

CURRENT TOPICS

THE United States supreme court on November 7 affirmed the decision of the supreme court of the state of Wisconsin, in the newspaper boycott case arising from the alleged business combination of the Sentinel, the News and the Evening Wisconsin, all published in Milwaukee, against the Journal of that city, affecting advertising rates. The opinion was delivered by Justice Holmes and upheld the validity of the Wisconsin anti-trust law so far as it applied to this case.

THE Washington correspondent for the New York World, referring to this case, explains: "The case came before the supreme court on writs of error to set aside convictions and sentences of A. J. Aikens, Albert Huegin and M. A. Hoyt, publishers of the three newspapers in the combination. The ground of the writs is that the proceedings violated the rights of the plaintiffs in error under the fourteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States. The informations were brought under the Wisconsin statutes of 1898 which impose imprisonment or fine on 'any two or more persons who shall combine * * * for the purpose of wilfully or maliciously injuring another in his reputation, trade, business or profession by any means whatever,' etc."

THE plaintiffs in error were severally charged with unlawfully combining together with the intent of wilfully and maliciously injuring the Journal company by agreeing as follows: If any person should agree to pay the increased advertising rate charged by the Journal company, then he should not be permitted to advertise in any of the other three newspapers except at a corresponding increase of rate; but if he should refuse to pay the Journal company the increased rate, then he should be allowed to advertise in any of the other three papers at the rate previously charged. It was alleged that this conspiracy was carried out and that much damage to the business of the Journal company ensued. Construing the statute, Justice Holmes said: "We interpret 'maliciously injuring' to import doing a harm malevolently for the sake of harm as an end in itself, and not merely as a means of some further end legitimately desired. Otherwise the phrase would be tautologous, since a wilful injury is malicious in the sense familiar to declarations and indictments, where indeed the word means no more than foreseen, or even less than that."

WHY do tempting dishes make the mouth water? The Kansas City Journal gives the following explanation: "In the Journal de Psychologie, M. Mayer treats of the influence of the mind on bodily secretions. We know that a tempting morsel of food makes the 'mouth water,' and that stories or memories can bring tears to the eyes. Observations on dogs have shown that the nature of the saliva secreted at the sight of food depends on the nature of the food. The stomachal secretions of the dog are also excited by the sight of the food. Some dogs, however, of a 'cold, positive temperament,' not illusioned by chimeras or what is out of reach, patiently wait until the food comes to their gullet before their mouths water or the gastric juices are provoked. It is assumed that what holds for dogs probably holds for men. The observations appear to show the importance of eating food that pleases and avoiding what displeases or disgusts. They also run counter to the psychological theory of the emotions, according to which the psychological phenomena are caused by organic changes. This may be the case with some 'emotions, for example the feeling of hunger, but for emotions properly so called, it is rather the other way about."

THE Countess Cassini, the adopted daughter of the Russian ambassador, has received the highest order of the Russian Red Cross. The Kansas City Journal says: "The highest order of the Russian Red Cross has been conferred upon the Countess Cassini, the adopted daughter of the Russian ambassador, and Mme. Boutakoff, wife of the Russian naval attaché, for their services in raising a considerable sum of money for the Rus-

sian Red Cross society. A personal letter from the czar of Russia to the Countess Cassini accompanied the decoration. Very few persons possess this order, and the fact that it has been conferred on Countess Cassini and Mme. Boutakoff is considered in the light of a great honor not only to the recipients, but to the Russian ambassador as well."

A NEW fuel has been invented by Jacob Smith, a glass worker, and it has passed a satisfactory test. Speaking of this article, a writer in the Philadelphia Record says: "It is said to possess more heat units per pound than either coal or wood; it can be manufactured and sold at a profit for half the cost of coal and it does not smoke except when a strong draft is used. Its success as a fuel for domestic uses was determined several weeks ago, when not until this week, when it was used beneath an engine boiler, was its value for manufacturing demonstrated. The fuel is made largely from the refuse of the pulp mills, of which there are a number about Muncie. Each mill turns out thousands of tons of refuse annually. The refuse, a combination of soda and lime, is mixed with crude oil, and the finished product resembles putty. It may be cut with a spade and thrown into a furnace or beneath a boiler. No kindling is necessary, for a match touched to it will light readily, the material burning with an intense heat. There are no clinkers, and the ashes remaining after the fire has burned down may be made into a new compound, for which Mr. Smith has another use. A bushel basketful of the fuel beneath a 16-horse power engine, at a local factory, kept steam up for eight hours. It is manufactured as a plasterer makes his mortar. The government patent office has called it the 'Smith fuel.'"

