

CURRENT TOPICS

THE RELATIONS between Japan and the United States would be all right but for the interference of the sensational press. A dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald, under date of Washington, April 2, says: "The Japanese government, in an effort to carry out all reasonable peace provisions and conventions among the great powers, and desirous not to stand in the way of pending negotiations for arbitration treaties, will readily agree to a revision of the Hayashi-Lansdowne treaty of 1905, if this should be found to interfere with the terms of the Anglo-American treaty. This fact, cabled to Washington from Tokio, is the result of important and hurried exchanges between the Japanese embassy and the foreign office at Tokio. The circumstances that led to it were purely theoretical, but notwithstanding this they have resulted in an important decision. In taking the stand of being ready to revise the Anglo-Japanese treaty the authorities of the Japanese empire are acting on the assumption that the convention of six years ago may be found to clash with the arbitration agreement between the United States and Great Britain. As this contingency was widely published, even if without color of official positiveness, the Japanese embassy lost no time in transmitting to the home office the point of view it sought to carry. It appears, according to information about this matter that Japan wishes to go on record as being ready to support, both in practice as well as in spirit, her policy of good understanding and friendly terms with both the United States and Great Britain. Feeling that she has nothing to lose by permitting the Anglo-American pact to go through and that nothing in Japanese statesmanship may suffer from its enactment, Japan will inform the two principals through her ambassadors of her intentions."

IN THE MUNICIPAL elections held throughout the country there were many surprises. The socialists in Milwaukee had a back-set. A non-partisan judicial and school board ticket having a complete victory. In Baltimore James H. Preston, democrat, was elected mayor. William Thum, socialist, was elected mayor of Pasadena Cal. He is called "the millionaire socialist." In Wichita, Kan., the socialists were beaten, John M. Graham, independent, being elected mayor. In Chicago Carter H. Harrison was elected mayor for the fifth term, defeating Charles E. Merriam, his republican opponent by something over 17,000. Referring to the result in Chicago, the Record-Herald says: "Harrison's return to public life is interpreted as heralding great changes in local politics. His election puts Roger C. Sullivan and the present democratic county organization out of power. It will have an important bearing on control of the state democracy. It will probably determine the leaning of the Illinois delegation to the next democratic national convention. Behind the scenes this was one of the big stakes played for. It was a fight between Sullivan and a Harrison-Hearst combination, and Sullivan loses. Again, the election of a democratic mayor in Chicago, following so closely upon the election of a democratic county ticket last November, may presage the election of a democratic state ticket in 1912. For weeks republican leaders have been frankly avowing that the mayoralty election was being closely watched as an index to what might happen to the state at large in 1912. At Springfield the talk has been open that the democrats have an opportunity to overthrow the republicans two years hence."

HERE IS A STORY from life, from the Denver Times that ought to be read by every man and woman in the country: "To take a boy who has been convicted of three crimes into your home and give him an equal place among the other children of the family is a thing that many mothers might long hesitate to do. Yet this is what Mrs. Jennie Stephens, a kind and motherly woman did, for Harrell Martin, the youth who was found guilty in the district court

of the charge of burglary, larceny and of having received stolen goods. Through a friend who had previously employed Martin, Mrs. Stephens learned of the boy's case. Regardless of the charges hanging over his head, she sought to comfort him in his misfortune. She heard his story. He was not a bad boy at all; he was merely one of the thousand victims of circumstances. 'Come with me,' she said to the lad. 'You shall not want for a home and it will not be necessary to unlawfully take money again.' Mrs. Stephens is not wealthy. She has children, one of them a son about the age of young Martin. Mrs. Stephens was surprised when a representative of the Times asked her if she did not fear to leave the boy with her children. She seemed quite pained to think that any one should regard the youth as a criminal. 'Not a bit,' she exclaimed with tenderness. 'Why should I? He is just an innocent boy and I believe him thoroughly when he says it was the first time he ever yielded to a wrong impulse.' 'What are you going to do with him?' was asked. 'I haven't outlined a definite plan any more than I have for my own children. I shall give him the same care that I would a son. He bears all the marks of a gentleman and I shall trust implicitly in him.' In speaking of the early life of Martin, she said that he had been left an orphan at the age of six years. Since then he has had to fight many bitter struggles. He is just twenty-one years old now. He left Illinois where he was born, soon after his mother died. Penniless and alone he wandered from place to place, seeking employment. He worked as a bell 'hop,' porter and anything he could get. Many times he was compelled to sleep in doorways or a barn, where he found a softer bed in a hay loft. Martin has been in Denver two years. His arrest the other day was the first black mark recorded against him. 'To send such a boy to a reformatory among the worst boy criminals of the state would be a crime,' declared Mrs. Stephens. How many mothers can stand coldly by and watch a young boy who happens to be at fault on a sudden impulse, be left to the mercy of the courts is intolerable. My only thought at present is to make him a good and useful man. I have no fears for the outcome."

