

CURRENT TOPICS

CT. BECKWITH, president of the defunct Citizens' National bank at Oberlin, O., an institution made famous by Cassie L. Chadwick's financing, died at his home on the evening of Feb. 5. Ever since the Chadwick expose Mr. Beckwith has been failing and he has been gradually losing his eyesight. He was sixty-five years of age and at the time of his death was under indictment by the federal grand jury on the charge of having violated the national banking laws in connection with the loans made to Mrs. Chadwick. It is claimed that Mr. Beckwith's death will materially weaken the cases of forgery now pending against Mrs. Chadwick.

PRESIDENT SCHURMAN of Cornell University, created something of a sensation when in an address delivered to the students of Cornell on the evening of Feb. 5, he said: "The Christ of the Twentieth century differs from the Christ of the Nineteenth and preceding centuries. No longer will educated men go to the Bible as a text book of physical science. It seems strange that men should ever have regarded the Bible as such, but they did a generation ago. Now an educated man who would quote the Bible as an authority on any physical subject would be an object of ridicule in the eyes of all educated men. I do not believe there is any true history in the Bible, simply because the Hebrews never wrote history. I do not attempt to explain the miracles of Jesus Christ, but even today we have our Christian Science and faith cures."

IN AN INTERVIEW made public February 5, Senator Allison of Iowa declared that he is in favor of railroad legislation. He declined to commit himself explicitly in favor of the house measure known as the Esch-Townsend bill, but he said that private cars and all discriminations should be done away with. He said that he favored some such regulation as the president has proposed. Senator Allison further said that there is a demand among the people "for corrections in the tariff law." He said he would not favor a re-opening of the tariff question for the purposes of general revision, but he thought that there should be some corrections.

ACCORDING to a government report, New York is the first in the production of potatoes, Michigan second, Wisconsin third, Pennsylvania fourth, Iowa fifth, Maine sixth, Ohio seventh and Illinois eighth. According to the agricultural department potatoes are the fourth largest crop in this country. In 1904 the potato crop exceeded that of the banner year, 1896, by 40,000,000 bushels. In 1902 the yield was 284,000,000 bushels, in 1903 it was 247,000,000 and in 1904 it was 332,000,000 bushels. The ratio of production to each family is 20 bushels.

THE people of Newark, N. J., and the people of Heath township, near Paducah, Ky., have been considerably disturbed recently. The cause of the Kentucky disturbance is "a talking tree." The Paducah correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says that a committee of "responsible citizens" investigated this tree. The correspondent adds: "One thing only was established and that the fact that the tree is dying slowly from the continuous tramping of the earth about its roots. The tree is on Will Albert's farm and for years the mystery of its supposed vocal powers has been upon the countryside. Hundreds there are who will testify that on occasions a voice apparently coming from the tree cries: 'There are treasures buried at my roots.' The investigating committee listened for a few hours before the human like cry sent the members trembling back to town. The members of a family which lived there several years ago became frightened at the voice; they sold the farm at a sacrifice and went away."

THE disturbance at Newark is due to a dream had by the late Mgr. Geo. Deane. The Newark correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says that Mgr. Deane, in a conversation with a parishioner, four hours before he died, told of strange manifestations which had come to him on the previous night. A little over a week before his death Mgr. Deane attended a young man, Willie

Healey. The boy did not die for over a week. He was buried Jan. 19 and the next day Mgr. Deane died just after finishing his dinner. On the afternoon of that day he called on Healey and told him of the experience he had had the previous night. "I had either a dream or a vision, in which I appeared to be in heaven and was talking to your son. Above the strains of the music came the voice of your son Willie, saying to me: 'O, monsignor, are you with us so soon? We want you here, for we are all so happy.'" Both the monsignor and Mr. Healey were much overcome at the narration and the latter says the whole thing was startling to him. Four hours later Mr. Healey heard the monsignor was dead.

NEWSPAPER dispatches say that great interest is manifested in the forthcoming report of Mr. Garfield, commissioner of corporations, on the beef trust. It is understood that the report will soon be made public. The Washington correspondent for the Fort Dodge, Iowa, Messenger, says that in the event criminal proceedings are commenced, the individuals against whom these proceedings will be had are as follows: "Nelson Morris, Louis F. Swift, Ira Morris, J. Ogden Armour, Patrick A. Valentine, Calvin M. Favorite, Arthur Meeker, Thomas T. Connors, Charles F. Langdon, Michael Cudahy, Edward A. Cudahy, Patrick Cudahy, Albert F. Bochart, Edward Morris, Lawrence A. Carton, L. Edward Hartwell, Jesse P. Lyman, Frank E. Vogel, Louis Pfaelzer, William Russell, Albert H. Veeder, Henry Veeder, Edward C. Swift, Ferdinand Sulzberger, W. H. Noyes. The companies which formed the trust now perpetually enjoined from further operations are: Swift & Co., The Cudahy Packing Co., Armour & Co., The G. H. Hammond Co., Hammond Packing Co., The Armour Packing Co., Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Co."

