

# CURRENT TOPICS

REFERENCE IN THE president's message to the Japanese question is provoking bitter criticism among Californians. They do not take kindly to being called "wicked" because their board of education has made an order prohibiting adult Japanese from mingling with white children at public schools. California republican congressmen say, had the president's message been made public before election day, the republicans would have suffered great losses if not defeat. In behalf of the San Francisco board of education, it is stated that "many so-called Japanese children are men from twenty to twenty-five years old, who have no right to attend schools for boys and girls;" that Americans of that age are not admitted to public schools.

IN AN INTERVIEW given to a representative of the Associated Press, Mr. Altman, president of the San Francisco board of education, referring particularly to the president's message, said: "With all due deference to President Roosevelt, I must say it surprises me that with all the minuteness of detail of information furnished to Victor H. Metcalf, who came to San Francisco as the special representative of the president in this matter and who on his return to Washington must have undoubtedly placed all of this information at the disposal of the chief executive of the country, there should be such a display on the part of President Roosevelt as to state in his message that Japanese pupils are barred from the public schools of this city. This would lead people outside of San Francisco to believe that we refused an education to the Japanese children. Japanese children have not been excluded from the schools of San Francisco. The impression already gone forth that the Japanese were excluded from our local institutions of learning arises from the fact that a section of the school law of the state of California providing for a separate school for these children has been put into force and effect. In other words, far from barring the Japanese children from the public schools of San Francisco, the board of education has merely said to them: 'Attend this particular school and there find all the advantages and facilities which are provided our own white children.'"

BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER, of the University of California, undertakes to smooth things over in California, although declaring that in most respects he agrees with President Roosevelt. Mr. Wheeler says: "Cordial relations with Japan, both commercially and otherwise, are of prime importance to the Pacific coast, particularly to San Francisco. The school question is really in itself a small matter, at least in volume, for only a small number of pupils is involved. Many, if not most, of these are adults, and adults should not be allowed in the lower schools, no matter of what race. If it had been only children involved I can not think the question would have been raised. The question that is disturbing us as a people concerns the rapid immigration of Japanese laborers, and this question you must surely know is safe in the hands of the president, who is at once the well proven friend of Japan, and a thoroughgoing American in full sympathy with the needs and aspirations of the people of the Pacific coast. The immigration of Japanese coolies will have to be restricted in the interest of conditions here, in the interest of good understanding between the two nations and ultimately, as we believe, Japan will see it in the interest of Japan herself, but this is a delicate matter requiring delicate treatment. Japan is a first rate power and whatever is done will have to be done with her consent and co-operation. It is best not to be disturbed about the president. He understands our situation and when the clouds roll by he will be found our best friend, too."

THOSE WHO TAKE the Japanese side of the question say that the Japanese are very sensitive concerning their children and that their pride was wounded when Japanese children were denied the public school privileges which were cheerfully conferred upon children of other nationalities. The United States district attorney at

San Francisco has been instructed to assist the attorney representing the Japanese in the court proceedings which will be to compel the San Francisco board of education to admit Japanese pupils. In behalf of the Japanese it is pointed out that our constitution provides: "This constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land, and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding."

THE TREATY entered into between the United States and Japan in 1895 provides: "In whatever relates to rights of residence and travel; to the possession of goods and effects of any kind; to the succession to personal estate, by will and otherwise, and the disposal of property of any sort and in any manner whatever which they may lawfully acquire, the citizens or subjects of each contracting party shall enjoy in the territories of the other the same privileges, liberties and rights, and shall be subject to no higher imposts or charges in these respects than native citizens or subjects or citizens or subjects of the most favored nation."

SOME PEOPLE IN San Francisco were greatly disturbed because of this paragraph in the president's message: "Even as the law now is something can be done by the federal government toward this end, and in the matter now before me affecting the Japanese, everything that it is in my power to do will be done, and all of the forces, military and civil, of the United States which I may lawfully employ will be so employed." Washington dispatches say that the president has assured members of the California delegation that that did not mean that he would use the military forces of the United States to force the Japanese into the California schools. He meant that he would use the military forces to protect the Japanese against mob violence.

