

CURRENT TOPICS

THE NEW YORK World prints this editorial: "Has the fertilizer trust also joined the ranks of the 'good trusts?' Why has Attorney General Bonaparte so unexpectedly instructed the government attorneys in charge of the prosecution of the officers of the Virginia-North Carolina Chemical company to suspend operations? His action must have been taken with the approval of Mr. Roosevelt. A year ago Mr. Roosevelt was raging up and down the country denouncing malefactors of great wealth and law-defying corporations. He was going to scourge them from the land. In his Memorial day speech at Indianapolis he declared: 'There has been plenty of dishonesty by corporations in the past. There will not be the slightest let-up in the effort to hunt down and punish every dishonest man.' At Provincetown on August 20, 1907, he repeated the threat: 'Wherever evil-doers can be found they shall be brought to justice; and no criminal, high or low, whom we can reach shall receive immunity.' Why has Mr. Roosevelt become a reactionary? Why has he turned aside from the mighty professions of only a year ago? He no longer denounces from the platform the methods of 'the Standard Oil people and those engaged in other great combinations,' or the 'ruthless and determined men whose wealth makes the particularly formidable because they hide behind the breastworks of corporate organizations.' The Chicago platform, on which Mr. Roosevelt so warmly complimented Senator Hopkins, is a different affair from his speeches of twelve months ago. There are no noisy threats to punish predatory plutocracy. The interests the president used to belabor with epithets seem to take it complacently. They show no signs of alarm and hostility. The 'corrupt men of great wealth' are not in jail and they are not attacking this new Roosevelt platform. On the contrary, Wall Street accepts with unconcealed satisfaction the suppression by its author of My Program. Is Mr. Roosevelt a reactionary?"

NEW YORK dispatches say that E. H. Harriman has secured a strong foothold in the Gould railroad system. The Chicago Tribune says: "The following tables show the magnitude of Harriman's holdings and his probable new acquisitions:

HARRIMAN LINES		
Road—	Mileage.	Capital.
Union Pac. and branches	5,925	\$626,000,000
Southern Pacific	9,451	300,000,000
Baltimore and Ohio	4,462	217,500,000
Illinois Central	4,377	95,040,000
St. Joseph & Grand Island	251	14,000,000
San Pedro & Los Angeles	512	25,000,000
Chicago & Alton	970	40,000,000
GOULD SYSTEM		
Wabash	2,514	52,000,000
Missouri Pacific system (including Denver & Rio Grande and Rio Grande Western)	6,035	100,000,000
Wheeling & Lake Erie	465	35,000,000
Texas & Pacific	1,655	50,000,000
Western Maryland	280	60,000,000
Pittsburg Terminal	30	14,000,000
International & Great Northern	104	45,000,000
Total	37,031	\$1,633,540,000

As the total of the outstanding bonds of the Gould lines amount to \$544,616,424 and the outstanding bonds of the Harriman lines are approximately \$825,000,000, the grand total of capital involved aggregates \$3,103,156,424."

A DISPATCH under date of Washington, August 31, and printed in the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal, follows: "A public demand for the resignation of General T. Coleman Dupont as a member of the republican national committee, on the ground that his connection with an indicted trust unfits him for the place, is made today by Alfred O. Crosier, a prominent republican lawyer and author of the recent anti-Wall Street novel, 'The Magnate.' Crosier insists that the action was inspired solely by the belief that Dupont is a menace to the party. His demand takes the form of an open letter

to President Roosevelt, in which he says in part: 'The selection of General T. Coleman Dupont as member of the republican national executive committee and as director-in-chief of the speakers' bureau of the campaign is a menace to the success of the ticket. To put the president and organizer of one of the most powerful of all trusts at the head of their speaking campaign with complete authority to tell the orators what to say, is grotesque in view of the platform declarations of our party respecting trusts. But when this very trust is now in court charged with lawbreaking, and General T. Coleman Dupont and United States Senator Henry A. Dupont are both joined as defendants, the appointment must seem ridiculous. This campaign, before it is over, will largely center around discussion of 'malefactors of great wealth'—those who, with artificial panics, margin gambling that totals \$30,000,000,000 annually, trust consolidation and railroad manipulation, are eating alive the progress and prosperity of the people. How important, then, that our party organization and campaign be purged in its management of all such 'malefactors,' for the people this year are thinking, with eyes and ears wide open. The case against the powder trust is set for hearing before election. The government thinks it has sufficient evidence to sustain its very serious charge. What will be the effect of the disclosures before election? If the case is postponed until after election it will cause belief that an 'immunity bath' is in preparation as a reward for the services being performed in this campaign by the head of that trust. No doubt General Dupont will gladly withdraw from all official connection with the campaign and party organization if the impropriety of the situation is called to his attention.'"

