

CURRENT TOPICS

MANY AMERICANS WILL BE SHOCKED BY the statement made by Leslie F. Perry in the Chicago Tribune, to the effect that in 1901, Germany's record-breaking year, that country harvested six times more Irish potatoes than were raised in the United States in 1902, the most productive year in this country. While it is generally believed that the United States leads the world in everything, Mr. Perry points out that this country stands fifth in the rank of potato-growing countries. The figures for the five leading countries are given by Mr. Perry in this order:

	Acres:	Bushels:
Germany1902	8,907,465	1,593,621,076
Russia1901	9,273,719	851,969,280
Austria1900	4,306,240	608,456,692
France1900	3,729,448	450,134,785
United States1902	2,695,587	284,632,787

swered. He stated he couldn't give Samuel's age or the age of his son Calvin, and that by each of his other three wives he had had at least two children since the manifesto.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE OF New York met at Albany March 4 and a spirited contest was on between the forces led by David B. Hill and those led by Charles F. Murphy, of Tammany Hall. Mr. Hill's friends announced that they wanted the convention held at Albany. Mr. Murphy opposed this, but was defeated and it was decided that New York's democratic convention would be held at Albany, April 18. The friends of Alton B. Parker say that by this action, the judge scored a distinct triumph and they expect that he will be presented to the national convention as New York's candidate.

chances of satisfaction later. Of course, this is a direct encouragement to European powers to unite in a blockading adventure as often as they claim to have money due them from Spanish-American republics."

MANY AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, approve the award. The Philadelphia Inquirer says: "As there would probably have been no payment had there been no blockading, or, to say the least, as the payment was the result of the blockading, the judicial decision seems to be fair." The Providence Journal says: "The decision of The Hague tribunal appears to be in full accord with the rights and equities of the case as revealed by the facts, which are summarized in the report of the decision are that since 1901 Venezuela refused arbitration proposed on several occasions by Germany and Great Britain; that after the war no formal treaty of peace was concluded; that the operations of the blockaders were stopped before they had received satisfaction for all their claims; that the question of preferential treatment was submitted to arbitration, and that in adhering to the protocols signed at Washington the blockaders could not have intended to renounce their acquired rights, nor their privileged de facto position. The government of Venezuela itself had recognized in principle that their claims were well founded, while it had not recognized those of the non-blockading powers and until January, 1903, made not the slightest protest against the claims for preferred treatment."

THE FRENCH COURT HAS GRANTED THE appeal of Alfred Dreyfus for a revision of his trial at Rennes. The court shows that a sufficient showing has been made to justify a reopening of the case for the purpose of establishing all the doubtful points. The Paris correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says that the decision will be another marked success for Dreyfus and that it is the expectation of the highest government authorities that the court's final decision will rehabilitate Dreyfus. Labori, Dreyfus' former lawyer, was in court, but did not appear for Dreyfus. The Tribune correspondent says that it is a matter of common gossip that relations between Dreyfus and Labori have greatly changed since the Rennes trial, which was concluded in 1899. Labori's friends are reported to have said that Dreyfus treated his lawyer shamefully.

SOUTHERN PAPERS ARE THESE DAYS paying considerable attention to an incident that recently occurred at Springfield, O. On March 6 Richard Nixon, who murdered a police officer, was taken from the jail at Springfield by a mob and shot to death, after which his body was strung up to a telegraph pole and made to serve as a target until the ammunition of the mob was exhausted. It is pointed out by southern papers that no section of the country has a monopoly on mob law and that the negro who kills and destroys in the north in these days is just as likely to be visited with swift punishment as he would had he committed the crime in the south.

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE charged with inquiring into the Smoot charges, President Joseph F. Smith of the Mormon church has admitted that he has violated the law and that most of the apostles of the church have done the same. Mr. Smith admits that for years he has been living with more than one wife and that neither he nor any of his apostles had made any secret of the fact that they were constantly defying the state law which permits polygamy. Mr. Francis M. Lyman, president of the twelve apostles of the Mormon church and the man chosen to be the successor of President Smith, has made admissions similar to those made by Mr. Smith. Mr. Lyman said that he expected to continue polygamist relations. While it has not been shown that Mr. Smith has more than one wife, and while he denies having been guilty of polygamy, the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says that if Smith and his associates had been retained to help pry Senator Smith out of his seat, they could not have succeeded better than they have done, through their remarkable testimony as to conditions in Utah. The Tribune correspondent says that the effect on Mr. Smoot's chances of retaining his seat are already noticeable and that there is now no room to doubt that Mr. Smoot will be expelled from the senate.

