

CURRENT TOPICS

ALTHOUGH OREGON, in the election held June 2, chose a republican legislature, people of that state by a majority of one thousand registered their decree that the legislature should elect a democrat, Governor George E. Chamberlain, to the United States senate to succeed the present senator, Charles W. Fulton, republican. Although Governor Chamberlain's victory was pronounced, an Associated Press dispatch from Portland says: "Already there is talk of defections and it is not impossible that in the seven months intervening between now and the date of the next session of the legislature some plan may be devised to defeat Chamberlain and send a republican to the United States senate."

REPUBLICAN primaries were held in Iowa June 2. A bitter contest was had between the supporters of Senator Allison and the supporters of Governor Cummins. Both of these leaders being candidates for the senatorial nomination. Senator Allison was successful, receiving about 12,000 majority. B. F. Carroll was nominated for governor, and George Clark for lieutenant governor. Notable victories throughout the state for congressional honors are reported as follows: J. P. Connor over Frank P. Woods in the Tenth; E. H. Hubbard over W. D. Boles in the Eleventh; Ellsworth Reminger over Speaker Nate Kendall in the Sixth; Charles E. Pickett over B. E. Sweet in the Third, and reports from the Fifth indicate that James Good has a majority over Senator Trewin, although both claim to have a majority in the district. I. Smith was not in the running against W. P. Hepburn in the Eighth district.

SECRETARY TAFT delivered a speech on Memorial day at the tomb of the late General Ulysses S. Grant. On that occasion Secretary Taft said: "It is true that Grant received an education at West Point, but certainly nothing was developed there in him to indicate his fitness or ability to meet great responsibilities. He did well in the Mexican war, as did other lieutenants. He manifested as regimental quartermaster energy and familiarity with his duties. But in 1854 he resigned from the army because he had to. He had yielded to the weakness of a taste for strong drink, and rather than be court-martialed he left the army. He returned from Vancouver, on the Pacific coast, to his family in St. Louis without money, without property—a disheartened man. He accepted from his father-in-law a loan of seventy-five acres of land, upon which he constructed a house for his family to live in, and there he carried on farming operations. His chief business seemed to be that of selling wood, of cutting it, and piling it in the back yards of the well-to-do people of St. Louis. After six years of this life he gave up farming because of ill-health and went into the real estate business for a year. He failed in this. His associate dissolved the partnership. Then at last his father offered him \$600 as a clerk in his leather store at Galena, Ill., and then he moved from St. Louis. During these seven years, though everything looked dark, he overcame in a great measure his weakness for strong drink. But he was so constituted that it seemed impossible for him to earn a livelihood when he had given hostages to fortune in the shape of a wife and four children."

SECRETARY TAFT'S speech at the Grant tomb brought down a storm of criticism and Mr. Taft's political enemies in the republican party have had much to say of his admittedly unfortunate blunder. They point out that Mr. Taft read his speech from his manuscript and that, therefore, they have the right to say that the insult was deliberate and they point out also that the speech was delivered in the presence of General Frederick Dent Grant, a son, and members of his family. Naturally Mr. Taft is greatly grieved because of his blunder. He gave to the Associated Press the following statement: "I am very much dis-

ressed that anything I have said should be construed to be an attack upon General Grant's memory. I yield to no man in my admiration for General Grant, in my high estimate of his remarkable qualities and character and of the great debt that the nation owes him. In my memorial address I attributed his resignation from the army in 1854 to his weakness for strong drink, because from Mr. Garland's life of General Grant and the evidence he cites and from other histories I supposed it was undoubtedly true. I referred to the matter only because it seemed to me that it was one of the great victories of his life that he subsequently overcame the weakness. The wonder of his life was that, with all the discouragements that he encountered before the civil war, including this, he became the nation's chief instrument in suppressing the rebellion. I venture to say that no impartial man can read my Memorial day address and say I do not give to General Grant a place in history as high as that given him by any of his historians or his admirers. The lives of our great men belong to the country. If facts are told showing that they had weaknesses which they overcame, the force of their successful example is greater to lift the youth of the country up to emulate them than if they were painted as perfect without temptation and without weaknesses."

SENATOR FORAKER was among the first to register his criticism and in reply to an inquiry from a New York paper he said: "For obvious reasons I do not care to criticize what Secretary Taft thought it appropriate to say at General Grant's tomb beyond the single remark that while General Grant may have had some weaknesses it is evident that Secretary Taft has his weakness also."