JAPANESE heroism is a subject of world-wide comment at the present time. A striking instance of their disregard for personal feelings is given by an officer writing in Leslie's Monthly. That writer says: "I rushed by a fellow who was down; his left leg was shot away. He was bleeding copiously. Through the din of the rifle fire and machine guns which gave us a mantle of smoke and fire, I shouted to him: 'To the rear, to the field hospital, and be quick about it.' The fellow looked at me, and upon his face was a marked sign of surprise. His lips quivered in a half smile. The expression of his face was at once an interrogation point and a mild rebuke. Then he began to wiggle himself forward through the bodies of his fallen comrades. I repeated my order, which seeing that he could not walk very well with one leg, was a very foolish one—I was somewhat exasperated at the evident indifference on his part to the order of his superior officer. He raised his face in my direction with the same old half smile and said to me: 'Lieutenant, I have lost one of my legs, but don't you see I have two hands? They ought to be enough to strike at the Russians.'"

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, after all his years of writing, left only five of his signatures. The Boston Transcript, referring to this interesting fact, says: "These are appended respectively to the purchase deed of a house in Blackfriars, dated 1613, which since 1831 has been in the Guildhall; to a mortgage deed relating to the same house in the British Museum, and to Shakespeare's will. There are besides, of course, many books purporting to have trustworthy signatures. Most notable of these is the 1603 edition of Montaigne's Essays, bought in 1638 for 100 pounds by the British Museum, after Sir Frederick Madden had unequivocally attested the genuineness of the signature. Many students, probably a majority even, now regard it as no better than an eighteenth century forgery, however. One hundred and two pounds was paid at auction six years ago for a philosophical work printed in Venice, 1565, with two Shakespeare signatures on the vellum cover, Sir F. Madden again having given his opinion that they were trustworthy. The history of the book was traced back to 1811; thirteen years thereafter it was sold for 6d; in 1845 for 21gns."

REFERRING to a copy of the holy scripture which is said to bear the signature of this great author, the Transcript writer further says: "The Bible now to be sold, part of the library of W. Sharp Ogden, Rusholme, Manchester, was discovered by the owner's grandfather, William Sharp, a collector of books and prints, near Manchester some fifty-four years ago. He gave a few pounds only for it, but later received an offer of 150 pounds. On the reverse of the title to the New Testament is 'William Shakespeare, 1614,' and on the end cover 'Willm. Shakespeare off S. O. A. (Stratford-on-Avon) his Bible, 1613.' The inscription on the final cover, 'John Fox off Warwick was the owner of this Bible Anno Dom. 1633,' proves it to have been in the Shakespeare country soon after the dramatist's death in 1616. In 1666 it belonged to William Brdshaw, in 1727 to Thomas Hall. Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna, married Dr. John Hall of Stratford, but there is no ground so far as we know for associating the one Hall with the other."

AN "OFFICIAL cup of coffee" is the latest thing at the office of the secretary of agriculture. Speaking of this important innovation a writer in the Kansas City Journal says: "By direction of the secretary of agriculture the bureau of plant industry is to take up at once experiments to determine the best manner in which to brew a cup of coffee. To this end, Mr. F. L. Lewton, a specially trained expert, has been engaged. The view of the department is that a cup of coffee is good because of the manner in which it is brewed, rather than from the quality of the bean from which the beverage is made. It will be appreciated by all persons acquainted with the art and mystery of coffee making that various conditions, apparently trivial in themselves, have to be taken into consideration in producing the beverage. For instance, in the process of roasting the beans may be more or less damaged by being under or over done, and the flavor of the coffee thus impaired to a corresponding degree. Hence the necessity for ideal conditions in roasting. Again, the effects of water at various temperatures upon the ground coffee and the proper period for infusion will, for the first time in the history of coffee making, be thoroughly and accurately ascertained. The retention of caffeine, the active principles of coffee, to which it owes its stimulating effects, and the elimination of the caffeotanic and caffeic acids, which are not only injurious to health but communicate an unpleasant, bitter taste to the beverage, will be, of course, the principal objects."

IT HAS been discovered that the republic of France has not "Great Seal" of its own and an order has just been issued for one. The Westminster Gazette says: "There are, however, six Great Seals of one sort or another in the museum of the French foreign office, representing not only the pre-royal republics, but also the regimes of the Bourbons and the Bonapartes. The most interesting is that of Napoleon I, which is mutilated. The mutilation was effected with a chisel by order of Louis XVIII, who feared lest it should be stolen and treacherously used against him. His own seal bore the date 1795—the year of the death of his nephew, Louis XVII, in the temple. One of Danton's services to the republic was to give instructions for the designing of a seal. The idea which he communicated to the artist was 'a Hercules knocking down a king.' This design, however, though approved by a committee, was never executed."

THE largest piece of cut glass in the world is now on exhibition at the St. Louis fair. It is as large as a man and is said to be as brilliant in every part as the finest small piece on exhibition at the fair. The Boston Budget describing this beautiful piece of work, says: "The largest piece of cut glass in the world, a vase as tall as a man and as brilliant in every part as the finest small piece, is at the St. Louis exposition. The vase is 5 feet 6 3/4 inches in height, and every inch of it is perfectly worked in sunbursts, chrysanthemums and headed and notched effects that shed pris-