

# CURRENT TOPICS

**B**IALYSTOK, RUSSIA, is the scene of the latest anti-Jewish riots, and the reports indicate that the horrors are greater even than those which called forth such a storm of protest a few months ago. The Jews estimate that 200 of their number were killed, of which number seventy had been prepared for burial the second day after the trouble began. The trouble seems to have been precipitated by a personal encounter between a Jew and a man belonging to the anti-Jewish order. A crowd immediately collected and attacked the Jewish quarter of the city, and although the Jews made a show of resistance they were speedily overwhelmed. Unspeakable atrocities were committed by the enraged populace. The dead bodies of the Jews were mangled and mutilated, and their property given over to the torch.

**I**T WAS A WEEK before the embargo on news was raised, and a correspondent for the Associated Press allowed to enter Bialystok and report. Reports are that the excesses assumed the character of a three-cornered fight between the military, the mob and armed members of the Jewish bund, the latter resisting instead of tamely submitting to slaughter as their unarmed co-religionists had done. The pillaging continued for several days after the killing had subsided, and while it appears that the police and soldiers could have stopped matters at almost any stage of the proceedings, they neglected to do their duty for a long while, thus becoming responsible in large measure for the awful casualty list. Later dispatches state that matters have again quieted down and that funeral processions are no longer kept under armed guard. Many of the shops and stores have been re-opened. It is directly charged by one correspondent that the outbreak was provoked by the police.

**F**EDERAL JUDGE M'PHERSON, sitting at Kansas City, imposed sentence June 22 upon several persons convicted in connection with rebates. Judgments in the nature of fines were assessed as follows: Swift & Co., \$15,000; Cudahy Packing company, \$15,000; the Armour Packing company, \$15,000; Nelson Morris & Co., \$15,000; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway, \$15,000. George L. Thomas of New York, was fined \$6,000 and sentenced to four months in the penitentiary. L. B. Taggart of New York was fined \$4,000 and sentenced to three months in the penitentiary. A fine of \$15,000 assessed against the Burlington covered all four counts, the aggregate amount of the fines in the seven cases totaling \$85,000. Appeals were filed in each case and a stay of execution was granted until June 29, until they could be perfected. The bonds in the cases of Thomas and Taggart were fixed at \$6,000 each. These two men appeared in court personally and upon being sentenced promptly furnished the required bonds. The bonds in the case of the packing companies and the Burlington were fixed at \$15,000 each. Before sentence was passed in the various cases motions for new trials were made by John C. Cowin of Omaha, and Frank Hagerman of Kansas City, for the packers, and by Judge O. M. Spencer of St. Joseph, upon behalf of the Burlington railroad and Thomas and Taggart. All these motions were overruled.

**O.** M. SPENCER, of St. Joseph, Mo., who is general counsel for the Burlington railway and also appeared for Thomas and Taggart, addressed the court before the sentence was pronounced. Mr. Spencer said that an announcement had been sent abroad by the department of justice at Washington that "unless some one is sent to the penitentiary, this rebate practice will not stop." He asked: "Can the district attorney justify himself for demanding greater punishment in the Thomas and Taggart case than he is asking in the packers and in the Burlington cases? If so on what ground? On the ground of larger sums of money? No. Or different crimes? No. For both were refunds on freights or concessions, and your honor has well said,

during this trial, there is no real distinction. The crime is the same in substance, but the form of the indictment and the name of the crime is different in the one instance, than in the other. There is no justice in pursuing these defendants while allowing the real offenders to escape. The escape of one criminal is no defense for the other; but is it not a mockery on justice for this great national government to sit by and call one after another of these rich merchants, and allow them to clear their skirts of crime, and prosecution, by telling how their own agent at their solicitation obtained money from the railroad for them? All this, too, by the consent and on terms named by the government."

**G**EORGE L. THOMAS is a New York freight broker and Taggart is his chief clerk. It was pointed out by Mr. Spencer that it is a question whether Thomas and Taggart should have been convicted on the charge of conspiracy at all. Mr. Spencer said "only shippers can receive, only carriers can give rebates under the law." Many lawyers think that the sentence against Thomas and Taggart will not stand and some are unkind enough to observe that it may be significant that the jail sentence was imposed only upon the two hired men or go-betweens, while the chief parties in the conspiracy, the packers and the railroad company, escaped with a fine; also that the only ones to be sentenced to jail were those concerning whose conviction under the law, grave doubt is raised among lawyers generally.

