

CURRENT TOPICS

THE BOSTON Herald has inaugurated a "real reform" that should receive the hearty commendation of all good citizens. The Herald announces its abandonment of that horribly colored, inartistic monstrosity known as the "comic supplement." A few of the really great newspapers have never succumbed to this evil, for which they are to be congratulated. Now that one of those that did succumb has announced its reformation it should receive the thanks of a tired public, and its example should be followed by many other papers.

REPUBLICAN politicians are trying to prevent the election to the United States senate, of Governor Chamberlain of Oregon. Governor Chamberlain, a democrat, received a majority of the votes at the June election. The legislature chosen at that same election is almost unanimously republican, but of the ninety legislators fifty-one voluntarily signed a pledge to elect as senator the popular choice. It is reported that President Roosevelt and Mr. Taft have been asked to intervene in the Oregon situation to the end that a republican senator, rather than the popular choice, may be chosen.

A COMPENDIUM of statistics on marriage and divorce has recently been issued by the bureau of the census department of commerce and labor. The statistics are the result of careful gathering of figures in every state in the union, the period covered being from 1887 to 1906. The last set of national statistics on marriage and divorce covered the period from 1867 to 1886. The present set of statistics, taken in conjunction with the former one, therefore, gives a view of the marriage and divorce question for the past forty years. The three important facts brought out in this compendium are: One marriage out of every twelve in the United States terminates in the divorce court. Divorce is two and one-half times as common in this country as it was forty years ago. Illinois grants more divorces than any other state in the union.

HERE IS A good Roosevelt story for which the Washington correspondent for the New York World stands sponsor: "Quentin Roosevelt, the president's youngest son, has just begun to attend school in Washington. Before entering school he was told at home that he mustn't let the fact that his father is president give him any airs; that it had nothing to do with his standing in school; in short, that he was not to mention it at all. On the first day the pupils were asked to tell where they lived and what their fathers did for a living. It came Quentin's turn. 'Where do you live?' 'At the White House,' he replied, after a pause. 'What is your father's business?' The admonition not to mention that his father is president stuck in Quentin's throat. He made no reply at all. 'Well?' Still no response. 'Come, you have to answer, you know. What does your father do?' The youngest Roosevelt looked the teacher squarely in the eye, and replied: 'He's IT.'"

BILLY SUNDAY, formerly famous as a baseball player, is now doing service as an evangelist. Considerable fault has been found with Mr. Sunday because of his alleged "indecencies" of expression. The Des Moines (Iowa) Tribune, however, says that one can not do justice to Sunday without hearing him. And it adds: "We desire to here quote an extract from one of his sermons, and we defy his enemies to find anything to equal it in all the literature of sermonizing, either for the beauty of expression, the fitness to the occasion or the effectiveness of this burst of eloquence on an audience. Here is the masterpiece of pulpit eloquence: 'Twenty-two years ago, with the Holy Spirit as my guide, I entered this wonderful temple called Christianity. I entered at the portico of Genesis, walked down through the old testament art gallery where the pictures of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel hang on the wall. I passed into the music room of Psalms, where the spirit swept

the keyboard of nature and brought forth the dirge-like wail of the weeping prophet Jeremiah to the grand impassioned strain of Isaiah, until it seemed that every reed and pipe in God's great organ of nature responded to the tuneful harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel. I entered the chapel of Ecclesiastes where the voice of the preacher was heard and into the conservatory of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley's sweet scented spices filled and perfumed my life. I entered the business office of Proverbs, then into the observatory room of the prophets where I saw telescopes of various sizes, some pointing to far-off events; but all concentrated upon the bright and morning star, which was to rise above the moonlit hills of Judea for our salvation. I entered the audience room of the King of Kings, and caught a vision of His glory from the standpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; passed into the Acts of the Apostles, where the Holy Spirit was doing his office work in the formation of the infant church. Then into the correspondence room where sat Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James and Jude, penning their epistles. I stepped into the throne room of Revelations, where all towered into glittering peaks, and I got a vision of the King sitting upon His throne in all His glory, and I cried:

"All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!"

WHEN JOHN D. Rockefeller was on the witness stand in New York he was pressed by the counsel for the government to state the names of the railroads in which his investments were made. The Associated Press report says: "The head of the so-called trust declared that his holdings in railroads consisted chiefly in bonds, and that with the exception of the few roads in which he held only small amounts of stock, he preferred the bonds as a form of investment. Mr. Rockefeller appeared delighted that his ordeal as a witness was over and hurriedly left the room when counsel excused him. Mr. Rockefeller said that he did not think that he should be made to tell the form of his investments, declaring that 'the gentleman over there in the stock exchange might not think it very wise.' After some legal contention by counsel, he said he held stock in the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, the Western Maryland, the Missouri Pacific, the Texas and Pacific and the Colorado Southern. He said he owed no shares in either the Union or the Southern Pacific. He said he opposed the keeping of millions of dollars of surplus by the Standard."

