

CURRENT TOPICS

THE WASHINGTON correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat (rep.) makes this forecast of the president's message: "Specific recommendation in favor of the lakes-to-the-gulf deep waterway and conservation of the national resources. Legislation providing that all corporations doing an interstate business must secure a federal license, with certain restrictions. Extension of the powers of the interstate commerce commission to include supervision of railway stocks and bond issues. That the Sherman anti-trust law be so amended as to prohibit only such combinations as are pronounced by the courts to be unreasonable. Plan for emergency currency based on assets, so taxed as to insure its retirement as soon as the exigency is past. Other recommendations: Graduated inheritance tax; federal income tax; Philippine tariff bill; modified shipping bill; postal savings bank; establishment of more perfect public health service, and extension of the parcels post. Statehood for New Mexico will not be mentioned."

MR. BRYAN'S statement relative to the presidential nomination seems not to have pleased Henry Watterson. In an interview given to the Associated Press Mr. Watterson makes a bitter attack upon Mr. Bryan. An Associated Press dispatch from Chicago says: "William J. Bryan's pronouncement to the effect that 'Barkis is willin'' so far as the democratic presidential nomination is concerned, was accepted yesterday by Chicago democrats as the signal flag for the most bitter fight for control of the party Illinois democrats have experienced. The immediate effect was a wholesale rush among the lieutenants of Carter H. Harrison to declare openly for Bryan. Former Mayor Dunne was unequivocal in his pro-Bryan declaration. William L. O'Connell, Secretary John P. Tansey of the democratic organization, and Alderman Thomas F. Scully, who is one of the chiefs of staff of William Loeffler, also declared for Bryan. The attitude of Mr. Sullivan and his confidants on the national committee will be disclosed at a conference of national leaders, called by Chairman Thomas Taggart, which will be held at the French Lick Springs hotel November 22."

AN ASSOCIATED Press dispatch from Cleveland, Ohio, follows: "In an open letter to William J. Bryan, expressing satisfaction with Mr. Bryan's announcement of yesterday, Mayor Tom L. Johnson says he will endeavor to secure an Ohio delegation to the national democratic convention that will call upon Mr. Bryan again to be democratic candidate for the presidency. The mayor declares he is not an aspirant for the nomination. The letter says: 'The Commoner's editorial announcement of your decision regarding the presidential situation gives me the greatest satisfaction. Both in spirit and form it is worthy of you and of our democratic cause. This declaration is the one thing needed to secure the democratic party the benefit of its best leadership in the coming campaign.'

EUGENE PRUSSING, a Chicago lawyer, recently called on President Roosevelt and submitted this plan: "The Association of Attorneys General recommends that the right to hold stock in any other corporation should be denied to all interstate corporations. It seems to me that the purpose of this, namely, to compel the real owners of a corporation to do business in their own name, can be achieved by requiring the corporation so owning stock in another and the corporation in which it owns stock to list such owners and stockholders respectively in every case in the department of commerce. Thus honest holding companies will be permitted and yet protected against possible assault of local taxation or other unjustly discriminating laws, just as national banks now are, while the public in turn will have knowledge of whom it is dealing with and can protect itself. The change of all state banks and trust companies to national banks, which can be accomplished

by a single amendment of the national banking act, will also be popular, and can be along states' rights lines. The proposed change is this: Give national banks two additional powers—to accept and execute trusts; to accept trust, savings and time deposits. Thus every national bank becomes the full competitor of state banks and trust companies, and soon the latter will be forced to become national banks. Go at the general corporation problem in a similar manner. Enlist the states' rights men on your side. Make the local laws harmonious, if possible, by appointing a commission to investigate the entire subject. Get the best talent—Root, Choate, Dillon, Morawetz, Grosscup and others of that type will be glad to serve for patriotic reasons." Referring to Mr. Prussing's visit a Washington dispatch says: "At the end of the interview the president said: 'And now, my dear sir, I want to pay you a compliment. I did not expect you to give me a single thing. Instead of that you have given me several practical suggestions in concrete form, some of which are entirely new. I shall study them with pleasure. I may say you will soon see them reflected somewhere.'

