

CURRENT TOPICS

THE PANAMA TREATY WAS RATIFIED IN the senate February 23 by a vote of 66 to 14. All proposed amendments to the treaty were voted down. Senator Bacon, who finally voted for the treaty, offered an amendment providing for a treaty with Colombia with a view to satisfying any future demands that the country might make on account of the secession of Panama. This was rejected by a vote of 24 to 49.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DESCRIBES THE vote in this way: "Fourteen democrats voted for ratification and fourteen against. Two democrats, Clark (Mont.) and Stone (Mo.), were paired in favor of the treaty and three democrats, Overman, McLaurin, and Martin, were paired against it, so in the total vote sixteen democrats were for the treaty and seventeen against it. The democrats who were present and voted for the treaty were: Bacon, Berry, Clarke of Arkansas, Clay, Cockrell, Foster of Louisiana, Gibson, Latimer, McCreary, McEnery, Mallory, Money, Simmons and Taliaferro. Senator Culberson, who voted against the treaty, read from a letter addressed to Dr. Albert Shaw by Mr. Roosevelt. This letter was dated October 10, 1903, and Mr. Roosevelt said that he saw no hope for any negotiations with Colombia, and that he would be delighted should a revolution occur on the isthmus."

SOMETHING OF A SENSATION OCCURRED in the house of representatives February 22 when Representative Burton of Ohio, chairman of the committee on rivers and harbors, attacked the pending naval appropriation bill. Mr. Burton declared that more battleships meant more possibilities of war. He said it was not a political question; that the republican party was not necessarily committed to a great navy; and that congress was appropriating \$178,000,000 for military purposes—"all for war." The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says that Representative Dayton, replying to Mr. Burton, "practically read him out of the republican party by quoting all the republican national platform since 1884 which demanded substantial increase each year in the United States navy."

WITHIN TWO DAYS AFTER SENATOR Hanna died a dozen candidates were announced for his place in the senate, but soon it was given out in an authoritative way that Senator Hanna had expressed the desire that Charles Dick, now a member of the lower house, and also chairman of the Ohio republican state committee, be chosen as his successor. By February 23, 88 out of the 117 republican members signed an agreement pledging their support to Mr. Dick. The Ohio legislature fixed March 1 and 2 as the days for balloting for United States senator. On the latter date Mr. Dick was formally elected.

NOAH RABY, SAID TO BE THE OLDEST man in the world, is dying at the poor farm near Plainfield, N. J. The Plainfield correspondent to the Chicago Tribune says that if Mr. Raby lives until April he will celebrate his 132nd birthday. For several years he has been blind. Raby is a native of North Carolina where he was born in 1773.

THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH IS treated in an interesting way by a writer in the New York Sun. It is pointed out by this writer that the south has a ten million bale cotton crop, a twenty-five million ton coal output, a 2,500,000 ton pig iron production, aside from lumber, fruit, tobacco and other products. Manufacturing enterprises have taken the place of the old time plantations and have established new channels of employment for the people. After describing these conditions the Sun writer says: "The results of all this are manifest not alone in the cities, but in almost every town, village and hamlet. New buildings appear everywhere. Sewer systems, water works, electric plants for lighting and for trolley lines are fast becoming as much of a necessity as they are in the north and west, and the south has the money to pay for them. Municipal bond issues have reached a huge aggregate and have, in general,

found ready sale at good prices, often in the immediate local market. Southern ports have done an enormously increased business, and southern railways have been hard pressed to handle their traffic. The establishment of these new conditions upon a foundation of unquestionable firmness opens a broad vista. The south has not yet been an objective point for the home-seeker, to whom it really offers so much that is attractive. It is to be hoped that a day will soon come when its many advantages for settlers will command wider attention and draw to it a few millions of those whose industry would contribute still further to southern development and progress."

THE FIGHT AGAINST SENATOR SMOOT OF Utah continues with unabated vigor. The Washington correspondent for the New York Times says that it is the intention of the Smoot opposition to summon as a witness the head of the Mormon church, and also each of the twelve apostles, including Senator Smoot himself. This correspondent says that according to the program when President Smith is called to the stand, as a first witness, an effort will be made to prove by him that he has not less than five wives. The Times correspondent adds: "Several photographs have been secured in which the head of the church has been pictured with a wife, and the photographs, it is alleged, show that they are different women. One of them is a photograph taken at St. Louis during a World's Fair celebration, which shows Reed Smoot immediately behind the president of the church and his wife. In the examination of the Mormon apostle the effort will be made to prove that no less than seven of the twelve have contracted polygamous marriages, and the contention is made that it can be proved that since Utah has been admitted as a state and the manifesto declaring there would be no more plural marriages solemnized a new wife has been sealed to one of the twelve apostles."

