

CURRENT TOPICS

AN EXTRAORDINARY FEAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED in the way of a college prank by the students of the Missouri university at Columbia on the night of May 2. The Columbia correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald says: "Under cover of darkness, the students carried a galvanized iron elephant, weighing perhaps over a thousand pounds, to the dome above the building, and after forcing the iron doors, dragged their burden upward to the highest point of the pinnacle, 200 feet above ground. The next morning the elephant could be seen for a distance of five miles, and farmers came to town to inquire about it. In removing the elephant, a gang of workmen destroyed a section of the slate roof, and ten students must pay the damages or be expelled."

THE SITE OF THE GUILLOTINE IN PARIS was sold May 2. The story is told in a Paris cablegram to the Chicago Tribune: A piece of land with a history was sold on Tuesday. It was the Place de la Roquette, where the guillotine has stood since 1851. During that time 209 heads have fallen under the knife, among them many notorious criminals. The ground is divided into two lots. One sold for \$10,250 and the other for \$8,000. Doubtless within a short period Parisians will be dancing, dining, and otherwise enjoying themselves where so many answered for their crimes.

AN INTERESTING FIGHT AMONG THE REPUBLICANS OF OHIO on the question, "Shall the coming state convention indorse Mr. Roosevelt as the republican nominee for 1904?" has been averted by a personal appeal from Mr. Roosevelt to Senator Hanna. Several weeks ago Senator Foraker announced that he would insist upon the adoption of a resolution to that effect. Although Senator Hanna long ago declared himself to be in favor of Mr. Roosevelt's nomination, Mr. Hanna recently announced that he would object to Mr. Foraker's proposed resolution. In one of his interviews Mr. Hanna intimated that Mr. Roosevelt did not desire the adoption of such a resolution by the Ohio convention for this year. Mr. Hanna probably imagined that Mr. Roosevelt would permit the chairman of the republican national committee to do all the talking, but in this he was sadly mistaken. The Associated press dispatches printed in the Sunday newspapers made public Mr. Hanna's formal declaration against the indorsement resolution. The Associated press statement issued by the secretary of the president. In this statement Mr. Roosevelt was represented as saying: "Those who favor my administration and my nomination will indorse them and those who do not will oppose them." In the same statement it was announced that the president was "deeply touched by the action of President McKinley's home county in which Canton is situated in instructing so heartily in his favor. Nothing could have pleased him more."

EVIDENTLY MR. ROOSEVELT DID NOT INTEND that Mr. Hanna should labor under any false impression and it was announced in the newspaper dispatches made public on Wednesday that Mr. Hanna had consented to withdraw his objection to the resolution of indorsement because the president had made a personal appeal to him. Mr. Hanna and others who objected to the adoption of a resolution of indorsement say that it would be proper for the state convention to indorse the Roosevelt administration generally. They do not, however, think it the part of wisdom for the state convention of 1903 to indorse Mr. Roosevelt as the republican nominee for 1904.

WHILE IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY agreed that Mr. Roosevelt was strong among the republicans of Nebraska, there are some signs of an anti-Roosevelt sentiment in that state. Mr. Roosevelt's Nebraska friends insisted upon an early state convention for 1903; his enemies sought for a late convention. The state committee met and the early convention plan was defeated. This, however, is not entirely due to the anti-Roosevelt sentiment because a great many politicians objected to an early convention on the ground that it would make the state campaign unnecessarily long. It is known, however, that Mr. Roosevelt's enemies were anxious to

postpone the holding of the convention in the hope that at a later day a resolution indorsing Mr. Roosevelt as the candidate for 1904 might be defeated. A number of republican papers whose editors are friendly to Mr. Roosevelt charge that the Harriman-Hill influences in Nebraska are opposed to Mr. Roosevelt. These influences represent the railroad corporations. If it be true that these influences are really opposed to Mr. Roosevelt, those who have observed the success with which the railroad corporations have manipulated republican conventions and the republican legislature as well as the republican state officials in Nebraska will believe that the railroad lobby will be strong enough to defeat a Roosevelt resolution. It is not, however, all safe to depend upon the claims that a republican candidate is being antagonized by corporation agents. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and if the Nebraska republican convention for 1903 shall adopt a Roosevelt resolution, it may be depended upon that the result will not be entirely disagreeable to the representatives of the railroad corporations. Influences that are strong enough to choose republican candidates for state offices and that are sufficiently powerful to dominate a republican legislature can hardly be expected to fail in a determined effort to prevent the adoption by a republican convention of a resolution favorable to the 1904 candidacy of Mr. Roosevelt.

SOME HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE OPPOSITION to Mr. Roosevelt in the republican party is due to his position on the trust question and Mr. Hanna's declaration that he would object to a resolution of indorsement by the Ohio state convention is interpreted by many as a confirmation of this claim. Interesting comment on this point is made by the Brooklyn Citizen. The Citizen says that it is not at all surprising that Mr. Hanna, being a candidate for re-election to the senate and being also chairman of the republican national committee, should object to an indorsement of Mr. Roosevelt by a convention controlled by Mr. Hanna. The Citizen agrees with Mr. Hanna that such an indorsement would be to any other person aspiring to be the candidate as "a notification that the national party machinery has already made its choice and in this way bad blood will be engendered and dissensions created."

