

# CURRENT TOPICS

**S**CORE ONE for the much abused tramp. This story was printed recently in the New York World: "The village of Delaware, N. J., has enrolled a distinguished citizen-elect in the person of William Nixon, for many years a Weary Willie of the roads. He has been elected a member of the volunteer fire department and is in a fair way to become one of the town's illustrious because of an act of heroism. Several days ago Nixon's peregrinations took him to the back door of the home of Charles Quigg, for a 'hand-out.' Miss Emily, daughter of the family, was lighting the gasoline stove so she didn't answer the tramp's knock. The gasoline exploded, the young woman was swathed in flames and shrieked for help. Nixon broke down the door, threw his ragged coat about the girl, rolled her in a rug and smothered the blaze. Miss Quigg and her rescuer were so painfully burned that they were placed under the care of a physician, the family nursing Nixon in their gratitude for his brave act. Nixon told them of his life on the roads and they reclaimed him. Hiram Durkin yesterday offered the man a position as clerk in the village store, and Nixon, in new duds that would shock his companions of the road, will serve out coffee, tea, sugar, nutmegs, etc., from now on. Nixon once was a prosperous business man, but lost his fortune through reverses and took to the road. He is determined now to settle down, and Delaware folks expect great things of their town pride."

**A** SEATTLE, Wash., dispatch to the Minneapolis Journal follows. "Colonel F. C. Robertson of Spokane, assistant United States district attorney of this state during the last Cleveland administration, formally launched the presidential boom in Washington of Governor John A. Johnson of Minnesota in Seattle today at Hotel Butler. Mr. Robertson was democratic candidate from eastern Washington for representative in congress in 1900 and no man is more widely known in democratic politics. 'The west,' said Colonel Robertson, 'is now the conservative element of the community, and it is my judgment that the west will be for Johnson of Minnesota, along conservative lines. I would not detract in the slightest from W. J. Bryan. But it is my belief that the south and west will find in the last analysis that Johnson is the man for the job. Mr. Johnson can be depended upon to carry his own state, Minnesota, as well as Wisconsin and Iowa. Colonel Bryan has thousands of friends in the west who are loyal to him, but I believe that if Taft is nominated by the republicans, the west, as well as the south, will select Governor Johnson of Minnesota as the man to be the democratic candidate.'"

**T**HE FAIRBANKS boom was formally launched at Indianapolis December 6. An Indianapolis dispatch carried by the Associated Press follows: "Resolutions were adopted unanimously today at the biennial love feast of Indiana republicans urging the nomination of Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks for the presidency. The resolutions were introduced by J. Frank Hanley and were adopted with a round of cheers by the thousand and more active party workers of the state who were present. The resolutions were as follows: 'We, the republicans of the state of Indiana, in biennial love feast assembled, send greetings and felicitations to the Hon. Charles W. Fairbanks, vice president of the United States, and turn to him for leadership in the pending presidential campaign. We have often trusted him and have many times given him high commission. His clean life in public and in the home; his clearness of concept, his poise of character; his conservative courage and his great ability have long appealed to us. His love of the people, from whose loins he came; the faith he has ever manifested in American institutions and in republican principles; his ripe experience in public affairs; the support he has given President Roosevelt in the senate and in his present office and in the memory of the confidence and the affection which the late President McKinley held him, lead us to declare him great and broad enough to deal with the new conditions now before the country.

We ask his leadership with full confidence in his wisdom and his patriotism, and promise him in return our highest effort and best endeavor to secure for him the commission of his party at the national convention to be assembled at Chicago next June.' United States Senator Albert J. Beveridge presided and made the principal address, dwelling on the notable accomplishments of the vice president's public career and averring that the Indiana delegation would stand solidly by him in the national convention. Others present included Senator Hemenway, many of the Indiana representatives in congress, many of the legislature, county and city officials and a number of candidates for places on the state ticket with their friends. The gathering was large and enthusiastic."

**T**HE FOLLOWING editorial recently appeared in the Omaha (Neb.) Bee, a republican paper: "Let the tariff on wood pulp and paper remain and the more newspapers killed the merrier," says Congressman Sereno E. Payne of New York, chairman of the house committee on ways and means. Mr. Payne's chief distinction lies in the fact that he is recognized by the speaker every day to make the motion to adjourn." Replying to this statement the Omaha World-Herald says: "Softly, neighbor, softly. This republican leader who scoffs 'the more newspapers killed the merrier' does something more than make the motions to adjourn in the house. He is chairman of the most important house committee—that on ways and means, and is floor leader of the republican side. In other words, next to Speaker Cannon himself, he is the most influential and important republican member of the house. The World-Herald does not wonder that its contemporary, disgusted at the boorishness of Mr. Payne, should try to detract from his importance in the councils of his party. But the fact remains that this man who says 'the more newspapers killed the merrier' is no obscure, cross-roads leader, but so great a power in the house that, together with the speaker, and one or two others, he controls absolutely the activities of that body. Mr. Payne, it is hardly necessary to say, is a famous standpatter. That explains his glee when he sees the tariff crippling newspapers. For he knows that newspapers, as instruments of publicity, constitute, whether willing or not, the most potent foe with which a robber tariff has to contend."

