

CURRENT TOPICS

JOSEPH P. TUMULTY, who will be President Wilson's secretary, is thirty-three years of age and a native of Jersey City, N. J. He was Governor Wilson's secretary from the time the latter assumed the office of governor until last November, when he resigned to become clerk of the state supreme court. Since election he has been the governor's secretary without compensation. Governor Wilson found Tumulty in the legislature, where he had served four terms when Wilson was elected. Since then Tumulty has been Wilson's most intimate counselor. He was reared in a tenement district ward in Jersey City, his father being an iron molder in poor circumstances. Brought up in an atmosphere of hard, practical politics, he developed a progressive democracy that was at its height when Wilson became governor. This attracted the ex-college president to him. Tumulty was educated in parochial schools and St. Peter's college, Jersey City, and studied law in a law office. Ten years ago he was admitted to the bar. He is married and is the father of four girls and two boys.

SPEAKING of Mr. Tumulty, Henry C. Richmond, chief clerk of the Nebraska house of representatives said: "From my acquaintance with him I should think that a more model selection could not have been made. Mr. Tumulty is a progressive democrat and is temperamentally qualified and thoroughly educated. I do not think that any president ever had a better secretary than Mr. Tumulty will make. I remember how much sympathy he showed with regard to affairs affecting this section of the country, and I noted that he showed a keen insight into, and understanding of, the things which most men in his position only have a superficial knowledge of. Mr. Tumulty is only a young man but he is gifted far beyond the ordinary man. He is a magnificent type of young American manhood. He was born and raised in Jersey City and knows the ups and downs of republican politics as well as any man in the country. He is strong willed and resolute but kindly withal, and so sympathetic and considerate of the rights of other people, that I think he is an ideal man for the position. If the time comes when the president wishes to elevate him to the cabinet I dare predict he will do nothing to bring reproach upon our new president. Mr. Tumulty, in my opinion, will be the greatest secretary that any president has ever had."

THE plan to unite the Pacific ocean and the Amazon river by rail is described by William A. Reid, a newspaper correspondent, in this way: To the average reader the five words that were recently flashed over the cables from Lima, Peru, have little or no significance: "Work begun on Yucayali railroad." The world at large has never heard of Goyllarisquisca; yet, this Peruvian town is teeming with workmen—a great undertaking is having its beginning—an enterprise in which important economic and commercial conditions are to undergo radical changes. "On to the Yucayali," is to be the slogan of this important rail route, which in plain words, is the linking of the Pacific coast by rail with the headwaters of the Amazon river. All the world knows of the wonderful Oroya railroad, of Peru, and of the difficulties which beset the indefatigable Meigs in pushing its rails to the greatest heights known to railroading. Its lines reached the summit of the mountains and from that point have been extended longitudinally, but the descent of the eastern slopes of the Andes was not attempted. Now, the cable mentioned above means that the last obstacle has been removed and that work has actually commenced. Goyllarisquisca is the northern terminus of the Oroya railroad, from which point construction work will be pushed eastward as rapidly as North American capital and modern machinery will command. The distance to the Yucayali from the Oroya road is about 270 miles to the river port of Pucallpa. From the latter place 2,000-ton steamers are to ply to Iquitos, a Peruvian city of great commercial importance

2,000 miles from the mouth of the Amazon. Ocean steamers are already running regularly as far as the latter place. The cost of the Amazon-Pacific, as it is called, is estimated at \$10,000,000, on which the government of Peru guarantees six per cent under security of income from the tobacco tax. The route of the road is through a wonderfully productive region but quite undeveloped. What does this new trade route mean to the United States? Briefly, it will be possible for shipments of rubber, hardwoods, and hundreds of tropical products from the upper Amazon region to reach us directly via the port of Callao and the Panama canal and vice versa. To Peru, it means the exchange of eastern and western products within three of four days instead of six months' time and 20,000 miles of travel via the Amazon and Europe. The promoters hope to complete the road by the time the Panama canal is officially inaugurated.

THE Chinese are proud of large families, and a large family living together under one roof is accepted as assurance of peace and prosperity. A writer in Tid-Bits says: A large family which is able to live together without dividing up the property always receives much credit and is highly respected. It is one of the highest distinctions in China to have Wu Fu Tung T'ang, or five generations, under one roof, although such a distinction is attained by very few. According to a recent census, the family of Meng Yu Shih, a widow, of the village of Mantao, in the territory of Lei-hai-wei, has the distinction of being the largest in the land. Her family consists of 66 members, and, with one servant, there are 67 mouths to be fed daily. Meng Yu Shih is sixty-six years old, and has nine sons and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all living under her roof. She has not yet attained the ambition of being the head of Wu Fu Tung T'ang, but the size of her family has already given her the honor and pleasure of being the largest in China, even if she has not five generations under one roof. There are many households with more than 40 members, and almost all old and distinguished families of China have at least 20 members. Families of small size, three or four, are considered rather bad form, even if they are rich and occupying high positions. Size of family is as valuable in China as size of strong-box.

