

# CURRENT TOPICS

**E**VEN HENRY CABOT LODGE is not exempt from the charge of plagiarism. The New York World says: "In presenting the name of General U. S. Grant at the Chicago convention in 1880 Roscoe Conkling said: 'The election before us will be the Austerlitz of American politics. It will decide whether for years to come the country will be "republican or cossack.'" Senator Lodge yesterday nominated for auditor of Massachusetts Harvey E. Turner, saying: 'It would be exaggeration to say that the coming elections in New York and Massachusetts will be the Austerlitz of American politics. It is no exaggeration to say that the coming elections in New York and Massachusetts will decide whether the government of these two states for the next year shall be American or Cossack.' Conkling's version was briefer and better. Also it was uttered first."

**T**HE OFFICIAL statement of the volume of appropriations made by the first session of the Fifty-ninth congress, prepared by Thomas P. Cleaver and James C. Courts, chief clerks of the senate and house appropriation committees, shows that the grand total is \$879,589,185.16. The details by bills are as follows:

Agriculture .....	\$ 9,930,440.00
Army .....	71,817,165.03
Diplomatic and consular.....	3,091,094.17
District of Columbia.....	10,138,672.16
Fortification .....	5,053,993.00
Indian .....	9,260,599.98
Legislative, executive and judicial.	29,681,919.30
Military academy .....	1,664,707.67
Naval .....	102,091,670.27
Pension .....	140,245,500.00
Postoffice .....	191,695,998.75
Sundry civil .....	98,538,770.32
Deficiency appropriations.....	39,129,035.45
Miscellaneous appropriations.....	27,173,299.01
Permanent appropriations.....	140,076,320.00

Grand total .....

Referring to this statement the Houston (Texas) Post says: "There was no river and harbor appropriation at this session. If the same amount for rivers and harbors which was appropriated in 1898 had been appropriated, the total would have reached \$900,421,598.07."

**S**OME INTERESTING statistics with respect to the population of Ireland are given by the registrar general who has reached the conclusion that for a decade the population has remained practically stationary at four and one-half millions. Referring to the registrar's report a writer in the Louisville Courier-Journal says: "Last year the births reported in the island exceeded the deaths by 27,761. In other countries it has been found that the reports of births are less complete than those of deaths, and this may be the case in Ireland. If we treat the births as completely reported, the excess over deaths is not sufficient to cover the emigration, which is put at 60,676. However, there is some immigration, and though it is small it may reasonably be assumed that it is sufficient to prevent any positive decrease in the number of inhabitants. In 1841 the population of Ireland was 8,199,853. In the next decade came the great famine, and in 1851 the population had fallen to 6,514,473. In 1861 there was a further reduction to 5,798,624, and in 1871 to 5,402,759. The present population is not much over half what it once was, having been greatly reduced by emigration. In recent years the outflow has been much lessened. In 1903 it fell below 30,000, but in the next year rose to 87,000. Last year it was not much more than in 1903."

**A** JOINT DEBATE took place at Houston on the evening of October 6, between Senator Bailey and M. M. Crane, former attorney general for the state of Texas. General Crane arraigned Senator Bailey on the charge that he had accepted bribes from corporations, to control which he was elected to the United States senate. General Crane said: "I don't mean to be understood as saying it is improper for a senator or representative to accept any kind of employment in vacation or to make any argument in court. I don't go that far. If it is not an institution or man represent-

ing an institution asking favors of congress and under certain limitations I would be willing to concede it as entirely right. But I stand here tonight and I expect to contend for it until the clouds shall fall on my coffin—let it cost what it may, I don't care a continental—and intend to insist that senators and representatives have no right to take employment from those that we hire them to restrain and control. Now, ask the senator is he willing to submit to the legislature, those who elect him, and permit them to pass on it without opposition to him, without putting his personality in the way—ask them to state whether they believe a congressman or senator ought to accept such employment. Will he do it? And if they say he ought not, will he desist or will he continue to represent Texas and the corporations, too? If he doesn't want to do that, let me ask him if he is willing to submit to the democratic voters of Texas and invite them to pass on it, here tonight, if he, as United States senator, is to accept from monopolies, their representatives or public service corporations—to control which he was elected—and at the same time represent them in the senate? Will he do that? If he will, I will be content. Will he do it? If the people of Texas say they want to fill congress with corporation lawyers serving corporations while serving the people, I have not a word to say, except God pity the people."

**S**ENATOR BAILEY denied that he was the attorney for any monopoly and pointed to his record in congress as providing ample defense from any accusations of that character. Senator Bailey said: "I believe—and I believe it as firmly as my Christian wife believes in her religion—that the two great dangers threatening this republic today are the monopolies on this hand and socialism on that. Between their two monstrous and warring forces I have stood as the great democratic party has stood, resisting both with equal courage and equal resolution. Drive me from the senate because I am subject to corporate influence? My countrymen, as God is my judge, I believe I speak but the simple truth when I declare that corporations of this land would rather drive me out of the senate than any other man in that body. Who fought with unflinching zeal and unyielding courage the great battle of the people on the rate bill?"