**H**ARRY S. DUNGAN is a democrat and is at present county judge of Adams county, Nebraska. O. A. Abbott is a distinguished republican living at Grand Island, Nebraska. Not long ago Mr. Abbott sent some papers to Judge Dungan, county judge at Hastings, to be filed and accompanied them with a cashiers' check for \$5 as advance costs. The following letter shows the reception of the fee and something of the nature of the cautious county judge: "Hastings, Neb., December 24, 1907.—Hon. O. A. Abbott, Grand Island, Neb.—My Dear Judge: Your letter of the 24th inst. was received enclosing bill of particulars in the case of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_; also notice to take deposition in said case. In the light of political history of the last eleven years, I was staggered upon reading your letter which states, 'Enclosed please find \$5 for advance costs in \_\_\_\_\_ et al. vs. \_\_\_\_\_ et al.' I ran with the eye of a detective through all the papers to find this \$5, but up to date I have been unable to discover it. However, there was a piece of paper accompanying this letter which if it had not been for the education given us by the astute republican financiers—of which, my dear judge, you were a shining example—in the campaign of 1896 might have passed for \$5. But when I think, judge, of your able exposition of the financial question in the year of 1896 and subsequently, of your setting forth that every dollar which we issued must be as good as gold—that every dollar which was issued must be good in Europe—and when I think of the times that I withstood all the vituperation, calumny and invectives that my republican friends could command because I advocat-

ed the 'fifty cent dollar,' I am at a loss to understand your mental condition when you forward to me this piece of 'rag money.' Probably it is a ghost of that long departed era of wild cat money of which I have heard so many republican spellbinders speak with such fluency. As a matter of fact, it follows the line of the three card monte man and the shell game, because, in bold, black type it purports to say, that it will 'Pay to the bearer the sum of \$5,' but I notice, in much smaller type, or under its breath, so to speak, it says, 'in eastern exchange or credit only.' Judge, I am willing to stand for a green-back or 'fifty cent dollar,' but when, in this era of republican prosperity, in this very dawn of the golden age of the republican administration, in the third year of the reign of 'Teddy the First,'—when you come to try to work off on me any bank shin-plasters or rag money, after having educated me in that school of sound money in the year 1896, I must protest. I enclose you this nondescript piece of paper issued without authority of law and revolutionary in every respect—and say to you, my dear judge, when you forward me \$5 as you stated you had done in your letter, though they be 'fifty cent dollars,' I will at once file these papers and issue summons. I await with breathless expectancy your explanation of this peculiar attitude which you have taken upon the financial question. However, judge, assuring you of my continual personal regard wherever your financial vagaries may lead you, and hoping some day you will be able to come back to that sound and stable doctrine of the 'fifty cent dollar,' I remain, yours very respectfully, Harry S. Dungan."

**T**HE KENTUCKY Association gave a notable banquet to Justice John M. Harlan of the United States supreme court in New York City. In the course of his address Judge Harlan said: "The American people are more determined than at any time in their history to maintain both national and state rights, as those rights exist under the union ordained by the constitution. I say the people of the United States, for although the constitution was accepted by the separate action of the people in their respective states, they moved together, in their collective capacity, as one people, in creating a nation for certain specified objects of general concern. They will not patiently consider any suggestion or device that looks to a union upon any other basis. They will maintain, at whatever cost and in all their integrity, both national and state rights." In its report of the dinner the Associated Press said: "A pretty touch was added to the function when Mr. Carlisle began his speech introducing Justice Harlan. At this time the band galleries of the banquet room were filled with ladies. Mr. Carlisle said that while the guests were gratified to have Mr. Harlan present he knew that all of them also would be glad to have Mrs. Harlan present on an occasion which, while in honor of her husband, also was the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. A storm of applause greeted Mrs. Harlan who, from a balcony, blushing acknowledged it with a smile and a nod of her head. Justice Harlan prefaced his set speech with a loving tribute to his wife. He told of the happiness of their wedding day and said happiness had followed them all through life. At the close of this tribute the applause was loud and long. Then the band struck up Mendelssohn's wedding march. More cheering followed this and a rendition of 'My Old Kentucky Home.'"

**E**VERYONE IS familiar with the quotation, "Corporations have no souls," but few are familiar with the story of its origin. A writer in the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch says: "This memorable expression of a legal and a popular maxim grew out of one of the most celebrated causes in the history of English jurisprudence. On June 22, 1611, King James I, citing an 'act to confirm and to enable the erection and establishment of a hospital intended to be done by Thomas Sutton,' by letters patent granted said Sutton a license 'to found a hospital for the relief of poor and aged people