

CURRENT TOPICS

REPUBLICAN circles in Ohio are in a turmoil and it seems certain that a bitter fight will ensue between the friends of the late Senator Hanna and the supporters of Senator Foraker. In a recent interview Senator Foraker attacks the republican organization in Ohio and Senator-elect Dick, Governor Herrick, George B. Cox and other stalwart representatives of the Hanna wing make it plain that they are ready to grapple with the senior senator from Ohio in a fight to the finish.

A REPORT has been circulated in London, and it is attributed to the opponents of Joseph Chamberlain, that that statesman is suffering from an incurable mental trouble. It is claimed that Mr. Chamberlain is in the incipient stages of softening of the brain. The rumor is denied by Mr. Chamberlain's friends, but his enemies point out that Mr. Chamberlain went to Egypt in the very midst of his fight, leaving his followers in the tariff campaign practically without a leader. It seems to be believed by outsiders that while the statement concerning Mr. Chamberlain's trouble is not true, that he is, nevertheless, a very sick man and may not be able to resume an active part in political affairs for some time to come.

IT IS announced from Paris that there is no serious obstacle to the completion of the transfer of the Panama Canal company's property to the United States. It is asserted in Paris cablegrams that the transfer will be completed by April 25, every formality, legal and otherwise, being effected before that date. It is explained that the suits against the Panama Canal company involve questions resting entirely between Colombia and the Panama Canal company, the United States not being directly or indirectly interested. The assurance is given that the influence of the French government is favorable to the completion of the transfer and that French officials will not encourage any obstacle to that end.

GOVERNOR ODELL of New York has all along been a stalwart supporter of the trust system, although it may be taken for granted that just at this time, the governor is willing to admit that there are defects in that system. The New York American of March 9 says: "Governor Odell yesterday sold his \$188,000 of United States shipbuilding bonds at auction for \$48,880, sustaining a loss of more than \$130,000. The Sheldon reorganization committee announced that it had refused to accept as deposits in favor of the reorganization the bonds against which ad interim certificates were issued to John W. Young. For his common stock of the par value of \$100,000 he got \$60. It has finally been decided by those in charge of the reorganization to ignore all bona fide stockholders entirely, leaving these unfortunates to bring personal suits against their vendors and to assist District Attorney Jerome in the criminal actions." While Governor Odell is plainly one of the victims of the shipyard trust, it is said that the governor has dropped the probe he intended to use on the wrecked trust and that he will not encourage prosecution.

IT IS reported from Colon by the correspondent for the New York Herald at that place that the Colombian government has definitely desisted from any movement to recover its lost territory in Panama and has prohibited any further attempts to attack the Panamanian frontier. It is reported that 900 Colombian soldiers have returned to Bogota and that all hostile movements on Colombia's part against Panama have been abandoned.

A PECULIAR error was made by Senator Stewart in a speech recently delivered in the senate. Senator Bacon of Georgia had protested against the proposed erection at the national capital of a statue of Frederick the Great of Prussia, which statue is the gift of Emperor William of Germany. President Roosevelt has accepted this gift and Senator Bacon held that the authority for accepting such a gift rests with congress and not with the president. He declared that Frederick the Great was the last man in the history of the German people whose life should

be held up as an ideal to the American people. The Washington correspondent for the New York American quotes Senator Bacon as saying: "The proposed monument will constitute a mockery of every principle Americans have been taught to honor and revere. From the pedestal of that statue, if it be erected, will look down the effigy of a sovereign who despised the multitude; who recognized no law save that of his personal caprice; who believed, as utterly as he believed in the existence of light and air, that the people were created for his service, to live according to his pleasure, or to die for his ambitions, just as he might will." Senator Stewart, in reply to Senator Bacon, said that Frederick the Great was a man of the people; that he had gone as a young man to Holland and learned the trade of shipbuilding and become a mechanic in order that he might know the wants of the people he was to rule. "We're learning some new history," whispered a senator on the democratic side. "Stewart's got Frederick the Great mixed up with Peter the Great of Russia." Senator Stewart's historical allusions amused senators on both sides of the chamber.

IN HIS speech at the dinner of the Ohio Society recently, Secretary of War Taft said: "I deny that the Declaration of Independence, when construed under the circumstances under which that instrument was signed, bears any such construction when applied to circumstances so different from those which prevailed at the time of our revolution. That instrument itself was signed by men who themselves made the exception of minors, of insane persons, of women, and of slaves. That instrument was itself signed by men who upheld the property qualification in many of the states that did not permit a majority of the citizens to vote and consent to a government in those states."

