

CURRENT TOPICS

UNDER DATE of Hot Springs, Va., July 20, the New York World prints this dispatch: "Melville E. Ingalls, formerly president of the Big Four and the Chesapeake and Ohio railroads, and still heavily interested in them and in other roads, said today that it will make little difference to the railroads of the country who is elected president this fall. 'If it is Bryan,' he said, 'there will be a — of a time up there in Wall Street for a month, and then things will return to normal. If Taft is elected there will not be any disturbance, but in a month after election it will come to the same thing, so far as the railroads are concerned, with either the winner. Taft is a wise man, a great man and of judicial temperament. There is no doubt that he will pursue the Roosevelt policies, but he will not talk as Roosevelt has done. After all, it was Roosevelt's talking and not his policies that did harm. It must be admitted that Roosevelt is wild for a president of the United States. He has not yet sobered. It is nonsense to say that the election of any man will wreck the country. Andrew Johnson and Theodore Roosevelt put a great strain on it, but they were unable to affect it beyond quick recovery. One of my reasons for supporting Bryan is that I am tired of hearing the panicky talk about his election raising Ned with our prosperity. I don't believe it. Anyhow, I am boy enough still to want to try it and see. Besides, I believe that the moment Bryan entered the White House he would become a sober and conservative statesman.'"

FROM ALL sections of Indiana come good reports. The Louisville Courier-Journal prints a dispatch from Shelbyville, Ind., as follows: "John J. Wingate, the veteran editor of the Shelbyville Daily News, one of the best known and most influential newspaper men in the state, is firm in his belief that Taft will not carry Indiana and that Tom Marshall will be elected governor. He has voted for every republican nominee for president from Lincoln down to Roosevelt. 'Republican prospects for success in Indiana look gloomy,' remarked Mr. Wingate today. 'To my mind, the political battle in Indiana has yet to be won, with the chances most favorable to the democracy. They have no entangling alliances. Harmony exists in every congressional district. Bryan and Kern are immensely popular with Indiana democrats. They will poll more votes than any other democratic ticket that could have been nominated. But how is it with the republicans? The steam roller at Chicago seems to have taken all of the enthusiasm out of the state organization. The Indiana republicans received a slap in the face at Chicago which crushed their pride and cut their feathers in an alarming manner. They are certainly without hope, at least for this campaign. They have been given notice that they are not wanted, and have been ordered to the rear to repent in sackcloth and ashes for having the audacity to oppose Mr. Roosevelt's pet candidate for the presidency. Then they have other troubles to grieve over and discourage them, among them a weak state ticket, with the candidate for governor in bad repute with the labor organizations, the old soldiers and the temperance people. The campaign opens with the republicans on the defensive, and it is bound to continue along that line until election day.'"

WRITING FROM Columbus, Ohio, Walter Wellman, correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, says: "Ohio is fighting ground in the presidential contest of this year. The republican leaders expect to carry the state. But they are not as sure of it as they would like to be." Mr. Wellman adds: "There are many things which make the republican leaders realize they have their work cut out for them in carrying Taft's state for Taft. Bryan is and always has been strong in this state. Both in 1896 and 1900 he polled more votes than were ever before or since cast for another democrat in this commonwealth. McKirley's margin over him was not large. Bryan is believed to be stronger now than ever before, on his personality, on the fact that voters no longer

think he is a dangerous revolutionist, a scatter-brained adventurer. There are now no gold democrats. Judge Harmon, the democratic candidate for governor, has a big chance to win, and it is believed he will carry Hamilton county (Cincinnati) by a large plurality. If he does he is likely to help Bryan. The rank and file of the Cox organization in Cincinnati are not enthusiastic over Taft. The labor vote is going more democratic this year than for some time past. Many people are out of work in the manufacturing cities and towns, or working on short time, with living expenses high, and the party in power is sure to suffer from this source. And there are the colored voters. They hold the balance of power in this state. I asked a republican leader what the colored vote was going to do this year and he replied: 'God knows. I hope we shall hold the most of them. Many will get away. And a considerable share of those we do hold we shall have to buy. We do not like the way they act. They are too silent. They don't come around kicking. They are not saying a word. And that looks bad.' It seems clear to me that Ohio is fighting ground, with the odds considerably in favor of Taft, but with an upset always to be considered possible."

