

## Current Topics.

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT ITSELF any too well pleased over the muddle into which the question of the civil status of the Porto Ricans and the Filipinos has drifted, as a consequence of our colonial policy, is revealed by the Washington correspondent of the Des Moines Register and Leader, a republican paper. It seems that the officials of the state and treasury departments are considerably disturbed because of the complications. One of the duties of the state department is to furnish the American traveling abroad with papers which will insure the citizen's protection on his travels. One of the duties of the treasury department is to see that only those are admitted to this country who have a right to come here. The state department has arranged for the benefit of the Filipinos and the Porto Ricans a certificate reciting that the bearer is "loyal to the United States," and "entitled to be accorded adequate protection by the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States." The Washington correspondent of the Register and Leader points out that if the bearer of one of these certificates sought to enter the one country in the world to whose government he owes allegiance, he would be subjected to all the tests prescribed for foreigners and aliens by our immigration laws which were written to defend our republic against its supposed enemies, and before there was any colonial question. "In other words," says this correspondent, "the countries to which he is not 'loyal' recognize his certificate from the United States as entitling him to a degree of consideration which is not accorded him by the country to which he is loyal. He can make a contract to work for an employer in England or France, Germany or Spain, at whose frontiers he is a stranger, and he is free to go and come; but when he makes his bargain across the invisible line which divides the colony from the mother country he is liable to be deported to his old home, while the other party to the undertaking may be punished with a heavy fine and imprisonment."

IT IS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE theory on which this distinction is drawn begins with the admission that the status of the colonist is anomalous. It recognizes him as one of our own in relation to all the rest of the world, but as only an alien in relation to the United States proper. It is plain from this that as long as he is willing to stay where it pleased an all-wise providence to place him originally—outside of the United States—he may enjoy life to the full, with the protection of the flag thrown in; but that as soon as he interferes, as a possible competitor, with the magnificent isolation of the American laborer, he must halt. Just as the constitution must not follow the flag when it goes away from home, the colonist may not when it comes back, unless he is ready to go through the same mill as a Hottentot or a South Sea cannibal.

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING FACTS brought out by this same writer relates to Hawaii. The Hawaiian republic had never adopted any Chinese exclusion acts, and a yellow man could become a citizen on the same terms as a Caucasian if he desired. The consequence was that Hawaii brought a lot of ready-made Chinese citizens into the United States with her when she came. To these citizens we issue full passports—not mere certificates of protection. Yet if one of them goes abroad he has to arm himself with a return certificate from the collector of customs at the port of departure, and go through all the forms of having it examined on his return to make sure that the conditions to which he swore on leaving have not been changed during his absence. It was even gravely proposed by the immigration bureau that the department of state gum a photograph of the departing Chinaman to his passport as an additional security; but when the department of state, with equal gravity, inquired for the page and paragraph of the statute authorizing it thus to ornament its parchment instruments of guaranty, they could not be cited and the subject was dropped.

IT IS NOT DIFFICULT IN THE LIGHT OF this statement to believe that the administration is really displeased with the situation, and after reading this correspondent's statement, one is quite prepared for his conclusion that "the whole business is so full of absurdities that the higher officers having jurisdiction of it have to hide their laughter behind their hands in attempting to discuss it. Some of the understrappers, however, regard it as a triumph of statesmanship in which

they are sharers, and speak only with corrugated brows and bated breath. They do not dare discuss it at all, and intimate mysteriously that they have been silenced."

IT MAY NOT BE IN THE LEAST SIGNIFICANT, but it is none the less interesting to learn that the labor organizations of Binghamton, N. Y., have invited the Chinese minister to address them on Labor Day. This is the first occasion on which a Chinaman has been invited to address labor organizations. In accepting the invitation, Minister Wu wrote this letter: "Washington, Chinese Legation, Aug. 7, 1902.—I am in receipt of your letter of the 2d inst. inviting me to address the union men at Binghamton on Labor Day. Appreciate highly the friendly spirit that prompted this kind invitation, and I will endeavor to see my way clear to accept it. It is specially gratifying to me to find that there are union men who hold such enlightened views of exclusive legislation, and I assure you it will be a pleasure to meet and address such broad-minded men."

THE WISCONSIN STATE BANKERS MET AT Milwaukee, August 13. They adopted resolutions opposing the Fowler bill, and all legislation tending to the substitution of branch banks, urged their representatives in congress to oppose such proposed legislation, and declared against any law tending toward the adoption of asset currency. Banker John Schuette denounced the branch bank system as an attempt to form a banking trust. Banker F. R. Frenz declared: "The hosts of the east, the Standard Oil company, and the Morgans and Vanderbilts are advancing upon us, and they intend to sweep this country clean. The establishment of branch banks through the country would furnish the Standard Oil company the means to fight, cut the throat, and exterminate every small bank through the country. What the Standard Oil company did to the poor devils in the oil field who owned one or more small paying wells, that is what it will do to you if you but give it the opportunity. Do you intend to unshackle this monster of branch banking to devour you? Do you know that the City bank in New York with \$500,000,000 would dominate this country if it had branch banks throughout the country? Do you know it would dictate the tariff, make or prevent wars, own all the ships, the railroads, the mines, and hold the whole country in the hollow of its hand?" It may not be out of place to call attention to the fact that these gentlemen were ardent supporters of the republican party and when they saw the Standard Oil company, the Morgans and the Vanderbilts advancing upon the plain people, they had no word of protest. Their voice has never been raised against any other trust, although it is very promptly raised against the proposed trust which they fear will drive them out of business.

