

CURRENT TOPICS

THE SITUATION IN MACEDONIA IS BECOMING more critical day by day and it is regarded as certain that open hostilities is only a matter of time. It has been announced time and again that Turkey and Bulgaria are on the point of open rupture, on account of the cruel methods which the former power is using in its treatment of the Macedonians. It seems that the Bulgarian ministry is determined that the first blow must be struck by Turkey, and it is regarded as certain that the trouble in Macedonia can never be settled without the intervention of the powers. In the meantime Turkish atrocities in that province and vicinity continue with unabated zeal, more than 50,000 men, women and children having already been massacred by Turkish soldiers throughout Macedonia. The valley of Monastir seems to have suffered the most severely from Turkish rapacity, every Bulgarian village in that section being reported to have been destroyed by the Turks. Some correspondents place the number of Turkish forces in Macedonia at 300,000 and it is believed that such a force would not have assembled merely for the purpose of crushing the rebellion in that province, but that the sultan is contemplating an attack on Bulgaria. The insurgents seem to be well equipped for a long struggle, arms having been smuggled into the country in defiance of Turkish authority, and an outbreak in the Balkans seems to be inevitable.

THE COLONIAL TROOPS OF THE NETHERLANDS have been at war with the Achins almost continuously since 1873. The Brussels correspondent for the New York Times says that the chief colonial leaders will at an early day formally submit. This correspondent says that the cause of the war was the refusal of the sultan to recognize the suzerainty of the Netherlands, over which long negotiations took place. The sultan sent a secret embassy to the United States diplomatic agent at Singapore to appeal for the military aid of this country, and at the same time he sent commissioners to treat with the Dutch government. Encouraged by the hope of aid from Great Britain and the United States, the sultan rejected the terms offered by the Netherlands. The war thus begun has cost the Dutch over \$200,000,000, and the lives of several thousand soldiers. One expedition after another has been sent to Sumatra, but as soon as the revolt was apparently crushed, it broke out again. The Dutch have tried by every means to end the war, which has crippled the finances of the Dutch Indies.

BEFORE THE ZIONIST CONGRESS AT Basel, Switzerland, Dr. Herzl, the president, submitted a letter from the Russian minister of the interior, in which letter the support of the Russian government was pledged to the Zionists in their movement to establish an independent state in Palestine. An Associated press correspondent, describing this letter, says: "The minister said his government was favorable to the original program of Zionism, which can rely on its moral and material support when its practical measures tend to decrease the Jewish population of Russia. Such support might take the form of supporting the Zionist demands on the Ottoman government. The Russian government has been obliged to act toward the Jewish question as the interests of the state require, but it has never deviated from the great principles of morality and humanity. He hopes nothing would prevent the development of measures tending to improve the conditions of the Russian Jews, especially if emigration decreased their numbers."

CALEB POWERS, FORMER SECRETARY OF state for Kentucky, was on August 29 convicted on the charge of complicity in the murder of Governor William Goebel and the death penalty was assessed against him. The motion for a new trial was promptly overruled and Special Judge Robbins passed the sentence of death. November 25 was fixed as the day of execution. The attorneys for the defense have taken an appeal to the Kentucky court of appeals and if unsuccessful in that way they will undertake to get the case into the United States supreme court. Governor Goebel was shot Tuesday, January 30, 1900, and died on the Saturday following. Among those indicted

for the murder were William S. Taylor, former governor; James Howard, Henry Youtsey, John L. Powers and Caleb Powers. Howard and Youtsey were tried and given life sentences. Taylor fled to Indiana where he now rests under the protection of the republican governor of that state who refuses to honor a requisition for his return to Kentucky. Subsequently, Youtsey made a confession in which he implicated the men against whom indictments have been returned. Youtsey claimed that Howard fired the fatal shot and that it was with the deliberate sanction of Taylor, Powers, and others.

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD printed extracts from Owen Wister's book, "The Virginian." It was shown that one of the characters in this book drew a fine distinction between the lynching of white men in the west for horse and cattle stealing and the lynching of black men in the south for the offense against womanhood. The World-Herald directed attention to the fact that the author had dedicated the book to Theodore Roosevelt in the following words: "To Theodore Roosevelt: Some of these pages you have seen, some you have praised; one stands new written because you blamed it and all, my dear critic, beg to remind you of the author's changeless admiration." The World-Herald said that it would be interesting to know whether this particular chapter in which the lynching in the west was defended was among those chapters that had been praised by Mr. Roosevelt.

A REPUBLICAN PAPER IN NEBRASKA criticized the World-Herald for undertaking to make it appear, so this republican paper charged, that because Mr. Wister had dedicated his book to Mr. Roosevelt that therefore Mr. Roosevelt was responsible for all the sentiments expressed in the work. The World-Herald makes a very interesting reply to the Nebraska republican paper and says: "Inasmuch as this Nebraska republican paper has brought up the question, it may not be out of place to say that Mr. Roosevelt, under his own seal and signature, has written some very interesting things on this very subject." The World-Herald proceeds to show that "in one particular article written by Mr. Roosevelt, it will be seen that the line of reasoning advanced by Senator Tillman, for instance, in defense of the lynching of black men for the violation of women is identical with the line of reasoning presented by Theodore Roosevelt in defense of the lynching of white men who have stolen horses."