THE HAGUE TRIBUNAL HAS RULED THAT Venezuela must pay the claims of the three blockading powers first and afterwards the claims of the eight non-blockading powers. This ruling is based on the ground that by negotiating a protocol with Venezuela, the powers acquired a privilege de facto position. A writer in the Literary Digest, referring to this decision, explains that the United States, which is one of the deferred creditors, not only loses its case, but is commissioned by the court to carry out the decision. The preferred creditors are Great Britain, Germany, and Italy; the ones to be paid later are the United States, France, Spain, Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Norway, Denmark, and Mexico. Thirty per cent of the customs collected at La Guayra and Porto Cabello are to be applied to the liquidation of these claims, and it is expected that the claims of the first three powers will be settled by the end of this year, and the remaining claims within the next five years. The total claims amount to about \$7,000,000. The decision will make no difference to Venezuela, as it only determines the order in which the claims are to be paid.

CHARLES DICK OF OHIO IS JUST NOW ATTRACTING widespread attention because he has been chosen to succeed Mr. Hanna in the United States senate. While many republican papers uphold Mr. Dick they do not seem to do so enthusiastically and yet they all appear to agree that the new senator is a very skillful politician. The Literary Digest presents some of the newspaper opinions. The Philadelphia Press thinks that "there is every reason to expect that he will make a capable and successful senator." The Wyandotte (O.) Union Republican thinks "the choice is wise from every standpoint." The Koshocton (O.) Age says that "General Dick will fill the high position with credit to himself and the commonwealth he will represent." The Dayton (O.) Journal says: "Mr. Dick has distinct ability for the discharge of the functions of a national senator. His conduct of the last two state campaigns raised him to that political eminence which he occupies today. He is not only a most efficient party leader, but is a well-trained thinker and statesman, as shown by his strong and timely bearing on current issues in the last two Ohio campaigns."

WHEN PRESIDENT SMITH OF THE MORMON church was before the senate committee, he admitted that he now has forty-two children, twenty-one boys and twenty-one girls. On this point he was questioned by Attorney Taylor. Mr. Smith said that he has been the father of eleven children since the manifesto of 1890, according to his best recollection. The following dialogue took place: Q. Are you sure of the number? A. I cannot say that I am absolutely sure. Q. Now, I don't want to be impertinent, but isn't it a fact that there have been twenty? A. No, nothing like that. Q. Well, how many by your wife named Alice? Please give the names. A. By Alice there were Fielding, Jesse, and Andrew. The youngest is about four years old. Q. That is the one born on the day of Mr. Smoot's accession as an apostle, is it not? In reply the witness answered that it was and proceeded to give the children born to his wife, Mary, since the manifesto. By Mary the children are Silas, James, and Agnes, he said. "Whose child is Samuel?" asked Mr. Taylor. "He is Mary's," President Smith an-

APROMINENT OFFICIAL OF THE STATE department is quoted as saying that the department is disappointed at the court's decision because it "puts a premium on violence and tends to discourage nations to settle their claims by peaceful methods of diplomacy." The Literary Digest presents opinions of several newspapers on this decision. The Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph says: "The award looks like international approval of the use of force, the very thing which The Hague tribunal was created to avoid, by substituting peaceful methods for the adjustment of international difficulties." The New York Times thinks that the decision will provide direct encouragement to similar raids, and adds: "The decision of The Hague court actually confers a reward of merit upon three powerful European nations for going to war with a weak little Spanish-American republic, torn by civil convulsions, to collect money claims and damages which had never been subjected to any impartial examination. The court says in effect that by blockading the ports of Venezuela, sinking her gunboats, and bombarding her land defenses, these three powers followed a course so meritorious as compared with the United States, France, Mexico Spain, and other claimant powers that they are entitled to preferential treatment over the other creditors. Venezuela must first pay them; the creditors who did not make war upon her must take their

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SELECTION of Mr. Dick is bitterly criticised by some newspapers. The Detroit Tribune, an independent newspaper, says that Mr. Dick's selection as senator is "a disgrace not to Ohio alone, but to the whole nation." The Tribune says that Mr. Dick was one of the men who, with Major Rathbone, was "deliberately charged with legislative bribery in connection with Senator Hanna's first election to the senate, and who never took the trouble to defend himself before the investigating committee, or call for any form of vindication." "In short," adds The Tribune, "his general reputation is that of one of the most crafty and unscrupulous of machine politicians, for whom his most admiring friends would hardly have the hardihood to claim a single qualification of statesmanship." The Columbus Dispatch (Ind.) says the selection of General Dick "has fallen like a wet blanket upon the people of the great and proud state of Ohio." It adds: "Even if Mr. Dick stood worthily among his fellow republicans of the state as a man of ability and real strength, the spectacle of his being designated for this high office without an opportunity for the people to be heard from, without a chance for them to consider the facts as to the merits or demerits of the man, is so strange and unusual as to require an explanation. . . . But it must be written in truth and all fairness that Mr. Dick not only does not