraded the streets cried, "Death to Americans," and threatened the consulate general. He also told how these students had pulled an American flag from a business house and had trampled it underfoot. Secretary Knox, while deploring the situation, believes it is not representative of the real attitude of the two peoples. In a formal statement he said: "The manifestations of resentment towards Americans reported from Mexico is the cause of the deepest regret to the executive government and equally so to the American people. At no time have the government and people of the two countries sustained toward each other closer and more cordial relations, predicated upon common purposes and sympathies than now. It is most unfortunate that the brutal crime in our country, of which a Mexican was the victim, should be made the excuse for a demonstration of hostility towards Americans in Mexico. It is a satisfaction to believe that such demonstrations find little sympathy in the body of Mexican people and none in the Mexican government. I am sure the Mexican government will be swift to put down all hostile demonstrations against Americans in Mexico, and to punish those engaged in them, as this government will be prompt to press for the punishment of persons guilty of crimes against citizens of Mexico residing in this country." The Mexican government has given assurances that entire reparation will be made.

EMILE OLLIVER, famous minister of Napoleon III., at the outbreak of the Franco-German war, has published in La Figaro another chapter of his forthcoming volume, the fourteenth, of his "History of the Second Empire." The Paris correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says that discussing the greatness of Bismarck, Olliver declares there never has been a politician who was honest, in the usual meaning of the word. "It is not the ethereal consideration of subject ideality, but the hard realities and interests that are supremely prosaic, as well as the passions both of a common and of an elevated sort, which determine together the science of statecraft. It is thus that Bismarck would have liked to be praised. It is thus that one must speak of this extraordinary man—the most cunning of foxes, the most audacious of lions—who could captivate and affright, make of truth itself the vehicle of falsehood, to whom gratitude, forgetfulness of wrongs and respect for vanquished, were unknown, as were all other generous sentiments except devotion to national ambition; who found everything that contributed to success legitimate, who dazzled the imaginations of men by his utter disdain of the importunities of morality. Esthetically this aspect of Bismarck most pleases me. From the moment that he unmasks himself and boasts of the audacious trickery by which he has placed his Germany, hitherto divided and powerless, in the front rank of nations, he is as great as satan, as superb as satan."

M. OLLIVER in this chapter controverts with all the force of his pen the popular theory that there is something fundamentally and mutually antagonistic in the nature of the German and the Frenchman. "The cause of the Franco-Prussian conflict," he says, "was one of those artificial fatalities born of false conceptions and the unwholesome ambitions of statesmen which time might wear out, transform and often extinguish." It was Olliver's ambition, when he took power, to establish friendship and co-operation between the two nations. "But," he