SENATOR O'GORMAN, in a public statement says: "I am in thorough accord with the principles enunciated in the platforms of the last democratic national and state conventions. The need for an immediate downward revision of the tariff is urgent and further delay in the accomplishment of this much needed reform will not be tolerated by the American people. I am opposed to all special privileges and private monopolies; to the new nationalism and the centralizing tendencies of the republican party. I favor rigid economy in governmental expenditure and the passage of a constitutional amendment providing for an income tax free from mischievous interference with the governmental instrumentalities of the several states. I shall earnestly support the proposed reciprocity treaty with Canada. I am in favor of the parcels post, and I have very strong convictions as to the duty of the government to fortify the Panama canal. The democratic party, in national and state conventions has declared in favor of the election of United States senators by the people, and I unreservedly subscribe to that principle."

IN HIS SPEECH before the University of California, Mr. Roosevelt said: "I am interested in the Panama canal because I started it. If I had followed traditional, conservative methods I would have submitted a dignified state paper of probably two hundred pages to congress, and the debate on it would have been going on yet; but I took the canal zone and let congress debate, and while the debate goes on, the canal does also." The New York World, which has an old grievance against the former president contrasts this frank confession of lawlessness with the message to congress of December 15, 1908, in which Mr. Roosevelt said: "The congress took the action it did

after the most minute and exhaustive examination and discussion, and the executive carried out the direction of congress to the letter. Every act of this government, every act for which this government had the slightest responsibility, was in pursuance of the act of the congress here." On this point the World says: "Having admitted that he seized the Panama canal zone, Mr. Roosevelt might properly proceed to tell the whole truth about Panama—how William Nelson Cromwell, as the paid lobbyist of the French company, year after year blocked the adoption of the Nicaragua route because the French company would be ruined unless it could sell its property to the United States; how Mr. Cromwell, as attorney for the French company, was allowed by Mr. Roosevelt and the state department to initiate and draft the treaty between the United States and Colombia; the treaty which Colombia refused to ratify; how the Panama revolution was bought and paid for; how the American forces, ordered to the isthmus by Mr. Roosevelt in advance of the uprising, prevented the Colombian troops from suppressing the revolt; how \$40,000,000 was then paid by the United States government to Mr. Cromwell's clients and \$10,000,000 more to the fake republic of Panama. Mr. Roosevelt's testimony before a congressional committee of investigation might be quite as interesting as Mr. Cromwell's."

REFERRING to New York's new senator, the New York World, the paper that opposed Mr. Sheehan, says: "It is true that Senator O'Gorman is a member of Tammany Hall, but the fact has never influenced his course as a judge and it should never influence his course as a senator. He has been elected to the highest office within the gift of the state, an office that has been held by men like Gouverneur Morris, De Witt Clinton, Martin Van Buren, Silas Wright, John A. Dix, William H. Seward, Hamilton Fish, Roscoe Conkling and William M. Evarts. It is an office which Justice O'Gorman can fully measure up to in character and ability. Nothing can prevent his being a really great United States senator except failure to recognize his own opportunities."

GEORGE MORRISON SHAFROTH

George Morrison Shafroth, second son of Governor and Mrs. John F. Shafroth, died at the Denver home of his parents, aged twenty years. George had been an invalid for many years. His suffering resulting from an accident happening when he was a child. He was a close student, possessing a fine mind, and in spite of his affliction, a disposition that won him the love of everyone who came in contact with him. Men and women in every section of the country will sympathize deeply with Governor and Mrs. Shafroth. Referring to young Shafroth, the Denver News said:

"He was an invalid nearly all his life. For the past two years he has been unable to rise from his couch. His feebleness was thrown into yet stronger relief by contrast with the sturdy health of his father and brothers. Yet George Shafroth never brought the burden of illness and peevishness into the home. He was the life of his home circle; always cheery, always hopeful, always willing to take a soldier's chance with his scanty equipment for life's campaign. 'Don't bother about me, mother,' he used to say. 'I can be just as good an office lawyer as anybody. A man doesn't need to be an athlete for that. And there are lots of things a fellow can do, nowadays.' He had the courage and mental capacity to make good; but his health did not permit him to try."

NEWS

By Munroe Smith, professor in Columbia University.

"The lie that speeds on wire and rail
Finds everywhere an open door;
Correction limps along the trail,
Tripped up by every editor."

March, 1911.

—The Independent.