JOHAN LEWALTER, according to a writer in the Milwaukee Sentinel, has traced the tune of "Yankee Doodle" to 1776, at Wasenburg, the central depot of the Hessian troops employed as mercenaries in the war of American independence. Lewalter is an eminent authority on folksongs. He says "Yankee Doodle" is a dance tune the Hessian troops picked up and adds that in the district today numerous tunes may be heard which closely resemble it in lilt and rhythm.

THE British census reports of family names, according to a writer in the Kansas City Journal, give in England and Wales 253,606 Smiths, 242,100 Joneses, with Williams, Taylor, Davis and Brown following in order. For Scotland, Smith leads, followed by McDonald, Brown, Thomson, Robertson, Stewart and Campbell. Murphy is ahead in Ireland, there being 62,600 of them; then come Kelly, 59,900; Sullivan, 43,600; Walsh, 41,700; Smith, 37,000; O'Brien, 33,400; Byrne, 33,000; Ryan, 32,000; Connor, 31,200; O'Neil, 29,100, and Reilly, 29,000.

MRS. ELEANOR LIGHT died recently at her home in Cincinnati and thereby hangs a tale of loyalty and faith. According to the Cincinnati Enquirer, Mrs. Light was 80 years of age. In spite of the importunities of her daughters she preferred to spend her declining years in the little room alone, where she might daily and nightly pray for the return of her husband, Jacob Light, who was killed at the explosion of the steamer Pat Rogers, at Rising Sun, Ind., 35 years ago. Though others mourned him as dead his faithful wife never gave up hope that he was sound and well and would return to her. The bodies of the others who perished were found and identified, but that of Light never came to the muddy surface of the stream and was never found. Mrs. Light's children married and started in life for themselves, but the mother continued to live alone and kept a place at her little table for her missing husband until the day she died. When the steamboat whistles blew as the vessels came to and fro from the city she could be seen at her window looking out, her face bright with hope for the one who never returned. Toward the last she became childish and repeated that "Jack" would be home in a few days. The funeral took place from the home of her daughter, 51 Lock street.

THE peculiar financial arrangements obtaining at the court of the czar are strikingly illustrated by a story told by the Copenhagen correspondent for the Cincinnati Enquirer. This correspondent says: "Prof. Tuxen, the famous painter, finished the czar's portrait and was given an order on the court treasurer for \$6,000. The treasurer would only pay the artist \$4,000. The rest, he said, was his commission, discount, and so on. When the professor went to take leave of the czar he was asked whether he had received his fee. He explained what had happened and the czar then gave him the \$2,000 out of his private safe in gold. He did not seem at all surprised to hear of the action of the treasurer and has taken no steps to have him punished."

CONGRESSMAN HEPBURN of Iowa has been severely criticised for his railroad freight rate measure, but the Washington correspondent for the Sioux City Journal says: "Every line and every word of the Hepburn bill was written in the office of Attorney General Moody and approved by the president before it was introduced by Col. Hepburn." The correspondent adds: "It is probable Col. Hepburn, in his speech in support of the committee bill this week, will refer to the situation in Iowa, of the misconception, of the unfair means employed, of the effort to make political capital for somebody else, and will intimate that when all the facts are known matters will look differently."

CHARLES WAGNER, author of the "Simple Life," referring to the president, says: "He loves France, and takes pleasure in recalling that he and Mrs. Roosevelt are descendants of a French Huguenot family." This moves the New York World to say: "Not only a many-sided man but a many-blooded man is Mr. Roosevelt. When he is talking to a Frenchman he can think only of France and his French blood. The sight of a Hollander drives from his mind everything but the thought that Dutch blood strolls leisurely through his veins. Whistle 'The Wearin' o' the Green' and the president, remembering his ancestral shillalah, begins to sing the Big Stick, and then wise South American republics take to the tall timber. Mention Missouri and he remembers that his own arteries expand under the pressure of warm southern blood. Or Lodge drops in and Mr. Roosevelt recalls that he too had New England ancestors, even if codfish balls are not on the white house breakfast table. If the president could be separated into his constituent parts he might make a creditable appearance as a world's fair congress of nations."

SENATOR KEAN of New Jersey has prepared a resolution proposing to authorize the interstate commerce committee to sit during the recess of congress to investigate the railroad rate question, the committee to report its findings to the senate at its regular session next November. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, referring to the Kean resolution, says: "The adoption of such a resolution is designed for the purpose of tying the hands of President Roosevelt, who has announced his determination to call an extra session if no legislation on this question is enacted by the present congress. This is the scheme of the railroad attorneys, who are responsible for the proposition. It is to be used as an argument against the session, and the contention will be made that the president should not call congress together to act on this question while the senate is conducting an investigation of it. In view of the president's attitude on the railroad rate questions, and his frank announcement that he will call an extra session of congress if necessary, the adoption of the resolution would be an insult to him. President Roosevelt is well aware that this subterfuge is proposed for the purpose of embarrassing him, and those who are aware of the president's views believe he would ignore the plans of the railroad representatives to cause delay, and call an extra session in spite of any investigation the senate may authorize."

THE youngest rear admiral in the United States is older than Admiral Togo, according to a writer in The Independent. The four Japanese vice admirals are all younger than the youngest of our captains. The Japanese rear admirals average age