THE NEWSPAPERS ARE GIVING CONSIDERABLE attention to several new "cures." A Kentuckian who had been a confirmed rheumatic, was struck by lightning and severely shocked. When he recovered from the lightning shock, he found all traces of rheumatism had disappeared. A Pennsylvania man who had been a long sufferer from rheumatism was stung by a swarm of bees, and when he recovered from his bee stings, it appeared that he was no longer a rheumatic. To be sure, the things that will provide a remedy for one man will not help another, and although rheumatic pains are said to be well-nigh unbearable, the lightning shock and the bee sting are not at all likely to become popular remedies.

A PARIS DOCTOR HAS DISCOVERED THAT the balloon voyage is a fine tonic. Addressing the Academy of Medicine in Paris, Dr. Nauquier declared that he has made a large number of experiments and he has demonstrated that a balloon ascension acts on the human system as the most powerful of tonics. This doctor declared that two hours' voyage in the upper air causes an astonishing multiplication of the red corpuscles in the blood and that these conditions persisted for ten days after the ascension. He declared that five such excursions would be more beneficial to a consumptive than a sojourn of three months in the mountains. Dr. Nauquier has suggested that the municipal council provide balloons capable of carrying say fifty passengers who are too poor to afford a change of climate.

THE MOST INTERESTING REMEDY, HOWEVER, recently suggested is the new treatment for blindness. This treatment was discovered by Dr. Henry W. Garey of Baltimore. Dr. Garey writes of the treatment in a dispatch printed in the New York World of August 10. The method is described as an adoption of the principles of massage or the movement cure to the nerves of the

eyes. It is declared that the results in many cases have been such as to justify the belief that "this newly discovered method will be a blessing to humanity." If Dr. Garey has in fact discovered a successful treatment for blindness, it will indeed be a blessing to humanity.

THE TOWN OF HILDERSHEIM, GERMANY, is the proud possessor of a rose bush that is said to be one thousand years old. The sum of fifty thousand dollars was once offered and declined for this bush.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS INDORSED THE proposition of the Mackay company to lay a cable across the Pacific ocean. The recent delay in this work has been due to the failure of the federal authorities to deliver to the company the charts of the soundings made under government authority. These charts were made in surveys for the deep sea cable between Hawaii and Luzon and were made in 1899.

THE DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT MEANS, it is said, that the cable will be in operation within two years. The conditions offered by the company have already been referred to in these columns, and to these Mr. Roosevelt has added these conditions: "That the United States government at all times shall have priority of service. That the government, through the postmaster general, as is customary in such contracts, shall have the right to fix the rates to be charged by the company. That in time of war the government shall have the right absolutely to control the cable. That, in order to protect not only the government, but also individual private customers of the company, the cable company is required to lay a distinct line of cable from China to Manila, so that it will not be necessary to depend on the British company, which now controls the only cable from Hong Kong to Manila. That the United States at any time after the completion of the cable may purchase the line at an appraised valuation to be fixed by arbitrators selected in the usual manner by the two parties to the transaction."

SOME CORRESPONDENTS SAY THAT "those who have studied the subject believe that a cable laid under the conditions proposed will be to all intents and purposes a government cable line with few if any of the disadvantages attendant on government construction and maintenance." There is, however, little ground for this claim because the new company has entered into only such stipulations as would be required by any government and the enterprise is to be distinctly a private affair.

THE STATISTICS RELATING TO EXPORTS and imports for the fiscal year ending in 1902 provide food for thought. The exports for this year were \$106,000,000 less than the exports for the year ending in 1901, while the imports increased \$80,000,000. The report of the chief of the treasury bureau of statistics points out that the shortage of the corn crop of 1901, due to drouth, reduced the corn exportations in 1902 150,000,000 bushels below those of 1901, and caused a reduction of \$67,000,000 in the value of corn exportations. The export price of cotton averaged about 1 cent per pound below that of the preceding year, and, although the exportations exceeded in quantity those in 1901 by about 170,000,000 pounds, the total value of the cotton exported fell off nearly \$23,000,000. In iron and steel the increased demand at home, coupled with abnormal conditions in the foreign market, caused a reduction of about \$19,000,000 in value of exports. In importations there was an increase of \$70,000,000 in material for use in manufacturing, \$20,000,000 in manufactured articles ready for consumption and \$120,000,000 in articles of voluntary use, luxuries, etc., but a decrease of \$21,000,000 in food stuffs. Importations of raw materials for use in manufacturing amounted to \$328,000,000, which was \$85,000,000 in excess of the preceding year, and of articles partly manufactured for use in manufacturing the imports were \$91,000,000, an increase of \$12,000,000.

IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT REPUBLICAN leaders who have gone mad on the question of territory grabbing will revive the proposition to annex Hayti and Santo Domingo. The recent political disturbances in this territory have prompted the suggestion in high republican circles that annexation would be "wise for all concerned." It is pointed out that we need Hayti and Santo Domingo because the next great war in which the United States becomes involved may be fought principally in the Caribbean and the value of Hayti as a naval base has been kept in mind by war leaders. Judging from the tone of Washington correspondence in republican newspapers, it