

CURRENT TOPICS

THE PEOPLE of Wisconsin, as well as the statesmen at the national capital, were greatly surprised when, on March 3, Senator Spooner announced that he had sent to the governor of his state his resignation as senator the same to take effect May 1. In his letter Senator Spooner says that he is constrained to take this course because he can no longer afford the sacrifices necessary by reason of the abandonment of his profession. President Roosevelt and Secretary Taft both issued public statements expressing great regret because of Senator Spooner's retirement. It is generally conceded that this is a great loss to the republican organization and by some it is taken as a danger signal. Governor Davidson says the legislature will choose Spooner's successor.

MONDAY, March 4, Leslie M. Shaw retired from the office of secretary of the treasury and Ethan Allen Hitchcock retired from the office of secretary of the interior. Mr. Shaw is succeeded as secretary of the treasury by George B. Cortelyou, lately postmaster general. James R. Garfield, late commissioner of corporations, is now secretary of the interior. George von L. Meyer, former ambassador to Russia, is now postmaster general. Other members of the cabinet are: Secretary of state, Elihu H. Root; secretary of war, William H. Taft; attorney general, C. J. Bonaparte; secretary of agriculture, James Wilson; secretary of commerce and labor, Oscar S. Straus; secretary of the navy, Victor H. Metcalf. Secretary Wilson is the only member of the McKinley cabinet who has remained consecutively in that of the present chief executive. Secretary of State Root was secretary of war under Mr. McKinley and so remained under Mr. Roosevelt until January 1, 1904, when he retired. Later he was invited to the cabinet by Mr. Roosevelt and became secretary of state.

GOVERNOR HIGGINS of Rhode Island, has drawn a storm of criticism because of his address to the legislature on "Washington and His Times." An Associated Press dispatch says: "Governor Higgins referred to Washington's great abilities as a leader, and said that he was born at an opportune time and that he had seized opportunities at the right time. 'It has been pointed out,' he said, 'that in no walks of life did he ever arise to the immense proportions of a genius. It would be unfair to compare him as a statesman with either Benton, Clay or Sumner. As a soldier he is surpassed by Napoleon, Caesar and Alexander. Even in our country his ability on the field of battle perhaps did not approach the masterly strategic powers of Robert E. Lee, or Phil Sheridan, or U. S. Grant.'"

REPLYING to Governor Higgins Mr. Burchard, speaker of the Rhode Island house of representatives, said: "Even in his excellent address the governor could not refrain from picking notes out of the sunbeam of George Washington's memory. I must respectfully say to his excellency that on the trifling points which he has seen fit to produce I must differ. It is no evidence of George Washington's lack of education that he did not spell in the manner of today. In military affairs it is a great mistake to think that Washington was not pre-eminent as a strategist. To this effect we have the evidence of the greatest general of Europe, Frederick the Great of Prussia, who wrote of Washington as the greatest soldier of his generation. I will not admit that any of the generals of the civil war were his superior in military science."

ANNOUNCEMENT of the heaviest single advance in crude oil ever decided upon by the Standard Oil company was made simultaneously in Cleveland, Pittsburg, Lima and Marietta. The Cleveland, Ohio, Leader says: "The four Standard officials who would discuss the raise, which is to go into effect at once, said it was justified by market conditions, both foreign and domestic. The most sensational raise is on amber, or what is known as deep oil, which goes up 15 cents on a barrel. Shallow oil from the same fields (Marietta) goes up 5 cents. This fixes the price of Pennsylvania amber at \$1.73 and Pennsylvania dark at \$1.63. The price of all other grades, except Ragland, has been advanced from 2 to 5 cents. The new quotations are: Pennsylvania amber, \$1.73; Pennsylvania dark, \$1.63; Tiona, \$1.75; second sand, \$1.63; Cabell, \$1.20; Corning,

\$1.12; Newcastle, \$1.37; North Lima, 92c; South Lima, 87c; Indiana, 87c, and Richland, \$1.78. Independent oil operators are astonished at the size of the jump in prices only. Their views as to the reasons behind the increase are vastly different from the trend of the little information vouchsafed by Standard officials. "There never was a time when there was more oil more generally distributed in both the domestic and foreign fields than today, and market conditions do not justify any raise in the price," said W. E. Wall, president of the Fred G. Clarke company, last night. "The \$32,000,000 gift of Mr. Rockefeller to the cause of general education is the reason. Of the correctness of this view there can be no question. The raise was expected, although not such a sensational one. It has never failed. The raise means that the \$32,000,000 will flow back to Rockefeller in a golden stream. It must be remembered that Rockefeller and the Standard Oil company are under indictment. It comes high but the Standard must have public sentiment, to a degree at least. And the gift will have its effect. It cannot help but have. Judged solely by the size of his gifts, Rockefeller stands forth as the greatest philanthropist in the world. Unconsciously the indictments against Rockefeller and the Standard Oil company will be softened. In the meantime it is well to remember that it is the consumers who are really paying the fiddler."

AN INTERESTING STORY concerning a three-year-old boy is given to the New York World by its St. Francesville, Ill., correspondent. The story follows: "Charles Buchanan, who will be three years old on Thursday of this week, is a prodigy. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Buchanan, of this place. His mother was a school teacher in Vincennes before her marriage. When only ten months old he listened intently to conversations between adults. A month later when he heard persons talking, he interrupted them with such interrogations as 'Why?' 'Who?' 'What?' and 'When?' Soon afterward he knew the alphabet perfectly. At the age of eighteen months he had read and memorized the Third and Second readers used in the Illinois schools. He now reads the newspapers, and with the aid of a dictionary is able to understand all the words he sees. He weighs thirty-two pounds, reads everything with avidity, and the daily newspapers to his mother regularly at breakfast."