POINTING OUT THAT MR. ROOSEVELT IS as completely subservient to the tariff beneficiaries and the republican party managers as it is possible for any man holding high office to be, the Brooklyn Citizen says that these people have no reason to be alarmed because Mr. Roosevelt indulges in rhetorical references to bad trusts and wicked politicians. It insists that there is nothing in Mr. Roosevelt's economic policy which gives the American people the slightest cause for hope that in the event of his election they will obtain relief; and concludes: "We take no stock in the newspaper reports that President Roosevelt's renomination is opposed by the moneyed interests that control the party machinery. While the president has not openly defied popular sentiment on the subject of the trusts, as the more extreme wing of the plutocracy desire, he has shown himself a sufficiently docile instrument in the hands of the trusts to be accounted a 'safe' candidate. On the other hand, the fictitious reputation the president enjoys among the less thoughtful elements in the nation as a man of the people, a reputation won by words and not deeds, makes him all the more useful as a candidate to his trust exploiters."

MANY SHREWD POLITICIANS THINK THAT Mr. Hanna made a tactical blunder in objecting to the adoption by the Ohio state republican convention of a resolution indorsing Mr. Roosevelt for the nomination of 1904. Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, says that in the Capital City it is the prevailing opinion in republican circles that Mr. Hanna has made a big mess of it. Mr. Wellman adds: "Men who are friendly to him marvel that he should permit himself to be caught in such a predicament. Senator Foraker, who is here, says nothing would have been heard of the resolution of indorsement if men close to Hanna and supposed to represent his views had not begun talking publicly about it. Mr. Foraker

says this operated as a sort of challenge to the friends of the president, and that they then decided to take a hand in the business. In this explanation Mr. Foraker is not altogether frank. It is declared by people who pretend to know the facts that Senator Foraker some time ago decided to present resolutions indorsing the president to the Ohio republican convention and that he intended to spring them as a surprise and rush them through, catching the other crowd off their guard. The Hanna people heard of it and determined that such resolutions should not pass. Then the row began."

A MEMBER OF THE CABINET WHO IS VERY friendly to Mr. Hanna is quoted by Mr. Wellman as saying that the Ohio senator has made a great mistake. Concerning the opinion of this cabinet officer, Mr. Wellman says: "Senator Hanna, by using all his strength, may be able to prevent a declaration in favor of the president's nomination. But of what value is it to him to do so, except the satisfaction of having his own way? By Mr. Hanna's own statement he is not and will not be a candidate. No one doubts that he is perfectly sincere in this. Again, there is not one chance in a hundred that any opposition to the president will appear in the national convention next year. Therefore Mr. Hanna seems to be playing a losing game, with no chance to win. Even if he should be able to prevent the adoption of resolutions of indorsement, the effort would leave bad feelings and hurt Mr. Hanna in his coming battle for re-election to the senate. In other words, added the cabinet officer, Mr. Hanna is permitting himself to be forced into an ugly fight over a very trifling and unimportant matter—a contest which can bring him nothing but annoyance."

AN INTERESTING DISPATCH FROM Tacoma, Wash., was printed in the New York World Monday, May 25. In this dispatch it was said: "There was a stormy scene on President Roosevelt's private car just after the party left Portland on Friday, it is reported here. The day before a Seattle paper printed a 'scare-head article' declaring that Seattle was temporarily the seat of the national government because the president's mail was arriving at the local office. It then went on to show how two letters from Mrs. Roosevelt were addressed and commented on her handwriting, intimating that she was careless, inasmuch as the final 'e' in her husband's first name was all but omitted. Speculation was also indulged in as to what articles had been marked for the president's eye in a daily paper sent by Mrs. Roosevelt to her husband. The address on other letters was also given. This article was shown to the president, and he promptly called Secretary Loeb to him and denounced the officer of the Seattle postoffice who had dared to permit his private correspondence to be made a matter of public comment, and said he would at once order the postmaster general to make a rigid examination in order to ascertain what officer was responsible for the gross breach of trust. It is reported that the president was very much excited over the matter, especially in regard to the criticism of his wife's chirography. There is a fight now on hand over the reappointment of the present postmaster, and this incident is not likely to help his cause."

THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT IS ABOUT to make an issue of stamps in commemoration of the Louisiana purchase. The Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Republic says that he has authority for the statement that the postoffice department officials are seriously considering the advisability of giving to Napoleon Bonaparte the unparalleled distinction of representation upon the United States postage stamp. It is said that among the ideas advanced is that of placing upon the four stamps portraits of the leading factors in the negotiations in 1803 and the leading men of the two negotiating countries in 1903. It is therefore proposed that Jefferson and Napoleon shall represent 1803 while President Loubet is chosen for one of the representatives of the later period, and the department officials are not decided as to whether Mr. McKinley's portrait or that of Mr. Roosevelt shall be chosen as the American representative. It is pointed out that