**A**CCORDING TO Washington dispatches Thomas C. Platt, of New York, will soon retire from his seat in the United States senate. Failing health, worry over his matrimonial affairs and advancing years are given as the causes for the contemplated retirement. Senator Platt denies the report, but the New York correspondent for the Houston (Texas) Post says: "Despite the denial of Senator Platt there is a strong belief that he will resign. The senator is very feeble, and can stand exertion of no kind. His recent troubles have worried him exceedingly and brought him to a state of nervous collapse. He imagines he can do more than he really can, and the result is exhaustion. It is firmly believed by those who know him best that he will never sit in the senate again, and that when the time comes he will resign. The statement as to his resignation came not from anything the senator had said, but from a full knowledge of the conditions that preclude the possibility of his serving another term."

**N**EW JERSEY DEMOCRATS are seeking a candidate for the United States senate and the New York World suggests Grover Cleveland of Princeton. The World says: "Mr. Cleveland is by no means too old for the senate. He is only sixty-nine. Senator Allison, of Iowa, is eight years older than Mr. Cleveland; so is Senator Cullom of Illinois, who will be re-elected in January for his fourth term. Senators Hale and Frye, of Maine, are older than Mr. Cleveland, one by a year and one by six years, while Senator Teller, of Colorado, is Mr. Cleveland's senior by seven years, and Senator Proctor, of Vermont, by six years. These veterans are all active leaders in the senate. Senator Pettus, of Alabama, is sixteen years older than Mr. Cleveland, and his

colleague, Senator Morgan, is thirteen years older. Mr. Cleveland is the same age as Senator Burrows, of Michigan; Senator McEnery, of Louisiana; Senator Bulkeley, of Connecticut, and Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire. He is a year younger than Speaker Cannon, whom his friends wish to make president in 1908, and he is only two years older than Dryden himself. No age argument weighs against Mr. Cleveland's election. Two former presidents served in congress after they left the White House—John Quincy Adams as a representative and Andrew Johnson as a senator—but no precedents are needed to justify the New Jersey legislature in choosing Mr. Cleveland."

**A**N INTERESTING conversation recently took place at Cleveland, Ohio, between Mayor Tom Johnson and a professor of the University of Chicago. The New York World is authority for this story: "Professor — of the University of Chicago, called on Mayor Tom Johnson today to inquire about street railways. 'I didn't suppose you were permitted to deal with such questions,' laughed Mayor Johnson. 'Oh, we're free—we're perfectly free to think as we like.' 'If you think abreast of political and social conditions and say what you think,' the mayor rejoined, 'then you lose your jobs. If you study political economy and say what you think, you strike at your endowments. You know, professor, I have no love for your Chicago university. It teaches falsehoods—lies. Whenever I hear it mentioned I see a man with a bald head and a wig. Don't you think a man who pays half your bills ought to have something to say about what you teach?'"

**"H**OODOO" MAY BE looked upon by some as a slang word, a vulgarism, an "Americanism," but like many other words it has been incorporated into the language and is now an integral part thereof. Its meaning, while expressive, is hard to define. It is synonymous with "Jonah." To be a "hoodoo" is to be one who is constantly bringing ill luck on one's self and associates. To be "hoodooed" is to be the constant victim of bad luck. In this connection the remarkable history of Irwin McKinney of Humboldt, Neb., will be interesting. When Irwin was five years old he accidentally shot a little playmate with a revolver he happened to find lying about the house. A year later Irwin was kicked in the face by a horse, sustaining a broken jaw, and being laid up for many weeks encased in plaster casts. A few days ago Irwin attempted to climb into a wagon. His foot slipped and his leg was caught in a wheel, the result being that the lower portion of the leg was literally torn off and left lying in the road a hundred yards from where his cries aroused the driver to the horrible accident.

**F**RANCE IS MAKING every possible effort to protect her working men against accidents. The French employer's liability act was passed April 12, 1906. Referring to this act a writer in the New York Tribune says: "It applied to all employers and employed. Before 1898 negligence or fault on the part of the employer had to be proved to enable a workman to obtain compensation in case of accident, but this new law makes compensation recoverable in every case of accident, whether due to negligence or mere chance. Under the act of 1898 the annuity to the widow or widower was to be paid during life, and to be equivalent to twenty per cent of the annual wages of the deceased, the annuities to children to vary from fifteen to forty per cent of the annual wages, and some to reach sixty per cent in the event of their being left orphans. Should a widow or widower remarry the annuity was to cease, after the payment of a lump sum, representing the value of three years' annuity. A workman under this law earning annually 1,500 francs (\$289.50), if killed by accident in his trade, would leave to his widow an annuity of \$58.50 and one of \$101.32 to his children. These annuities, capitalized, represent about 10,000 francs, or \$2,026.50. In case of total disablement for work the victim of an accident received a life annuity of sixty-six per cent of his wages, and, in case of partial disable-