ONE OF THE highest officials of the United States department of agriculture, speaking to the Washington correspondent for the New York World said: "Last year the value of our farm products exported to foreign countries was in round numbers \$1,158,000,000, or a little less than \$4,000,000 a day. Whereas the gross amount of certain products for the present year may not be as great as last, their value is considerably more and our farmers have been reaping the benefit of the increase. In fact, we are now exporting nearly \$5,000,000 worth a day, and this excellent business must continue or the whole country will suffer. I don't wish to be pessimistic, but it is just as well to look conditions squarely in the face. The present state of affairs in New York, of course, is due in a large degree to the criminal recklessness of a lot of gamblers and business wildcats in Wall Street, but money is tight everywhere, Europe being practically no better off in this respect than America. The great newspapers of the country print a lot about the better times coming because of the large importations of gold being made almost daily. It seems strange to me that a fearless and powerful journal like the World does not call attention to the fact that if this sort of thing keeps up only a little longer Europe will have no money with which to pay for our farm products and that a large part of the \$1,500,000,000 worth of products we have on hand for foreign consumption must inevitably glut the home market or remain unsold. This would mean hard times the like of which the present generation has never seen. Matters appear all the more serious when it is remembered that fifty-eight per cent of all of our agricultural exports go to Great Britain and her possessions. England is sending us a major portion of the gold now being received and yet it is no secret that things financial are almost as serious there as they are here."

AND NOW it seems that republican newspaper publishers are doomed to disappointment. Within a week after the announcement that newspaper publishers would be given tariff revision the St. Louis Globe-Democrat (rep.) printed this dispatch from Washington: "Although President Roosevelt will include, in his message to congress, a recommendation that print paper and paper pulp be placed on the free list, it can be put down as practically certain that there will be no action by congress in line with the suggestion. Greatest of all considerations which have weight with congress is the belief that no part of the tariff can be touched without involving an entire revision of the existing tariff schedules. It has been definitely decided that there is to be no tariff revision at the coming session of congress. The president is a party to that agreement. Leaders on both sides of congress realize that it would be impossible to revise the tariff at the session just

before the opening of the national campaign. They also realize that the task is too great to be attempted at a short session of congress. It is further appreciated that to open the tariff question now would simply turn loose a flow of demagogic discussion by the democrats, without thought of effective legislation. Under the circumstances, nothing is to be attempted. The republican leaders will accept full responsibility for this attitude. Members of congress generally do not believe the removal of duty on paper and pulp will have the effect which those who advocate it believe it will. Pulp is already on the free list and when imported looks not unlike ordinary fire wood, such as is used in open fireplaces or a kitchen range in the country. They point to the fact that there has been a general advance in the cost of the manufacture of paper, for which little or no allowance is made. Census statistics show that, while the publishers of newspapers and magazines have been making an average of twenty-seven per cent on their capitalization, the manufacturers of paper have been making but eight per cent. The figures given are from the census for the five years between 1900 and 1905. The same authority is quoted to show that publishing business has become one of the ten great leading enterprises in the United States, ranking with steel and flour and industries of that sort. The same authority is quoted to show that the growth in this business has been greater than in any one of the other nine leading industries. In spite of this increased demand for paper and the increase in the cost of labor and other materials, publishers alone have been reducing the cost of their output to consumers. It is probable that Mr. Speaker Cannon will have to bear the brunt of the criticism for the attitude of congress in this phase of the tariff question, yet he is no more responsible than others of the leaders, some of whom will seek to hide behind him. On the simple proposition which has been put forward by the publishers, Mr. Cannon will say that if they can give him assurances that there will be no other tariff changes he will consent to this change. This means that there would have to be an agreement on the part of both democratic and republican senators."

THIS PRETTY story is told by the Nebraska City (Neb.) News: "A young lady, in hastily turning the corner of a street accidentally ran with great force against a ragged beggar boy and nearly knocked him over. Stopping as soon as she could and retracing her steps, she said, very kindly: 'I beg your pardon, my little fellow. I am very sorry that I ran against you.' The boy was wholly amazed; he looked at the lady one moment and then, taking off his tattered cap, made a graceful bow and said, as his face lit up with a smile: 'You have my parding, miss, and ye're welcome to it. And say, the next time you run ag'in me, you kin knock me clean down and I won't say a word.' After the lady had passed on, the boy said to a companion: 'I say, Jim, it's fine to have somebody asking yer parding, ain't it?'"

FROM COLUMBIA, Mo., this interesting story goes to the New York World: "Earl Van Natta is a sophomore at the Missouri state university, his father, Ellsworth Van Natta, is a freshman, and what this scion will do to him with the remembrance of spankings in childhood is interesting the other students. Already the younger Van Natta as sophomore has aided in compelling his 'governor' to discard his hat and don one of the dinky little freshman caps. But the father got even with his young hopeful in the class rush. Daddy Van Natta lined up with the freshmen and the son with the 'sophs,' and when the smoke cleared away there was the older man waving three-fourths of his son's shirt. The father is athletic. He goes in for gymnasium work three times a week. He is afraid to tackle football, but is a roofer of the first water. The elder Van Natta is forty years old and prematurely gray. His son will be twenty years old on November 22. The father