MR. ROCKEFELLER bluntly disclaims credit for the creation of the oil trust. Asked who got up this Standard Oil trust, he replied: "I should say that H. M. Flagler and S. C. T. Dodd should have the credit. I am sure it was not I. I am not so learned in legal matters as that. I do not claim any credit for Mr. Flagler and Mr. Dodd should have full credit."

DESPITE OFFICIAL reticence, information from reliable sources has been obtained of an agreement of far-reaching importance between the United States and Japan covering the policies of the two countries in the Pacific. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says: "The agreement is based on the idea of encouraging and defending free and peaceful commercial developments in that ocean. It contains not only a mutual guarantee to respect each other's territorial possessions there, but defines the attitude of the two countries toward China, binding each to defend by every peaceful means China's independence and integrity, and to give equal commercial opportunity in the Chinese empire to all nations. But more important still, the agreement, in the event of complications threatening the status quo, binds the United States and Japan to consult each other with a view of acting together. This agreement has been drawn up in the form of a

declaration and consists of five articles, of which the following is a faithful description. The first article gives expression to the wish of the two governments to encourage the free and peaceful development of their commerce in the Pacific. The second is a mutual disclaimer of an aggressive design, and contains also a definition of the policy of each government, both as directed to the maintenance of the existing status quo in the Pacific and the defense of the principle of equal opportunity for commerce and industry in China. The third article contains a statement of the consequent 'firm' reciprocal resolutions of each government, each to respect the territorial possessions in the Pacific of the other. In the fourth article the United States and Japan express their determination 'in the common interest of all the powers,' in China to support, 'by peaceful means at their disposal,' the independence and integrity of China and the principle of equal commercial and industrial opportunity for all nations in the empire. The fifth article mutually pledges the two governments, in the case of the occurrence of any event threatening the status quo, as above described, or the principle of equal opportunity, as above defined, to 'communicate with each other for the purpose of arriving at a mutual understanding with regard to the measures they may consider it useful to take.'

A REMARKABLE tribute to a devoted Catholic priest was paid recently at Shenandoah, Pa., at the funeral of Rev. H. F. O'Reilly, rector of the Roman Catholic church of the Annunciation. For forty years Father O'Reilly had served in this position. An Associated Press dispatch says: "Twenty-five collieries employing more than 16,000 men and boys in the Shenandoah and Mahoney valley were shut down to enable the workers to pay their respects to the dead priest. The public schools here at Mahoney City and other surrounding communities were closed and all business in Shenandoah was suspended. Fully thirty thousand persons paid tribute to his memory. So immense was the crowd in town that a detail of state police was called upon to assist the local authorities to handle the people. Father O'Reilly was one of the best known and most popular priests in the diocese. During the Molly Maguire crusade and in numerous coal strikes he wielded a great influence in behalf of peace and law and order."

NOW THAT the election is over republican politicians are speaking frankly concerning the nation's finances. A Washington dispatch to the New York World says: "A renewal of special taxation is considered essential by republican leaders in congress to meet deficits and constantly growing expenditures, and an internal revenue duty may again be imposed on many, if not all articles so taxed during the Spanish-American war. A deficit that today aggregates \$50,000,000, and by June 30 next will total \$100,000,000, has brought Representative Tawney, chairman of the house appropriations committee, and others charged with formulating the great money measures here in advance of the assembling of congress to consider the situation. Messrs. Cannon, Tawney and Payne have conferred on the subject. Mr. Tawney has talked the matter over with President Roosevelt and Secretary Cortelyou. He has requested Mr. Cortelyou to prepare some data indicating the revenues derived from articles subjected to the war revenue tax and to indicate others that may eventually be placed in the list. It has become evident to the leaders that a revision of the tariff will not materially increase the revenues. While lower duties may bring larger imports in some instances, in others there will be a falling off of importations, and thus the books will about balance. Secretary Cortelyou has given no intimation as to what his suggestions will be, but they are certain to include a tax on coffee. Three cents a pound is the figure mentioned. This was the rate imposed up to 1882, when it was placed on the free list. It is also the almost unanimous sentiment that the tax on beer should be doubled, making it \$2 a barrel. It