JUDGE GROSSCUP, who delivered the decision in the Standard Oil case, is soon to retire from the federal bench. The Chicago Tribune says: "Judge Peter S. Grosscup's expected retirement from the federal bench was the reason given and generally accepted last evening for the quick decision of the federal court of appeals in the Standard Oil case. The report was to the effect that the judge desired to clear up his docket so he can resign and practice law as soon as possible. That the judge has been anxious for some time to leave the bench and return to private practice has been known to his close friends. The bench has nothing more to offer him in the way of honors, the work has become irksome, and the pay is unquestionably small as compared with what he could earn at the bar, especially in corporation law. But up to the present time the unfinished work in the court of appeals has interfered with his resigning. He has steadfastly denied that his resignation has already been tendered to the department of justice and the president, and there is no doubt this statement is strictly correct. But he has never denied that his resignation might be forthcoming at some time in the future, and it is now asserted in legal and business circles that he may be able to get out this summer or early autumn, so that his successor can take hold when court opens in October. Now the judge's docket is practically clear of large matters; at least there is nothing now before the court which another judge could not handle as well as he. For a long time the troubles of the Union Traction company engaged his attention. It was a serious tangle, and he had assumed the task of bringing order out of the extremely mixed situation. If the plans of reorganization which finally prevailed were to go through his continued presence on the bench was necessary. But that case is all settled now and out of court. Then there arose the appeal from the decision of Judge Landis in the Standard Oil case. But that case was decided yesterday; decided out of turn and before instead of after the summer vacation, to the great surprise of every one, and this leaves the judge practically foot free. He himself wrote the decision. The receivership proceedings in the Strawboard case are yet before him, but that matter can easily be passed up to his successor. That Judge Grosscup has had many tempting offers to leave the bench and re-enter private practice is known. The most notable instance was when he was importuned to take the Northern Securities case for James J. Hill, but refused because the Union Traction troubles were then on his hands. That if he did quit the bench and become a practicing lawyer once more he could at once make an income far in excess of his salary as judge is acknowledged on all hands. It is said he would devote himself to corporation law. He is yet an active man and would have every right to expect that during the years of his remaining activity he could accumulate a fortune which would amply

provide for the time when he should decide to quit all work."

MR. TAFT recently visited Mr. Roosevelt at Oyster Bay and newspaper dispatches said that he went there for the purpose of having Mr. Roosevelt look over his speech of acceptance. These reports moved the Omaha World-Herald to say: "Mr. Taft has trekked across a wide expanse of country to take his speech of acceptance to the president of the United States, lay it before him, and ask his assistance in rounding it into shape. It is told that Mr. Taft reached the conclusion to go to the president and get his help at the rather unusual hour of four in the morning, after an interchange of telegrams with Mr. Roosevelt. We take it, therefore, that Judge Taft was up all night wrestling with the problem whether to depend on himself for his own letter of acceptance, or to take it to god-father. Finally, however, he decided to take it to god-father. The Associated Press dispatch which carries the interesting news says, rightly enough, that it is regarded as having a number of significant features from a political viewpoint. It has, sure enough! It probably means that, having finished with the speech of acceptance, President Roosevelt will take up his protegee's letter of acceptance and help him round that into shape. The more important speeches that Judge Taft may be called on to make, in the course of the campaign, will also most likely be submitted for the presidential scrutiny and revision. The question naturally arises, will Taft, if elected, be able to write his own messages and state papers? What if there should be a message to send to congress while Mr. Roosevelt was away killing tigers in Darkest Africa? This thing of having a hand-made president might conceivably have its discrepancies. Teddy is a first-class adviser, we grant, but he can't always be hanging round. It wouldn't do to make him a regent, exactly, and keep him constantly in hailing distance of the White House. He'll be away at least part of the time, therefore, and an emergency might arise while he is gone. What would Mr. Taft do then? It is easy to see that contingencies might arise when it would be advantageous to have a president who was president in his own right."

ONE OF THE touching references to "Uncle Remus" is made by the Houston (Texas) Chronicle in this way: "No more will Uncle Remus tell his delightful stories to the Little Boy. Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox and Brer B'ar are masterless. They are withdrawing into the wood's deep shadows, stricken with a sense of loss. The Little Boy seeks his mother's arms, demanding to know the answer to the age-old riddle, death. Where has Uncle Remus gone? Out on the free winds of heaven, child. Do you remember that song of Mr. Harris' that we used to chant, the one that had these lines for a refrain?

My honey, my love, my heart's delight,
Hit's a mighty fur walk on a rainy night—
Lemme in, lemme in.'

It may be, Little Boy, indeed we venture to say it is true, that while the soul of the great author goes upon its long journey to the stars, the spirit of Uncle Remus, whom he summoned up to serve him so many years, is traveling toward the shade of an ancient cabin, where it knew youth and the joys of youth, yearning and singing:

My honey, my love, my heart's delight
Hit's a mighty fur walk on a rainy night—
Lemme in, lemme in.'

And into the ghostly shadow of that ancient cabin old Uncle Remus is going to enter and find the spirit of the one he loved best when he was young, before Mr. Harris caught him up and put him into the book. You're tired of hearing him tell stories, Little Boy, but who knows?—maybe he was weary of telling them. Maybe all the while his thoughts were turned toward the past, and he was waiting for the signal of release. Anyhow, he's gone home now, and he won't come back any more."