IT HAS GENERALLY BEEN UNDERSTOOD that the retention by Senator Smoot of his seat in the senate would depend on whether it could be proved that the oath taken by a Mormon apostle was such as to render void the oath he took as a senator. Referring to this point a representative of the Smoot opposition, speaking to the Washington correspondent for the New York Times, says: "That phase of the question will, of course, be presented, but it will not be the one which will attract first attention. I think I am prepared to state that the revelations in the Smoot investigation will arouse the entire country. We shall largely confine our inquiry into an investigation of the actual conditions that now prevail and have prevailed since Utah became a state, and our first witnesses will be the president of the Mormon church and his apostles. The inquiry will begin about March 1, and our evidence is now complete."

IT IS CLAIMED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES of Senator Smoot that they will be able to show that no new wives have been sealed to any Mormon since the admission of the territory as a state. It is said Senator Smoot will testify that he has only one wife and that the apostles who have several wives will swear that they have lived with only one wife during recent years, although they will admit that they have separately supported the others as dependents under the solemn vow taken when the plural wives were sealed to them.

SIR JOHN SPRIGG WAS DEFEATED FOR the premiership of Cape Colony and subsequently resigned. As a result Dr. Jameson was chosen as Sprigg's successor. Jameson will be best remembered because of the raid he led upon the South African republics. Prior to the Boer war the British ministry sought to wash its hands of all responsibilities for Jameson, but it is now regarded as significant by students of events that Jameson has been chosen as Sprigg's successor. Sir John Sprigg was for thirty years a member of the Cape parliament, and for a number of years he had been prime minister. He

undertook to occupy a conservative attitude with respect to the differences between the British and the Boers, and as a result he lost favor with both elements and was finally defeated.

REFERRING TO THE NEW PREMIER of Cape Colony the New York Tribune says: "He was Cecil Rhodes' lieutenant in the old days, the captain of the Chartered Company's police force in Bechuanaland. He it was who led that madman's raid across the border to Johannesburg, provoked suspicion and endless bad blood between Boer and Briton, and by only a hair's breadth missed sending himself and a dozen other men of light and leading to the scaffold. Railed at, denounced, reviled, more than almost any other man of his time, he is now called to form a government and to become prime minister of Cape Colony! It is strange, but not, after all, unfitting; for there could be no greater mistake than to set Dr. Jameson down as a mere adventurer, a freebooter, a filibuster. Those who know the man know him as a dreamer, an idealist, an enthusiast, who may—as indeed he has done—make great mistakes, but who is entirely free from sordid self-seeking, and who even in his maddest escapade, deserving of severest censure, was sincere and unselfish and believed himself to be serving a high and noble purpose. For such a man, despite his former errors, there may well be a future of usefulness and honor."

IN CONNECTION WITH REPORTS OF THE Russia-Japanese war one hears much of what is called "The Balkan Situation." In all of these foreign affairs there is considerable that perplexes the average American reader, and yet, in order to be accurately informed as to the old world situation one should understand the Balkan affair. An interesting article on this point is presented by a writer in the Chicago Tribune. This writer explains: "The Balkans are known variously as the cockpit, the powder magazine, and the dirty risings of Europe. They seem once again about to justify these epithets. Politically, 'the Balkans' comprise the four nominally independent kingdoms and principedoms of Servia, Bulgaria, Roumania, and Montenegro; the northern part of European Turkey (Macedonia and Albania), and the Austrian provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ethnically there is no Balkan people. The inhabitants of these territories are the heterogeneous remnants of many races who at different times have dwelt in or passed over the southeastern corner of Europe. There are Slavs, Greeks, Gypsies, Serbs, Bulgars, Jews, Turks, Albanians. These various races do not occupy different, well defined sections of the Balkans, but are scattered broadcast over the whole region. Next to a Bulgarian village will lie a Greek one, on the other side a town of Musselmans, while the Roumanian gypsy begs and steals indiscriminately from all."

ACCORDING TO THIS AUTHORITY THE Turks have been misruling Macedonia most shockingly. The misrule caused a rebellion of the Bulgars in Macedonia, who constitute a large and perhaps predominant element of the population. The rebellion was almost openly fostered by Bulgaria. The Turk would have liked to reply by making war on that kingdom, which is nominally a vassal state, but the European powers, and especially Russia, told him to do no such thing. The powers were afraid to trust any one of them number to quiet Macedonia, so the task was entrusted to Russia and Austria jointly. They were to reorganize the police in the disturbed Turkish provinces and thus remove the cause of the rebellion. This was last summer.

AT THIS POINT THE SULTAN MANAGED to prevent the Russian and Austrian commissioners from accomplishing material results and as a consequence reform in Macedonia did not make great progress, but the Tribune writer says: "Now come the Japanese war and Russia's preoccupation in Manchuria. The sultan becomes defiant, practically announces he will chastise Bulgaria for its insolence and treachery, and mobilizes his troops on its frontiers. Bulgaria responds by a counter mobilization on the other