A MARRIAGE contract over two thousand years old discovered in a tomb near Cairo, Egypt, and now in the collection of the Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio, has, it is announced, been deciphered by the Egyptologists at the University of Strassburg, Germany, and found to be from a historic standpoint one of the most important documents brought to light in recent years. George W. Stevens, director of the Toledo museum, speaking to a correspondent for the Associated Press, said: "The papyrus determines two matters of great importance. It establishes the period of an Egyptian pharaoh whose time of reign has been hitherto unknown, and give us documentary evidence of the exalted financial position accorded to married women in Egypt three centuries before Christ—a position almost undreamed of and un hoped for by the most enthusiastic new women of these modern days. The lost pharaoh's period of reign is established as Khabasha, and the time in 341 B. C. From the translation, it is established that in case the wife repudiated the husband, she allowed him to take back half his dower. This is the reverse of modern customs, especially in European countries, where the wife is expected to contribute the dot or dower. The Egyptian husband not only received nothing from the bride, but had to put up a bonus to make himself a matrimonial possibility. The document shows that in case of a separation he was allowed by his wife to take but one-third of the money they should have acquired together during the time they were married."

A MERICAN newspapers generally show keen regret because of the death of Joel Chandler Harris, the southern author. The Springfield (Mass.) Republican says: "Harris was born at Eatonton, Ga., December 8, 1848, and was thus but half way along in his sixtieth year—he ought to have lived longer, for there was visible no diminution of his genius. He was educated in the common schools of his region and at the Eatonton academy. He began work as 'printer's devil' on a confederate newspaper, the Countryman, published on a plantation nine miles from the nearest postoffice. The paper was edited by Joseph Addison Turner, to whose memory Mr. Harris dedicated his book, 'On the Plantation,' as 'lawyer, editor, scholar, planter and philanthropist.' This journal, a weekly, was published

at \$10 a year in the early part of 1864; then the price was raised to \$15, and later to \$20—in confederate money of course. Turner had a good deal of wit, and an insouciant way of bearing the brunt of war. His place was plundered by the 'bummers' of Sherman's army, and yet he bore it in a good-natured way that was wonderful. Harris the man remembered with gratitude his boy's experience with such a man. He wrote items for the Countryman, and occasionally verse; nor should it be forgotten that Uncle Remus' 'Songs and Sayings' showed a clever facility in riming, which Harris seldom indulged in. After the burning of the little 'shanty' printing office Harris went to Savannah, and thence to Atlanta. He was a reporter on the Atlanta Constitution when he wrote the first Uncle Remus sketch, at the urgent encouragement of Evan Howell, long the editor of that able paper. Immediately it caught the attention of the country, and he remained attached to the Constitution, becoming its chief ornament and distinction. His plantation stories and sketches are genuine, and he did an inestimable service in preserving them. Since he showed the way, there have been many to follow, and among the few who have done this successfully is Martha Young, many of whose beautiful or quaint sketches have first appeared in the Republican, and are since issued in book form."

FOLLOWING IS AN interesting dispatch sent by the Arlington, Mass., correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald: "Confidence by the Wright brothers, A. M. Herring and others that aerial navigation is no longer experimental gives particular interest to the prophecy written by John T. Trowbridge more than forty years ago in the popular poem of 'Darius Green and His Flying Machine.' Happily Mr. Trowbridge has lived to see the fulfillment of what he described in humorous verse. 'I wrote the Darius Green poem about 1867,' he said. 'It had simply occurred to me and I found myself writing with little effort something that readers found comic. I have always taken an interest in the subject but at the time had no serious intention of prophecy. I believed then, however, that flying machines would be perfected.' This was Darius Green's philosophy of aerial navigation, as Mr. Trowbridge's poem quoted it:

"Birds can fly,
An' why can't I?
Must we give in,"
Says he with a grin,
"T' the bluebird an' phoebe,
Are smarter'n we be?
Jest fold our hand an' see the swaller,
An' blackbird an' catbird beat us holler?
Does the lettle chatterin' sassy wren
No bigger'n my thumb, know more than
men?
Jest show me that
Er prove 't the bat
Hez got more brains than's in my hat,
An' I'll back down an' not till then."

These lines are regarded as expressing the aspirations of flying machine enthusiasts."

OKLAHOMA'S BIG CONTRIBUTION

At the Oklahoma democratic state convention held at Guthrie, September 1, a call was made for contributions for the democratic campaign fund. Within a short time the sum of \$20,500 was secured for the various funds. The following telegram from Governor Haskell tells the story:

"Guthrie, Okla., September 2, 1908.

Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.—Excellent state convention yesterday. Hat passed and raised nine thousand for national fund, nine thousand for state campaign, twenty-five hundred for our congressional campaign.

"C. N. HASKELL."