REFERRING to Secretary Taft's statement, the correspondent for the New York Times says that this is a remarkable argument to come from a member of Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet. This correspondent adds: "Mr. Taft would not claim that it is original with him, but as a republican he would probably not care to avow the sources from which it was borrowed. It is the argument used by the southern men of antebellum days to meet the contention that slavery could not exist in a republic. It is found most clearly and forcibly stated in the speeches of William Pinkney. In his incomparable speech on the Missouri Compromise Pinkney said: 'But if a republican form of government is that in which all the men have a share in the public power, the slave-owning states will not alone retire from the Union. The constitution of some of the other states do not sanction universal suffrage or universal eligibility. They require citizenship, and age, and a certain amount of property to give a title or vote or be voted for; and they who have not those qualifications are just as much disfranchised, with regard to the government and its power, as if they were slaves. They have civil rights, indeed, (and so have slaves in a less degree), but they have no share in the government. . . . That civil rights may be qualified as well as political is proved by a thousand examples. Minors, resident aliens who are in course of naturalization, the other sex, whether maids or wives or widows, furnish sufficient practical proofs of this.'"

THEN having laid down this basis the Times correspondent hoists Mr. Taft on his own petard in this way: "The truth of all this seems now to have come home to the republicans, at least to the republican who has had most experience in the business of establishing a government for men not fit to govern themselves. Indeed, Mr. Taft was bound to accept these views in order to justify the course of his party in the Philippines. But as a logical man he cannot stop with applying this principle to the Filipinos. He must apply it at home as well as abroad. Will he or any other man who is not lost in 'hopeful abstractions' say that the negroes of the south, as a class, are any more capable of self-government than the Filipinos? If it is right to exclude the Filipino from participation in the government pro-

vided for him, then for even stronger reason it is right to debar the negro from the same privilege; for in the case of the Filipino he would harm himself alone, while the negro would not only injure his own race, but would involve ours in the common ruin."

A COMMITTEE styling itself "The Philippine Independence Committee" is engaged in the circulation of petitions addressed to the democratic national convention and also to the republican national convention, asking that these political parties pledge themselves to secure to the people of the Philippines independence upon terms similar to those under which Cuban independence was obtained. The committee having this work in charge is composed of the following named gentlemen: Charles E. Adams, Massachusetts; Dr. Felix Adler, New York; President Edwin A. Alderman, Louisiana; James M. Allen, California; W. H. Baldwin, jr., New York; General R. Brinkerhoff, Ohio; George Burnham, jr., Pennsylvania; Andrew Carnegie, New York; President George C. Chase, Maine; R. Fulton Cutting, New York; President Charles W. Elliot, Massachusetts; Phillip C. Garrett, Pennsylvania; Judge George Gray, Delaware; President G. Stanley Hall, Massachusetts; Chancellor Walter B. Hill, Georgia; W. D. Howells, New York; Rev. W. R. Huntington, New York; President William De W. Hyde, Maine; Prof. William James, Massachusetts; President David Starr Jordan, California; President Henry Churchill King, Ohio; Prof. J. Lawrence Laughlin, Illinois; Charles F. Lummis, California; Samuel W. McCall, Massachusetts; Wayne MacVeagh, Washington, D. C.; Bishop W. N. McVickar, Rhode Island; Rev. C. H. Parkhurst, New York; Gen. William J. Palmer, Colorado; George Foster Peabody, New York; Bliss Perry, Massachusetts; Bishop Henry C. Potter, New York; U. M. Rose, Arkansas; President J. G. Schurman, New York; Prof. Edwin R. A. Seligman, New York; President Isaac Sharpless, Pennsylvania; Hoke Smith, Georgia; Judge Rufus B. Smith, Ohio; Bishop J. L. Spalding, Illinois; Prof. W. G. Sumner, Connecticut; Robert Ellis Thompson, Pennsylvania; Prof. Henry Van Dyke, New Jersey; Horace White, New York.

PREMIER BALFOUR'S government was on March 15 defeated in the house of commons by the combined liberalist and nationalist vote. Referring to these proceedings a London cablegram to the Cincinnati Enquirer says: "This reverse was due to the prohibition by Mr. Wyndham, chief secretary of Ireland, of the teaching of Gaelic in the junior grades of the Irish national schools. Mr. Balfour, though defeated by a majority of 11 on this question, does not regard the vote as one of want of confidence, and he will not resign on this account. His determination not to resign was strengthened by the fact that shortly after the foregoing defeat he was able to secure a majority of 25. The failure of the government to carry the house with it on a question of purely administrative policy in its Irish department is generally admitted to weaken greatly its already waning prestige with the country, although it is not thought probable that any immediate development will ensue."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT recently received an interesting communication from a rural mail carrier at Stanhope, Ia. This carrier applied for the position now held by Mr. Bristow, saying: "I desire to secure a better paying position. I am coming 50 years of age next birthday. I am not a politician, but I trust I am an honest man. I see the fourth assistant postmaster general has been convicted and the man acting for him is on the sick list, and I suppose there will be an appointment to fill the vacancy. I have also written Dolliver and Conner. While I am a small potato politically, my ambition is as big as a good-sized thunderstorm at least." William Loeb, jr., the president's secretary, referred the letter to Postmaster General H. C. Payne, who referred it to A. W. Cooley, civil service commissioner, after writing: "I think you will agree with me that the writer, on account of his general information, is entitled to rapid promotion." Mr. Cooley referred the matter back to Mr. Payne, with the following comment: "The commission entirely