

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE FOLLOWING telegram reached The Commoner office on the morning after election day: "Oklahoma City, Okla., Sept 18, 1907.—Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.: The constitution has been ratified by nearly one hundred thousand, and the democratic ticket elected by from twenty-five to forty thousand. Convey the news to W. J. Bryan with our heartiest congratulations. J. B. Thompson Chairman State Committee."

THE STATE officers chosen for Oklahoma are as follows: Governor, C. N. Haskell; lieutenant governor, George Belamy; secretary of state, William Cross; state auditor, M. E. Trapp; attorney general, Charles West; state treasurer, J. A. Menefee; superintendent of public instruction, E. D. Cameron; insurance commissioner, T. J. McComb; examiner and inspector, C. A. Taylor; chief mine inspector, Peter Hanraty; labor commissioner, Charles Daugherty; commissioner of charities and corrections, Kate Barnard; corporation commissioners, J. J. McAlester, J. E. Love, A. P. Watson; justices supreme court, Jesse J. Dunn, S. W. Hays, R. L. Williams, Matthew W. Kane, J. B. Turner; clerk supreme court, W. H. L. Campbell. The legislature, which is overwhelmingly democratic will elect to the United States senate Robert L. Owen and T. P. Gore. In the congressional election the following were chosen: First district, Ex-delegate B. S. McGuire, republican; Second district, E. L. Fulton, democrat, defeated ex-Territorial Governor T. B. Ferguson; Third district, James Davenport, democrat; Fourth district, C. E. Carter, democrat; Fifth district, Scott Ferris, democrat.

THE RETURNS from the Oklahoma election are at best very meagre, owing to the inability of the telegraph companies to handle them. This inability is due to the strike of the telegraphers. At the end of a week only approximate figures are obtainable. But the democratic victory was fully as great as hoped for by the optimistic democrats. The legislature is overwhelmingly democratic and will ratify the senatorial nominations made at the democratic primary. Four out of five districts send democrats to congress, the exception being the First district. The democratic state ticket is elected in its entirety by majorities ranging from 32,000 to 40,000. The majority for the constitution was upwards of 80,000. The new state adopted prohibition by a majority of nearly 40,000.

THIS INTERESTING dispatch from Washington was printed in the Houston (Texas) Post: "The stress which the administration places upon the negro vote in Ohio in the fight to land the republican presidential nomination for Secretary Taft and to win the black vote in Cleveland for Representative Burton in his contest for the mayoralty against Tom Johnson, the democrat, has just been illustrated by an unprecedented and somewhat sensational stroke of executive policy. For the first time in the history of the United States army the title of major has been conferred upon a negro. The beneficiary of this unprecedented promotion is Rev. W. T. Anderson of Cleveland, for ten years a captain in the Tenth cavalry, colored. It became known today that the appointment was made at the request of George Meyers of Cleveland, for years a lieutenant of Mark Hanna and whose special assignment was looking after the 'cullud' brother from the south in national conventions, and Ralph Tyler, the Columbus negro, recently appointed auditor of the navy. As stated, the appointment of Anderson as a major was to accomplish a two-fold purpose, that is, to ingratiate the candidacy of Representative Burton for mayor of Cleveland and to avert the threatened stampede of negro delegates from the republican national convention. The mayoralty election in Cleveland will, in a measure, be a test of the administration's strength in that city, and to push Representative Burton through is a task to which the administration is devoting energy and thought. There is a large negro vote in Cleveland and upon George Meyers, who wanted Anderson promoted, the administration counts for material aid. The negro Tyler is expected to keep a large number of negroes in line for Taft,

notwithstanding the Foraker wave now enveloping negroes all over the country. The negro Anderson has been chaplain in the Tenth cavalry for ten years, and under the law he could be retired or promoted at the expiration of that time. It was believed to be good Taft and Burton politics to promote him, and the president played politics, as usual."

IN THE Philadelphia school for nurses, located at 2219 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, special provision has been made for taking a large number of young women in this school and giving them two years' free training in nursing. The object of those providing the funds for this purpose is to carry hospital benefits to all parts of the country. The scholarships are available for young women in every state. Preference, however, is given to young women from the smaller towns and rural districts where there is an absence of hospital facilities. The circular issued by the management says: "A two years' free course has been established at this institution, wherein the student is provided with room, board, laundry, nurse uniforms, and all the refinements of a good home, with suitable training, instruction and actual nursing in the homes of the poor and among people of moderate income, and at the end of the course the student's fare home is paid. The term can be shortened to eighteen months by a course of six months reading and study at home—a course which is very valuable in itself. Hundreds of young women, scattered all over the country, are started in the work, becoming not only self-supporting, but a boon to their respective neighborhoods. A short course is also provided for the woman who wishes to quickly prepare for self-support and a substantial income. Enrollment is now in progress for a class of four hundred students in the resident courses next year. Young women from the smaller towns and country districts are favored in the distribution of scholarships, with a view of conveying hospital knowledge to all rural communities."