A PRETTY STORY is vouched for in an editorial printed in the Chicago Inter-Ocean, as follows: Proprietor Drake of the Blackstone hotel and various bellboys and chambermaids hastily and with considerable anxiety responded to emphatic and persistent demands for the proprietor from room 501 the other evening. They entered the room without ceremony to find an eight-year-old boy in his pajamas standing in a chair and talking vigorously into the house telephone. Quite unabashed the little chap proceeded to explain. Said he: "I'm Willie Jackson. My papa went down stairs an hour ago and he hasn't come back. My mamma is home in Cincinnati. I want somebody to say my prayers to so I can go to sleep." Here is a nice boy of whom that mother in Cincinnati has good reason to be proud. Most little boys would have been panic-stricken at the very idea that seemed perfectly natural to Willie Jackson—to say nothing of most "big boys." But Willie Jackson's God is a living God and he is not ashamed to show his love and reverence for Him. We can wish Willie Jackson no better than that he may grow to be the man his boyhood promises. So may it be!

WHAT the Los Angeles Tribune regards as the first step toward military despotism is involved in House Bill 8141 now pending in congress. The Tribune says: It would saddle an expense of untold millions on the nation, and make of the United States an armed camp like Russia. It might ultimately, if the history of Rome and other dead nations teaches anything, destroy our government, even as the substitution of militarism as the cohesive power in place of individual rectitude destroyed theirs. The

bill would pay enlisted men and officers of the national guards salaries from \$45 to \$360 a month, the burden totaling some \$15,000,000. But as the thing grew, as it would by attracting hordes into an easy life, the expense might increase to any proportions. All over America the citizen militiamen, now organized on an emergency, defensive basis, would become professional soldiers on an offensive basis. There are 118,000 men in our state militia forces. They would become a part of the regular army. By the provisions of the bill the president could instantly order all or any part of these to any part of the national domain. Think for a moment, too, of the political power of this vast military establishment if once its potential force should be brought to favor some measure for its own aggrandizement. The dangers lurking in this bill, and merely hinted at here, are not too remote to consider seriously. General Wood, General Bliss and others have been making speeches advocating the very thing planned by this measure. Wood urged it during his recent visit to Los Angeles. Militarism has ever been a most insidious danger to a free people, and America is not too strong to fall a prey to its designing schemes.

ONE man has been discovered that never heard of Theodore Roosevelt. A writer in the New York Journal says: Step forth, Karl Koudlka, aspirant for naturalization, and let a palpitating nation gaze upon you! Though you failed to satisfy the presiding judge that you knew enough United States history to become a citizen, yet you wrote your name large in the hall of fame. Having blithely answered that William Taft is president, you thereby proved that you were neither deaf, nor dumb, nor blind. And thus, in full possession of these God-given faculties, you listened to this "A B C" of questions: "Do you know anything about Theodore Roosevelt?" "No," you said. Moreover, you had not heard of him, neither had you read of him. He was and is to you stranger than the contents of your favorite Hungarian goulash is to us. Do not weep and gnash your teeth, Karl Koudlka; you may never become a citizen of these United States, but a prouder honor is yours, for you can say: "I am unique. One in one hundred million I alone do not know who Theodore Roosevelt is!"

AN EFFORT made in the Nebraska legislature to protect a law from "judicial legislation," is described by the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal in this way: Senator Cordeal's "Blue Sky" bill closes with the following which the supreme court is expected to look upon as an admonition from the people to deal gently with the work of the legislature: "Should the courts declare any section, or any part of a section, of this act unconstitutional or unauthorized by law, or in conflict with any other section or part of subdivision of a section or provision of this act, then such decision shall affect only the section or part of sub-division of a section, or provision so declared to be unconstitutional, and shall not affect any other section or any other part or sub-division of a section or provision of this act. It is further expressly provided that each section and each part of sub-division of a section herein is independent of every other section and every other part or subdivision of a section, and not any section or any part or sub-division of a section is an inducement for the enactment of any other section or part or sub-division of a section." In other words the legislature knows what it is doing in every paragraph of the bill, and is not accepting one section as the means of getting some other section passed. It is an interesting evidence of the growing desire to keep legislation in the hands of the people and out of the hands of the courts.

CASTRO, former president of Venezuela, was entertained at lunch by Governor Sulzer of New York. The former president is doing a great deal of talking, and some of it decidedly interesting. He prepared for the New York World the following statement: "To defend the