ATTENTION IS THEREFORE DIRECTED by the World-Herald to a volume entitled "Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail." This book was written by Theodore Roosevelt and was published through the Century company only four years ago—in 1899. On page 93 of "Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail" the following paragraph appears: "Horse thieves are always numerous and formidable on the frontier, though in our own country they have been summarily thinned out of late years. It is the fashion to laugh at the severity with which horse stealing is punished on the border, but the reasons are evident. Horses are the most valuable property of the frontiersman, whether cowboy, hunter or settler, and are often absolutely essential to his well-being, and even to his life. They are always marketable and they are very easily stolen, for they carry themselves off, instead of having to be carried. Horse stealing is thus a most tempting business, especially to the more reckless ruffians, and it is always followed by armed men, and they can only be kept in check by ruthless severity."

COMMENTING UPON THIS JUSTIFICATION by Mr. Roosevelt of western lynchings, the World-Herald says: "Senator Tillman insists that the violators of womanhood are numerous and formidable in the south. Senator Tillman has said that it is the fashion to condemn the severity with which these terrible crimes are punished in the south; and Senator Tillman has declared, just as Author Roosevelt declared with reference to horse stealing in the west, that: 'But the reasons are evident.' According to Senator Tillman, women are the most precious pos-

sessions of the south, and they are absolutely essential to the well-being and even to the life of the good man of that section, as well, of course, as to the well-being and the life of the good man of every other section; and Senator Tillman has said that the 'reckless ruffians' who violate the womanhood of the south can only be kept in check by ruthless severity. That is exactly what Author Roosevelt said in defense of lynching of horse thieves in the west."

A UNIQUE CELEBRATION WAS SCHEDULED to take place on Labor Day in the little town of Buena Vista in Youghiogheny Valley, Pa. This affair was arranged for the special benefit of those who had lost a limb or been otherwise damaged in the fight for bread. The correspondent for the Boston Globe said that it was expected that at least one thousand armless, legless, eyeless, handless, and footless specimens of humanity would be present. The Globe correspondent explains: "In this part of the state there are hundreds of men who have been crippled in some way, 90 per cent of the injuries being due to accidents in the coal mines. The committee in charge of the celebration has issued a general invitation to every cripple to attend the celebration. No tickets are needed. The 'open sesame' to the gates of the park in which the celebration is to be held will be the absence of some part of the applicant's anatomy. The originator of the idea and chairman of committee is D. M. Sager, who has lost a leg in the battle of life. Associated with him are two one-legged toilers named W. J. Schwindling and Peter Boyer. They have arranged a great feast for the maimed guests, as well as an elaborate program of sports. There will be a baseball game between one-legged and one-armed men, a tug-of-war between teams in the same condition of crippledness, races in which the man who hops best will capture the prize, and games of blindmen's buff, in which no bandages will be needed for the eyes, because the players will be sightless. It is intended to show the world that a maimed man is not necessarily an unhappy one."

THE REVENUE CUTTER THETIS FAILED in its effort to reach Point Barrow this summer with mail and supplies for the missions and whaling stations in the most northerly points of Alaska. The cause of the delay is explained in a special dispatch from Seattle to the Chicago Inter-Ocean as follows: "Thetis arrived at St. Michael July 14, but lay there until August 1 waiting for Senator Dietrich of Nebraska, whom it was to take to Nome. It reached Nome August 2 and the day following started on the trip northward. At the icy cape, nearly 1,000 miles from Nome, and about 200 miles from the government rescue mission, where the mail is left, the cutter encountered a solid ice pack in that frozen sea that never yields to the onslaughts of any ship man has yet built. Thetis hugged the shore in hope that shifting winds might open a way, but in that it was disappointed and finally turned back. The mail was left to be taken by Eskimo canoes or whalers, but it will be months before it gets there."

ATTORNEY GENERAL CROW OF MISSOURI recently instituted in the Missouri supreme court "quo warranto" proceedings to annul the charters of the St. Louis Merchants' Bridge company, the Terminal Railway company, the Wiggins Ferry company, and the St. Louis Terminal Railway association. The attorney general charges that the railroads centering at St. Louis have formed practically a conspiracy to control the arteries of trade throughout the Mississippi valley; that the aggregate wealth of the railroad companies composing the so-called terminal combine and holding terminal joint proprietary interests amounts to \$300,000,000; that this combine has a monopoly on the St. Louis freight traffic along the course of the Mississippi river, controlling "every available St. Louis entrance of incoming and outgoing freight." Attorney General Crow intends to summon as witnesses the officials of every corporation embraced in the membership of the terminal companies. He will also secure, if possible, the deposition of J. Pierpont Morgan. Mr. Morgan's firm recently issued circular letters advertising the sale of this company's bonds to a total amount of \$50,000,000. He