**M**ANY PEOPLE WERE surprised to learn that a jail sentence had been imposed in the rebate cases at Kansas City because they remembered that the imprisonment clause in the anti-rebate law had been repealed by the Elkins law. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington provides the explanation: "Attorney General Moody has always been of the opinion that if a person guilty of rebating could be imprisoned for it, the practice would soon be broken up as, however, the Elkins law contained no provision for such a sentence, it became necessary for Mr. Moody, in order to put into effect this theory, to find some other means for doing so. On an examination of the authorities Mr. Moody discovered that under the authority of the supreme court of the United States, in the case of Clune vs. The United States, a conspiracy to commit a crime against the United States, itself punishable only by fine, the defendant might also be punishable by imprisonment. He directed the United States attorney in each district that 'in the event of obtaining a conviction on a charge of conspiracy of this kind, you are directed to present to the court the desirability of inflicting the penalty of imprisonment, to the end that these unlawful practices which have received almost universal condemnation, may be discouraged and prevented as far as existing laws will accomplish that result.'" It has not, however, been explained why the jail sentence was imposed only upon the go-betweens and not upon the principals.

**R**EPRESENTATIVE MANN, of Illinois, entertained the house recently in a showing of the impurity of food supplies. Dispatches say that the space in front of the speaker's desk looked like a grocery store with all sorts of glasses, cans and bottles. Mr. Mann said that many of the medicines advertised to cure the opium habit were themselves full of opium; and that wherever the honest manufacturer or dealer goes, he is met by sharp competition from adulterations or short weight. The Associated Press says Mr. Mann read a letter from the German-American extract works in which they told how to make all kinds of liquors. He said that this firm claims to make any kind of liquor out of ethal alcohol. Black pepper, he said, is a fruitful source of adulteration the "filler" being sold in five ton weights, according to a letter which Mr. Mann read. Pepper berries, he said, are made out of tapioca colored with lamp black. "The

coffee that we drink, Mocha and Java," said Mr. Mann, "is generally adulterated with Brazil coffee and ground coffee with sawdust and even bread crumbs." Taking his position behind the tables Mr. Mann began a rapid explanation of every article there. Taking up a bottle of bright colored cherries marked "Maraschino cherries," he explained that the cherries had been picked green; that they were then bleached and colored with aniline dye and, holding up a bright colored bit of cloth, he said, "this cloth was dyed with the same dye." "What are these cherries for?" asked a member. "I understand they are used one at a time in a well known drink," replied Mr. Mann, amid laughter, some of the members recognizing the cocktail which goes with the cherry. Holding up a bottle containing a light colored liquid, Mr. Mann said it was honey. "Yet it never saw a hive, much less a comb. It is fresh from the glucose factory." Freezin, he said, is a powder sold to preserve meat. He admitted that it might keep meats from spoiling, but said that it is most injurious to health, being composed of sulphite of soda and red coal tar dye. A fine grade of olive oil used by the Union League club of Philadelphia, turned out to be cotton seed oil with an adulterant. Taking three cans of tomatoes, Mr. Mann said each was of different weight, but all were bought for three pounds. "The department stores of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington and the mail order houses sell the short weight cans," said Mr. Mann. Mr. Mann insisted that standard cans ought to be full weight.

**J**OHAN M. PATTISON, governor of Ohio, died at his home in Millford, fifteen miles west of Cincinnati, on June 18, Bright's disease being the immediate cause of his death. Governor Pattison was elected as a democrat last fall after one of the most strenuous gubernatorial campaigns in the history of Ohio. He was elected on a reform platform, and his every official act demonstrated his sincerity of purpose and the courage of his convictions. The arduous campaign weakened a constitution not strong at its best, and he was a very sick man when he was inaugurated. But his iron will kept him up to the very last. He was born in Clearmont, Ohio, in 1847. In 1864, at the age of sixteen, he enlisted in an Ohio regiment and served until the end of the war. He was a collegemate of Senator Foraker, graduating from the Ohio Wesleyan university in 1869, and immediately began the practice of law. He served one term in each branch of the state legislature, and one term in congress. The state of Ohio suffers a great loss through the death of this splendid man, and democracy loses one who was a staunch worker in the cause of equal rights.

**I**N AN AIRSHIP sixty-two feet long and sixteen feet in diameter, and designed and wholly built by himself, Lincoln Beachley startled all of Washington on June 14 by sailing his machine wherever he pleased. He circled the Washington monument, sailed around the dome of the capitol, landed when and where he pleased, and wound up by gracefully alighting in the White House grounds. Beachley has been assistant to Roy Knabenshue, who sailed at the Louisiana Purchase exposition. Beachley modeled his machine after Knabenshue's, and started his flight from a point in Virginia five miles down the Potomac. His approach towards the capital was heralded by the pages and other employes, and senators and representatives watched his course with evident pleasure. Beachley demonstrated to the satisfaction of thousands that he had solved the rudiments of aerial navigation. He employed a gas bag with a capacity of 10,000 cubic feet, made of 750 yards of Japanese silk.

**A**LEXANDER BERKMAN, the anarchist who was recently liberated from the Pennsylvania prison after serving a term for an attack upon Henry C. Frick in 1892, has joined his fortunes with Emma Goldman, who is more or less