IN A SPEECH delivered in the house, Representative Tawney of Minnesota, republican, chairman of the house committee on appropriations, made the unqualified statement that, so far as could be estimated at that time, the appropriations of this session of congress would be greater than at any session since the foundation of the government. He predicted that the deficiency in the treasury for 1908 would be not less than \$100,000,000, and appealed to his colleagues to do what they could to keep the appropriations down. Mr. Tawney backed up this statement with figures showing that the regular estimates had aggregated \$895,690,643.68. These estimates had been exceeded in five of the money bills already passed by the house or both houses and senate by \$22,919,298.96. In addition to this, the obligations fixed by the legislation now pending in the River and Harbor and Naval appropriation bills exceeded \$73,634,526. The total was \$1,005,244,486.64. The estimated revenues of the government for 1908 aggregated \$804,573,246. He considered this a liberal estimate, and characterized the situation as grave.

JOHN MCCARTHY, whom the New York World calls "lumber handler and true gentleman" twice saved Mrs. Lillian Killian Doyle. The World tells the story in this way: "McCarthy saved Mrs. Doyle once from drowning and once from the charge of attempting suicide, which plainly seemed to Magistrate Crane, pretty well based. Mrs. Doyle, twenty-eight years old, a woman of seeming refinement and, certainly, of education, fell into the East river at the foot of Sixth street on Monday, was rescued, taken to Bellevue hospital and to the Essex Market police court yesterday. Mrs. Doyle had said she lived at No. 25 East Ninth street, but Policeman Thomas McCarthy, who had to press the charge against her, told the magistrate that she is the wife of John Doyle, a prosperous saloon keeper on Staten Island, who was in court. 'I did not try to kill myself,' Mrs. Doyle faltered. 'It was this way,'

said Gentleman John McCarthy, who lives at No. 193 Lewis street. 'The lady was looking at the boats when her foot slipped and she fell in the river.' 'Your're certain of that?' asked Magistrate Crane. 'Certain as—certain as—can be,' answered McCarthy. 'It's a queer place, that pier. The lady didn't know where she was; she was looking for a street, I think. We were loading lumber. I and my cousin Conny Coughlin were on a raft; my other cousin Tommy Ryan was on the pier, when the lady looking for the street, slipped in the river. All Tommy had to do, was to dive from the pier and all I had to do was to dive from the raft and we got her when she came up, and all Conny had to do was to pull us on the raft.' 'True, every word, Your Honor,' solemnly said Tommy Ryan. 'Mr. McCarthy, I'm glad to meet you,' said Magistrate Crane, and turning to Doyle, added: 'Take home your wife and be good to her for you came near losing her.' Husband and wife went away, arm in arm."

THE LOWER HOUSE of the California legislature has passed a sweeping anti-Japanese and anti-Chinese measure concerning which the Associated Press said: "The bill is known as the 'anti-alien property-holding bill.' It is aimed at the Japanese and Chinese property-owners in this state, and is intended to prevent them from acquiring and owning property for a longer period than five years. In urging the passage of the bill Drew stated that since January 1 of this year one-third of the property-transfers in Fresno had been to Japanese. The bill provides that any alien who does not become a citizen of the United States shall acquire and hold title to lands in this state for not more than five years. If within that time the alien does not become a citizen the district attorney shall compel the sale of his lands or houses. Japanese and Chinese are not specifically named, but as they cannot become citizens the bill is aimed directly at them and precludes them from owning property for more than five years. The measure also provides that no contract, agreement or lease of real estate for a longer period than one year shall be made to any alien, and any lease, agreement or devise of real estate made to any alien, for a longer period shall be null and void. The impression is given out that if the bill reaches the governor he will sign it."

THAT THE DOG possesses a marked surgical instinct is, according to a writer in the Boston Advertiser, verified by numerous instances out of the commonplace. This writer says: "A Rev. Mr. Young, who was engaged for a long time in missionary work in northwestern Canada, had among his dogs, of which a large number was necessary for drawing his sleds, one Rover. This dog not only attended its own wounds, but actually performed the duties of surgeon to all of its fellows. Galls, wounds, frozen feet and other like unpleasantnesses consequent upon the peculiar toil they had to perform were systematically and successfully treated by 'Dr.' Rover. He had one remedy, the anointing of the afflicted part with his saliva. Wherever he applied his remedy the cure was speedy. It was noticed that parts of the toes of the dog's patients which could not be reached by the dog doctor's tongue went unhealed. Mr. Young says that the Indians in admiration of the Canine's wonderful learning called him Muskeke Atim, meaning the surgeon. This instance shows that the saliva of the dog when that animal is in health and properly fed has a powerful bactericidal effect."

BUT THE DOG, according to this same writer, is not alone in the possession of these means for curing the various ills to which his tribe is heir. The Advertiser writer says: "Cats, cattle, rats, mice and monkeys are all known to lick their wounds when they get at them, and when they cannot do so they endeavor to get their companions to perform this office for them. If the queer little worlds which they know were possessed of newspapers intelligible to them, it would doubtless be true that they would be frequent contributors to these columns devoted to home remedies, and they would tell in glowing and convincing language how they had tried this method with such success that they would have no other. The Johns Hopkins men who are inquiring into this subject now call attention to an incident narrated by Dr. James Weir, in which a large monkey figured. The monkey scratched his shoulder badly on a nail