

Current Topics.

The first session of the 57th congress concluded its labors July 1. Republican leaders claim to be fully satisfied with the result of the session. Democratic leaders also express satisfaction.

John M. Burke, of New York, has just given \$4,000,000 for the purpose of founding a home for convalescents in that city. Mr. Burke, who is now in his eighty-first year, made his fortune in the West Indian trade. He is a devout Catholic, but the home will be open to all worthy applicants, irrespective of creed.

The Minnesota republican convention indorsed the action of the state's congressional delegation in regard to the Cuban reciprocity measure. As the Minnesota delegation opposed the president's policy of reciprocity with Cuba the indorsement of the congressmen cannot be construed otherwise than as a "slap" at the president.

With the close of the fiscal year, June 30, the last of the war taxes imposed to defray the expenses of the Spanish-American war disappeared. In this disappearance the government loses about \$79,000,000 a year in revenue. The largest single item was the revenue from stock transactions, this one item furnishing about \$12,000,000 yearly.

The International Sunday School convention held in Denver during the latter part of June was the largest in the history of Sunday school work. Considerable discussion was aroused over the proposition to eliminate the quarterly temperance lessons from the series prepared by the lesson committee. The proposition, however, met with no favor from the lesson committee and was not considered when the matter was presented.

During the closing hours of congress appropriation bills were passed to provide money for paying the deficiencies of the Buffalo and Charlestown expositions. Although the bills provided expressly that the appropriation should not be considered as a precedent, it will be, and managers of future expositions will be inclined to prodigality in the matter of expenditures, relying upon congress to make good all losses by taxing the general public.

American residents in London are indignant at Ambassador Choate because he insisted upon having the Fourth of July quietly celebrated in that city. The American society usually has a big banquet with speeches galore, but Mr. Choate demurred this year, declaring that in view of the king's illness good taste demanded that the day be observed quietly. As Queen Alexandria is attending festivals and reviews the American residents were unable to see any good reason for abandoning their usual festivities.

Senator Dolliver, republican, declares that the republican congress has "fully and satisfactorily met the expectations of the American people." He declares that "the Philippine questions has been disposed of in a manner which will forever remain a monument to the broad-minded and liberal policy of the American government." Mr. Dolliver sees but one disappointment so far as this session is concerned. This was with respect to the failure to give Cuba "preferential commercial relations with this country as urged by the president."

In an interview Senator Hanna says that "during the session just ended congress settled some of the greatest legislative questions that have arisen since the foundation of the government," and Senator Hanna adds: "The republican majority has demonstrated its ability to meet them all. The results will redound to the best interests of the country." Mr. Hanna says that "everything done adds strength and confidence, insures for us a safe and sure election of the next house of representatives, and a continuation of the present prosperous conditions and guarantees future national development."

President Roosevelt seized upon July Fourth as the date for issuing his proclamation declaring peace in the Philippines and extending pardon to all political offenders. By the terms of the proclamation the civil government supercedes the military government. The president occupies considerable space in his proclamation with praise for the soldiers who have performed arduous duties in the archipelago, and commends them for

the humane methods used in dealing with "every devise of unscrupulous treachery," when compelled to "contemplate without reprisal the infliction of barbarous cruelties upon their comrades and friendly natives."

Mr. Cannon of Illinois, who pays considerable attention to appropriations and who aspires to the title of "The Watchdog of the Treasury," has exerted himself somewhat to show that this was not a billion-dollar congressional session. It will be remembered that the 55th congressional session, presided over by Thomas B. Reed, became famous and somewhat obnoxious because of its extravagant appropriations and it therefore became known as the billion-dollar congress. These exorbitant appropriations were made, however, during a period of two years, while the enormous appropriations made by the present republican congress were made during a single session.

By unanimous vote the legislature of Louisiana has debarred from the public schools of that state all histories that do not give Admiral Winfield Scott Schley full credit for the naval victory of Santiago. A heavy penalty is imposed upon teachers who violate the law by teaching that Admiral Schley did not have supreme command and is not entitled to full credit for the victory. It is believed that other states will take similar action, and publishers of school text books are in a quandary. The government records show that Admiral Sampson was in active command during the battle, but the public at large still insists upon giving Admiral Schley the credit.

A vigorous fight was made with relation to the hour of adjournment, and the purpose of the democrats who fought for delay involved a very important matter. The democrats sought to have the motion for adjournment returned to the committee with instructions to report so as to change the date of adjournment from July 1 to July 8. The purpose of the democrats was to have the committee instructed to prepare a bill providing for the removal of tariff duties from all trust-made goods.

The republicans, however, were determined that the tariff question should not be considered in any of its phases by this congress, and so the effort of the democrats was defeated.

