

CURRENT TOPICS

REPRESENTATIVE Charles M. Fowler, of New Jersey, republican, who was at the recent election, chosen representative for the eighth time, has announced himself as a candidate for republican nomination for speaker of the house against Joseph G. Cannon. Mr. Fowler says he will run on the following platform: "The house of representatives shall elect a board of managers consisting of seven members which shall be charged with the direction of legislation which is now assumed by the speaker of the house."

AMONG THE telegrams received by President-elect Taft is the following from Speaker Joseph G. Cannon: "Congratulations over your great victory and the victory of the republican party. It is a matter of gratification to me that I shall be a member of the first congress of your administration by a majority of over eight thousand. The people do rule."

ONE OF THE interesting features of the election returns was the socialist vote, which showed a marked reduction from the record of 1904, particularly in the three principal cities of the country in which socialism is supposed to be the strongest. An Associated Press dispatch from Chicago says: "Chicago socialists, who polled 45,000 votes in 1904, were given less than 19,000 votes in the police returns and the most sanguine do not expect that the revised totals will exceed 21,000 votes for Debs. Cincinnati and Cleveland also listed as strong socialist centers, according to the leaders of the party, polled a greatly decreased vote. While admitting the adverse figures today, A. M. Simons, member of the national committee of the socialist party, asserted that an increase was shown in the vote this year in the small towns. Mr. Simons said: 'Mr. Gompers influenced the labor vote on which the socialist party depends to a great extent. His words caused many semi-socialists of radical views to vote for Mr. Bryan and also frightened many conservative labor men into voting for Mr. Taft. We are particularly pleased with results on the Pacific coast, where an increased vote was shown in many towns. We have received word of gains in Texas towns, from Missouri and a few towns in New York.' The total vote for Mr. Debs, it is estimated, will not exceed 500,000, in place of the 1,000,000 which was predicted by enthusiastic socialists. As for the prohibition vote, its total presents a great disappointment to those who expected that the 'prohibition wave' that has swept several states into the 'dry' column during the past two years would show surprising increases in the vote of the party which makes legal prohibition of liquor traffic its chief issue."

THE SUCCESS of the republican national ticket means, in the opinion of the Chicago Record-Herald, the "smashing of certain precedences and the breaking of a heretofore invariable rule." The Record-Herald says: "For the first time in our political history the people have returned to power the party that held office during a panic and serious business depression. In doing so the voters have displayed common sense and discrimination. Those 'superior' critics of republican government who fear popular judgments and indulge in cheap phrases about the 'unreasoning masses' will do well to ponder the situation. A review of after-panic politics and elections found in the able financial columns of the New York Evening Post shows that here, as well as in Great Britain, no party has ever before escaped defeat under such circumstances as we have just lived through. There was a panic in 1825, when Adams was president: He had been chosen by a small popular majority over Clay. In 1828 Jackson swept the country, his plurality being 139,000. In 1837 there was another panic, and three years later Harrison was elected by a plurality of 146,000 over Van Buren, who had received a plurality of over 24,000. In 1856 Buchanan received what was then the remarkable plurality of 497,000, but the panic of 1857 followed, and

in the next election Lincoln had a plurality of 489,495. The panic of 1873 wiped out the Grant plurality of 765,000 and gave Tilden in 1876 a popular plurality over Hayes of 250,000. Cleveland was elected in 1892 with a plurality of 369,000, but the panic of the following year contributed greatly to the McKinley plurality of 602,555 in 1896. Indeed, it has become a maxim here and elsewhere that panics and hard times are fatal to the party in power. But the panic of last year has not been fatal to republican success this year. Taft was elected in spite of it, as was a republican house. Why? Because the voters understood that the party in power was not responsible for the panic, and knew that it had done its utmost to restore confidence; because the gradual recovery has allayed much discontent, and because the people felt that the return of prosperity would be surer under Taft than under Bryan. The breaking of a line of precedents is a phenomenon that will deeply interest financial and commercial circles as well as thoughtful students of politics."

REMARKABLE results in curing tuberculosis of the bones, demonstrated in a five weeks' trial at the Home for Destitute Crippled Children have turned the attention to a treatment discovered by Dr. Emil Reck. An Associated Press dispatch says: "The treatment, which promises to bring relief to a large percentage of sufferers from this form of the great white plague, is simplicity itself, and consists for the most part in filling the cavity caused by the disease with a metallic salt, bismuth subnitrate, combined with a basis of vaseline. The discovery was incidental to an X-ray photograph of a little invalid. The solution was applied to fix the outline of a tubercular abscess and being left in the cavity proved a healing agent. Dr. Reck told his discovery to Drs. John Bidler and Waldo Blanchard at the Home for Destitute Crippled Children and in a five weeks' trial twenty out of forty crippled children were cured by the treatment. The formula contains thirty grains of bismuth subnitrate, combined with sixty grams of vaseline. The paste so formed is solid at the temperature of the body, but if a fever is induced will run out of the cavity. As the healing continues, the mixture is absorbed. Medical men estimate that fully fifty per cent of all the crippled children are suffering from tubercular disorders."