JOHN HURLEY, OF Litchfield, Conn., a student of Gaelic Etymological history, declares that Virgil and Shakespeare were both Irishmen. A Winstead (Conn.) correspondent for the New York American quotes Mr. Hurley as saying: "The same country that produced 'Erin-go-Braugh' was also responsible for the birth of Virgil and Shakespeare. I have been delving into the deviations of Shakespeare's name for more than a quarter of a century. His mother, Mary Arden, was unquestionably of Irish origin, for the name of Arden had its beginning in the Emerald Isle. Early in the fourteenth century a Lord Arden, clearly traced as Shakespeare's mother's ancestor, was a member of the Irish parliament." Having settled Shakespeare's origin Mr. Hurley proves that the great Latin writer of epics was also an Irishman, as follows: "The name of Virgil is undoubtedly an Irish name. In fact his real name was Fearghall, now shortened to Farrell, and we only know him as Virgil because that is the Latin synonym of the Irish name. Farrell, or Virgil, the Roman author, was connected with one of the greatest events known to history because he was related to the Irish astronomer of the same name who in the eighth century discovered that the earth is round. He was also a relative of the Irish king, Fearghall and there is every proof to show that his ancestors belonged to one of the Irish settlements founded long before his birth."

THE "POLITICAL propaganda" as advocated by President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, was overwhelmingly endorsed at the Minneapolis convention. For some weeks prior to the convention a report was industriously circulated that the Federation would not endorse President Gompers' policy. When the convention met it was evident that influences were at work to prevent an endorsement, but the feeling in favor of endorsement was soon discovered to be very strong. That portion of

President Gompers' annual report dealing with the political idea was listened to with close attention and was loudly applauded. Amidst scenes of great enthusiasm the committee on president's report made return of its recommendations, which were in effect that the political policy as outlined by President Gompers in the last campaign be continued on independent lines. The committee, however, strongly condemned the idea of affiliating with any special party and went on record as opposing the organization of a national labor party. The committee's report was debated for five hours, and was then adopted by an almost unanimous vote. The report was as follows: "We recommend that the action taken by the officers of the American Federation of Labor during the last campaign be indorsed and we express our approval of the campaign carried on against the enemies of labor with the small means at the disposal of the officers of the federation. We regard with pleasure the recent political action of the organized workmen of the country and by which they are determined to exhibit their political power. We are in full accord with and recommend to organized labor throughout the country that they persist in their efforts to organize as an independent political force."

TWO YEARS AGO the Nebraska legislature passed a new revenue law. For a long time the railroads have contested a large amount of their taxes in Nebraska. One clause in the new law authorizes the impounding of receipts of the railroads upon failure to pay this amount. On this clause action may be taken on December 1. It remained for a democratic treasurer to enforce this law. C. E. Bowlby is county treasurer of Saline county, Neb., and son of C. J. Bowlby, editor of the Crete (Neb.) Democrat, one of the best known of western newspaper men. On December 5 Treasurer Bowlby demanded of four Burlington railroad station agents the surrender of the receipts of their offices, the same to be applied on the railroad's taxes. These demands were refused, whereupon Treasurer Bowlby fled charges against the station agents. These agents were arrested and applied for release by the habeas corpus. District Judge Hurd refused to order the release and the issue will doubtless be thoroughly tested in the courts.

THE CONVENTION called by Governor Cummins of Iowa for the purpose of pushing the election-of-senators-by-the-people reform met at Des Moines, December 6. Ex-Governor Larrabee of Iowa, was made temporary chairman. J. B. Strode of Lincoln, Neb., was chosen president of the convention. Congressman W. R. Ellis of Oregon was made first vice president, John L. Hamilton of Hoopstown, Ill., second vice president, and John Weaver of Indianapolis, secretary. The following committees were chosen: Resolutions—Robert R. Wallace, Hamburg, Ill.; Senator L. A. Cox, Indianapolis, Ind.; Thomas D. Healy, Fort Dodge, Ia.; T. J. Kernan, Baton Rouge, La.; Platt Hubbell, Trenton, Mo.; G. A. Charters, Los Angeles, Cal.; Frank C. Goudy, Denver, Colo.; J. B. Strode, Lincoln, Neb.; Rosewell Shelly, Hood River, Ore. Permanent organization and rules—B. F. Peak, Moline, Ill.; H. S. Downey, Shelbyville, Ind.; Thomas A. Cheshire, Des Moines, Ia.; W. O. Hart, New Orleans, La.; Thomas E. Barkworth, Jackson, Mich.; W. F. Hill, St. Louis, Mo.; George D. Whitcomb, Glendora, Cal.; Murdo McKenzie, Trinidad, Colo.; William Haywood, Nebraska City, Neb.; William R. Ellis, Pendleton, Ore.; F. T. Tucker, Madison, Wis.

THE DES MOINES convention selected an executive committee which will conduct a campaign to secure from congress a call for a constitutional convention to consider the question of having senators elected by a direct vote of the people. Thomas A. Cheshire of Des Moines, was named chairman of an executive committee of five to take charge of the movement. His assistants are Thomas J. Kernan of Louisiana; Frank C. Goudy of Colorado, W. R. Ellis of Oregon, and C. M. Kimbrough of Indiana. This committee will direct the work of securing from thirty-seven legislatures that meet this winter action in line with the proposed reform.