As was anticipated trouble has arisen over the payment of the Chinese indemnity. China is unable to pay the indemnity and the "powers" have kindly consented to let the principle stand and collect interest thereon. China offers to pay the interest, but insists that payment be made upon the rate of exchange existing at the time the award was made. This means a saving to China of several million taels a year as compared with the rate now existing, and a corresponding loss to the "powers." Great Britain, Germany and France refused to receive interest on that basis, but the United States has insisted that China is right. The indications are that the European nations will admit the rightfulness of China's contention after further deliberation.

King Edward VII. continues to improve in health rapidly. His rapid recovery contradicts in large measure the long-continued reports that he has been leading a dissipated life. King Edward is more than 60 years old, and his rapid recovery from a severe surgical operation indicates that he is still a man of splendid physique, strong constitution and good health. No man of his age could, after a life of severe dissipation, recover so rapidly from such an operation as the one performed upon him. It will be several weeks before the king is able to appear in public, and it will doubtless be months before the coronation ceremonies will take place. Indeed, it is barely possible that ceremonies such as planned and abandoned will not be again undertaken.

Congressman Griggs, chairman of the democratic congressional committee, thinks that the republican congress has done many things the people of the country don't want and failed to do many things the people want. In Mr. Griggs' opinion, this congress will be repudiated at the polls in the November elections. Mr. Griggs claims that the congress has not only repudiated the plain platform promises relating to tariff revision and Cuban reciprocity, but it has appropriated more of the people's money than ever before was appropriated in a single session of congress. He points to the failure of the republican congress to give the people relief in the matter of trusts as good grounds for believing that the people will not indorse the work of this session at the polls next November.

The British government is in a quandary con-

cerning the case of Colonel Arthur Lynch. Colonel Lynch, a British subject, enlisted in the Boer army. While in the field he was elected to parliament by an Irish constituency. When he arrived in London to take his seat he was arrested on the charge of treason. Before his arrest and imprisonment the war was ended and amnesty declared. Whether the declaration includes Lynch is a question. Just now he is considerable of an elephant on the hands of the British authorities, and while it is not likely that he will be allowed to sit in parliament it is probable that he will be allowed to go after a nominal punishment. Great Britain is not in a frame of mind to do things calculated to keep the Boer war proceedings prominently before the public. The people who pay the taxes have enough already to remember that war by.

The holding of great annual church and religious society conventions is growing more popular each year. The annual meetings of the Christian Endeavor societies create widespread interest and railroads are taxed to the utmost to provide for the traffic. The Epworth League and Baptist Young People make their annual meetings great events, and a vast amount of good is accomplished. One of the great religious gatherings of the year will be held in Omaha next October, 16 to 25, when the Disciples church hold their annual meeting. It is believed that upwards of 25,000 visitors will be called to Omaha by this meeting. The growing interest in religious work is due in large measure to the enthusiasm aroused at these annual religious meetings of all denominations.

The fatalities attendant upon Fourth of July celebrations this year are greater in number than ever. This is not due to any particular growth in patriotic observance of the day, but to the deadly dynamite cracker and the blank cartridge. The fulminate contained in the blank cartridges seems to be prolific of tetanus germs, and wounds caused by one of them usually results in lockjaw. In his wild desire to make a noise the average American boy or man seeks the largest firecracker obtainable, and this desire is gratified by manufacturers of firecrackers who use dynamite instead of powder. The result is a bomb that scatters death with lavishness. Many cities have adopted ordinances forbidding the sale or use of these "cannon crackers," but the casualty reports indicate that the ordinances are not enforced.

It is worthy of comment that the same congress that adopted the Philippine bill, a measure which provides so far as the Filipinos are concerned, taxation without representation, and which imposes upon them a government against their will, appropriated \$100,000 for the purpose of erecting statues of Count Pulaski and Barou Steuben, the revolutionary heroes. These statues are to be erected in the city of Washington.

It does not seem to have occurred to the republican leaders that the inconsistency of their actions will have any material effect upon the people.

Mr. Sulzer of New York made the motion postponing the date of adjournment from July 1 to July 8, but the motion was lost by a vote of 51 yeas to 104 nays; and finally the adjournment resolution was carried by a vote of 137 yeas to 76 nays.

After the conference report on the Philippine bill had been adopted, Senator Carmack of Tennessee called up his resolution providing for a continuance of the investigation by the Philippine committee and also providing for a visit to the Philippine islands by the committee at an early day. This precipitated an interesting discussion. Mr. Spooner vigorously attacked the minority of the Philippine committee, and declared that their purpose was to make "an attack upon the American army."

Senator Carmack denied that any attack had been or was contemplated by the democrats upon the army and he said that any fool could charge such a calumny and any parrot could be taught to repeat it. The result was that the resolution was referred to a committee, which action being interpreted, means that the investigation of the war in the Philippines is at an end, so far as the republican senate is concerned.

Senator James K. Jones, chairman of the democratic national committee, declares that the results of the present congress have not met the expectations of the country. He points out that when congress assembled there was a strong feeling throughout the country in favor of some reduction of tariff taxation. Congressman Babcock and other republican leaders in the west came to Washington with loud declara-