AN ASSOCIATED Press dispatch from New York says: "Charles W. Morse, until a year ago a dominant figure in the world of finance, and Alfred H. Curtis, former president of the National Bank of North America, were found guilty tonight in the criminal branch of the United States circuit court on charges of misapplication of funds and falsifying the books of the banks. There was also the additional charge of conspiracy against the prisoners, but the jury acquitted the men on this count. Within five minutes of the time the jury had rendered its verdict, Judge Hough had refused to entertain a motion for bail and had committed the two bankers to the Tombs prison. The judge said that he would hear any motions the lawyers for the prisoners desire to make at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning. The federal statutes provide a minimum penalty of five years' imprisonment for falsifying the books of a bank, and a penalty of two years imprisonment and \$5,000 fine, or both, for misapplication of funds. No alternative but imprisonment is provided for conviction on the charge of falsifying the books of a bank. The maximum penalty on this charge is ten years' imprisonment. The jury recommended clemency for Mr. Curtis, but made no recommendation in the case of Mr. Morse. The scene in the court room was dramatic. Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Curtis had remained in the court room nearly all day, awaiting the verdict. Mrs. Curtis showed signs of giving way to her emotions, and once, when the jury returned to the court room to receive instructions on the manner in which the conspiracy charge should be considered, Mrs. Morse broke down and sobbed. The verdict in part was: 'On the charge of the misapplication of

the funds of the bank we find both defendants guilty. On the charge of making false entries in the books of the bank we find both defendants guilty. In the case of Alfred H. Curtis the jury wishes to make a strong recommendation to the mercy of the court.' A stifled sob of relief escaped Mrs. Curtis as she heard the recommendation for mercy for her husband. Mr. Curtis took the verdict like a stoic, but Morse was unable to conceal the disappointment he felt, while his wife showed no signs of emotion. She kept her eyes on her husband, forgetting herself and concerned only on his account. The tedium of waiting was relieved for a time early this afternoon when a newspaper photographer attempted to take a snapshot of Charles W. Morse and two ladies who accompanied him when he was leaving the court room for luncheon. Just as the camera man was about to snap the shutter Morse sprang at him, seized the camera, smashed it and gave the reporter a black eye. Mr. Morse and Mr. Curtis were accompanied as far as the Tombs prison by their wives. There has been wide interest in the joint trial. It was brought out in the testimony that Morse had made large loans from the bank through so-called "dummies" and that President Curtis had enabled him to do so. The money so obtained was used to finance the Morse ice pools and steamship operations. The feature of the trial was the putting of Morse on the stand. For a day and a half the financier occupied the witness chair and endeavored to explain the transactions which brought him to trial. The masterly manner in which he parried the questions of the federal attorneys won him the admiration of the spectators."

A DELEGATION of Mr. Bryan's Lincoln friends visited him the day following the election, assuring him of their friendship. Addressing these friends Mr. Bryan said: "I am highly gratified over the results in this state. The national defeat has not been such a disappointment when we have had so many things to console us. I hope I have convinced my friends that running for office has only been an incident to my work. My heart has never been set on holding office, but I wanted to do certain work, and it looked as though the presidency might offer the opportunity to do that work. I am sure that in private life I can have the chance to do something. One is not required to hold office in order to do big things; one is simply required to do those things within his reach, and that much is within the reach of each of us. Personally I shall as much enjoy being out of office, if the returns show I must be, as I would to be in office. I hope still to be of influence to bring about needed reforms. I appreciate very much the confidence and loyalty of the people near us. It has been the greatest comfort that the election has given us. The fact that those among whom we live have shown this confidence we appreciate more than I can tell you. It has been very kind in you to come out here and visit us on this day?"

IN THE United States senate republicans will have a two-thirds majority. In other words there is practically no change so far as the party's numerical strength is concerned. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says: "Of the ninety-two members of that body, sixty-one hold over, leaving only thirty-one places to fill. Of these ten are republicans and twelve are democrats. Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Maryland already have chosen democrats and Kentucky and Vermont republicans. The other senators to whom successors are to be elected: Republicans—Allison of Iowa, who will be succeeded by a republican; Ankeny of Washington, Brandegee of Connecticut, Gallinger of New Hampshire, Hansbrough of North Dakota, Heyburn of Idaho, Hopkins of Illinois, Kittridge of South Dakota, Long of Kansas, Penrose of Pennsylvania, Perkins of California, Platt of New York, Smoot of Utah, Stephenson of Wisconsin, all of whom will be succeeded either by themselves or other republicans. Democrats—Clay of Georgia, Gary of