ADDRESSING AN association of railroad officials in session at Chicago, Martin A. Knapp, chairman of the interstate commerce commission, said: "I believe the most mischievous piece of legislation in the history of the country is the Sherman anti-trust law as interpreted by the United States supreme court. It is intolerable and strikes a blow at development and progress." The Associated Press says that this statement was warmly applauded, and adds: "Chairman Knapp advocated combination, co-operation and central control of transportation lines. 'The axiom, competition is the life of trade, must be discarded if we are to progress,' he said. 'The obvious tendency of the age is to combine, and I think this tendency is to become more pronounced as we grow older and industrial and commercial civilization is perfected. The ultimate result, I think, will be the central control of all transportation lines with diffused ownership. Let us not denounce, but discriminate in bringing about the desired result. The constant friction of unbridled competition has become irksome. We are drifting toward a world-wide financial federation.' In further reference to the Sherman anti-trust law he said: 'The one public man who has dared fearlessly to express his opinion on the injustice of the supreme court's interpretation of this act is the president of the United States.'"

IN THE HEARING in the case of the government against the Standard Oil company in federal court New York some interesting figures were brought out. The story is told by an Associated Press dispatch in this way: "Profits aggregating \$490,315,934 were made by the Standard Oil company in the seven years from 1899 to 1906. Testimony to this effect was given by Assistant Comptroller Fay of the company in the federal hearing here today. In the same period the company's gross receipts were \$200,091,623 to \$371,604,531. This is the first time the company's earnings have been made public. A list of securities owned by the Stand-

ard Oil company of New Jersey presented today shows that that corporation owns 9,990 shares of the stock of the Standard Oil company of Indiana, which company was recently sentenced by Judge Landis in Chicago to pay a fine of \$23,240,000. In addition to stating that in the period of seven years referred to the company's total profits aggregated \$490,315,934, Mr. Fay said that \$308,359,430 were paid in those years. His statement also disclosed that the capital stock of the Standard of New Jersey was \$96,998,612 in 1899 and \$98,338,382 in 1906."

AN EFFORT was made to get Henry H. Rogers, the Standard Oil magnate in court in Boston in the suit where the heirs of Benjamin F. Greenough sues to recover \$50,000,000 under three contracts made in 1874 with the oil trust. Although several witnesses had testified that they had recently seen Mr. Rogers and that he did not appear to be ill, his son testified that he was suffering from paralysis, unable to attend to business, and that if required to attend court it might be fatal to him.

ATTORNEY General Bonaparte addressed the national prison congress, in session at Chicago. The Commoner takes Mr. Bonaparte's remarks from the report made by the Associated Press. Mr. Bonaparte spoke of the value of discipline as having "a miraculous power to radically change human nature," and of the necessity of insuring obedience to the sovereign will by punishment of disobedience. "The efficacy of any form of punishment, however," said the attorney general, "must be judged by its results to the community in diminution of crime. Its effects on the law breakers themselves, while worthy of note, are of vastly less moment. The habitual criminal is a product of modern civilization. Our ancestors would have hanged him for his first felony, or he would have almost surely died of the maladies then epidemic in prison while awaiting trial for his second one. I would not have men hanged for trifling thefts, but I would have modern society cease to nourish and shelter its proved and inveterate enemies." Mr. Bonaparte said he had seen no reason to repent of his suggestion, made in a magazine article some years ago, that an attempt to commit capital crime ought to be made itself capital, and that a fourth commission of a major crime should render the offender liable, in discretion of the court, to the death penalty. As to the power to pardon, "this," said Mr. Bonaparte, "exists and can be rightfully exercised only for the public benefit. The wishes and interests of the culprit or of his family or of his friends are immaterial. If I ever advised the president to exercise clemency for no better reason than because I felt sorry for the prisoner or those interested in him, I should feel that my conduct had differed, indeed, in degree, but not in kind, from what it would have had I given such advice for a bribe in money."

WASHINGTON dispatches say that Attorney General Bonaparte will insist upon granting immunity to the Chicago and Alton railroad and Chicago dispatches say that the attorneys for the Standard Oil trust will raise the plea that the big fine should be wiped out because of the immunity to the Alton road. One Chicago dispatch says: "In the event that the Alton is granted immunity, which it has been fully established was promised to the railroad through an agreement with Former Attorney General Moody, the Standard Oil attorneys will demand that Judge Landis' fine be set aside. Ground for this plea will be that the Standard Oil lawyers should have been apprised of this immunity agreement in order that they might question the Alton witnesses properly. The Standard Oil will contend that they should have been allowed to ask these railroad clerks, who gave such full evidence in regard to rates and shipment and tariffs, whether their testimony had been influenced in any way by knowledge that the road which employed them would not suffer prosecution. Lawyers assert that the procedure in the case was illegal and that it fur-