FORMER SENATOR Chandler had this to say: "I was not aware of the facts stated by Secretary Taft and am anxious to disbelieve them. If they are true, I regret that the Secretary rejoiced to revive them and give them world-wide publicity at the tomb of the matchless general whose victories in arms saved the American union from dismemberment and gave freedom and the ballot to four million (now ten million) of colored citizens of the United States."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT had a narrow escape from a serious accident June 3 while horseback riding in Rock Creek Park, near Washington City. An Associated Press dispatch tells the story in this way: "Mrs. Roosevelt was with the president. Rumors of the affair which gained currency last night were denied at the White House at the time, as neither the president nor Mrs. Roosevelt spoke of the affair upon their return. The rumors came from the occupants of several carriages who saw the accident. The president was riding a new horse, a young animal. The party rode down through a cut in a bank, forded a creek and were ascending the bank on the other side. The president's horse reared. The president leaned forward in the saddle and threw the reins down in loops so as to avoid pulling the horse backward. On reaching the top of the bank the horse reared a second time and the president leaned forward again, but the animal stood straight on its hind legs and went over backward into the creek with the president. Feeling that he was going backward, the president slipped from the saddle and as luck would have it, fell into the creek close beside the horse, which landed on its back. The horse fell on the downstream side of the president, who, realizing that he would be in danger from the animal's feet should the horse turn towards him, got out of the way as rapidly as possible. The horse, however, turned over from the president and got up. He was captured at once, the president remounted and rode for an hour and a half before returning to the White House. The fall from the horse's back to the stream bed

was a distance of more than ten feet. The stream was about two feet deep with an exceedingly rocky bed. Neither the president nor horse received the slightest injury. President Roosevelt's two regular riding horses were out of commission yesterday, both being indisposed. The president's orderly wished to try out the new horse, but the president took it upon himself to do this. The president was dressed in khaki and the fact that he got thoroughly wet did not become apparent to those who saw him after the accident. Several carriages which had crossed the ford just ahead of the president stopped and the occupants were alarmed at what was happening. The experience with its many serious possibilities has not dulled the president's pleasure in riding, and he takes considerable gratification in the test of horsemanship as both times the animal reared he instinctively threw himself forward so that his head was directly beside that of the rearing animal and the reins being thrown loose had no tension whatever to pull the horse backward."

REFERRING TO the late General Stephen D. Lee the St. Louis Republic says: "A cloud is cast upon Memorial day and upon the coming reunion of confederate veterans to be held in Birmingham, Ala., by the death of Stephen Dill Lee, formerly a lieutenant general of the confederate army, and commander of the United Confederate Veterans. General Lee, distantly, if at all, related to the Virginia soldiers of that name, was a gallant fighter in the confederate service, and was much beloved by his surviving comrades as well as by the people of Mississippi, his adopted state. By leading in a different cause, that of national reconciliation and the obliteration of civil war sectionalism, Stephen Lee won the esteem of the entire country and the warm personal friendship of many of those against whom he fought. The service he did in this latter cause is consecrated by his death, following a stroke which overtook him while affiliating with a body of Iowa and Wisconsin veterans of the union army who were visiting in Vicksburg. Thus, in his death, as in his life, he does memorable service to his country. As the veterans of both armies pass from the scene the memory of none will be more revered than that of Stephen D. Lee."

THE MANNER in which Senator Gore was tricked in the filibuster on the currency bill is told by the Washington correspondent for the Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald in this way: "After a record-breaking one-man filibuster the senate this afternoon by a vote of 43 to 22, adopted the conference report on the Aldrich-Vreeland political emergency currency bill, which, with the president's approval, makes the measure law. Right to its culmination a species of legislative trickery marked the consideration of the measure after an unparalleled long-speech record. Senator LaFollette at 7:30 this morning yielded the floor to Senator Stone, who becoming exhausted after seven hours of constant speaking yielded in turn to Senator Gore, the blind Oklahoman. About 4:30 Senator Gore resumed his seat. The same instant he did so Senator Aldrich interjected: 'I call for a vote on the adoption of the conference report.' Immediately the vice president arose and simultaneously with that the well-posted clerk began the roll call. 'Mr. Aldrich,' he read. Senator Heyburn and several senators were already on their feet, but they were too late. Aldrich had triumphed. The senate rules permit of no interruption after a roll call has begun. Senator Aldrich with his motion, the putting of the motion by the presiding officer and the commencing of the reading by the clerk came within less time than it takes to tell it. In the meantime LaFollette and Stone, wearied by their long speeches, were out of the senate chamber. Both arrived while the roll call was in progress and were surprised and grievously disappointed over the turn of affairs. Heyburn, a republican, protested bitterly to the presiding officer that he was on his feet to ask recognition. The chair ruled that roll call had commenced and could not be interrupted. In a final effort to delay the