

CURRENT TOPICS

MR. ROOSEVELT is having a hot time with his latest presidential message and with his extra constitutional appointments and orders. A congressional committee brought out the fact that a building, the property of the government, in Washington City was torn down by order of the president and this committee now wants to know by what authority the executive destroys government property. The Cuban press is hotly indignant because of that paragraph in the president's message where he said, in effect, that if Cuba didn't behave herself she would be taken charge of again. The senate is disposed to call the president to account because in his agreement with Japan he indicated a disposition to enter into treaties without the consent of the senate. A congressional committee is also asking by what authority the president gives to his "country life commission" the right to use the mails free of postage, and this committee maintains that the country life commission was appointed without authority. Now the house has adopted a resolution appointing a committee to deal with the insult offered the members of the congress by the president when in his message he said that they were afraid of investigation. On this committee the following were appointed: Republicans, Perkins of New York, Weeks, of Massachusetts, Denby of Michigan; democrats, Williams of Mississippi, Lloyd of Missouri.

REFERRING TO the disturbance in congress Walter Wellman says: "Leading members of both houses declare that the president's statement to the effect that the principal argument used in favor of the provision was fear of being investigated, is not true. A great number of senators and representatives have expressed a desire to speak on the subject and if they get the chance they are not likely to mince their words. 'I am glad this question has come up,' said an influential member of the house today. 'I, for one, am tired of being browbeaten and bullraged by the president of the United States. We have stood more from him, owing to the position he occupies, plus his known peculiarities of temperament and the affectionate regard in which he is held by a large proportion of the American people, than has ever been the case before or ever will be again. But the time has come when the members of the house must resent these widely accusatory utterances or else lose their own self-respect and the respect of every courageous and self-thinking American citizen. I hope the special committee makes its rebuke to Theodore Roosevelt good and strong. Let them give him some of his own medicine and see how he likes it.' Other leaders in congress, among them, it is understood, Senator Aldrich and Speaker Cannon, are trying to keep the indignation of the legislators within proper bounds. They hope that the lapse of time will serve to cool down the hot tempers, and they may try to maneuver to defer action and debate for several days. A few of the president's special friends in congress are also rallying to his support, though Mr. Roosevelt himself is not at all disturbed over the outlook. To the contrary he rather enjoys it."

NEWSPAPER correspondents predict trouble in the senate because of the agreement entered into between President Roosevelt and Japanese authorities. The president insists that this agreement is not a treaty and therefore did not require the consent of the senate. Senators insist, however, that in effect it amounts to a treaty. Walter Wellman, writing in the Chicago Record-Herald says: "A paradoxical situation exists in the senate over this Japanese-American understanding. Democratic senators claim it is a treaty but want to consider it as if it were not a treaty, that is, in open senate. Republican senators take the administration view that it is not a treaty, but want the senate to consider it as if it were a treaty, that is, in secret session. The purpose of the democrats of course is to 'roast' the president in the way and place likely to be most effective and to attract the greatest amount of attention from the country.

Republican senators are willing enough to have the president 'roasted' but want the operation to be carried on behind closed doors. The democratic senators are so wrought up that they declare if the republican majority forces them to debate the so-called 'treaty' in executive session they will seize every opportunity to discuss it publicly. Evidently there are lively times ahead in 'the most dignified legislative body on earth.'

WHILE IN THE act of speaking of the uncertainty of life and the immortality of the soul at the Elks' lodge of sorrow at Colorado Springs, Former Governor Charles S. Thomas of Denver suddenly paused in his address, raised his hand to his brow and fell fainting into the arms of the exalted ruler and the chaplain, who sprang to his support. A Colorado Springs dispatch to the Denver News says: "Governor Thomas was assisted into a chair and from the intense pallor of his face the spectators caught the impression that death was actually in their midst. For several moments a deathlike stillness pervaded the horrified audience and a couple of physicians sprang to the stage to assist the apparently dying man. In another moment, however Thomas opened his eyes and recovering himself with an effort sat upright. 'My friends, I am very ill,' he managed to articulate, and the next moment he was being borne in willing arms to an automobile outside the opera house, which conveyed him to the residence of Thomas F. Burns, a brother Elk, where he was given medical attention. Thomas was soon revived and though in a weak state tonight is out of all immediate danger. It was not until after the ceremony was over that it became generally known that Thomas had left a sick bed in Denver to come to Colorado Springs to deliver the memorial address for the Elks of this city and his heroism in attempting the task under such trying circumstances rather than disappoint his audience and brethren is the subject of universal admiration and comment tonight. Thomas left for his home in Denver on the 6:15 Denver and Rio Grande train and was attended to the depot by a host of brother Elks, who showed their appreciation of the veteran statesman and legal light in a quiet, but most heartfelt fashion."

THE DENVER News says that the address by Governor Thomas was a masterpiece of simple eloquence and so appropriate to the occasion that there was scarcely one of the large audience present who was not visibly affected. It was after holding his audience spellbound throughout the entire address and while delivering the last paragraph that the speaker was seized by the attack of weakness and pain that ended in his being carried off the stage. "We are told in holy writ," said the speaker, "that for all things there is a season, that there is a time to love and a time to hate, a time to laugh and a time to weep, a time to build and a time to destroy, a time to rejoice and a time to mourn. Our beloved order reared upon the foundations of friendship, integrity and brotherly love, has no place in its economy for hate or destruction. Its religion is the good of mankind, its philosophy the golden rule and its object helpfulness. The lodge of our order is in the sunshine. It encourages comradeship and social intercourse and the smile and not the sigh is its emblem of life. But the sun must fall below the horizon and as our brothers can not always dwell together the smile that is perpetual becomes wholly meaningless. And so when the shadows of the evening fall upon us and the eleventh hour is reached and passed, we put aside for the time our accustomed habiliments and touch hands with the dead. For us there is indeed a time to mourn. It comes with the gloom of December and the somber shadow of affliction rests today upon every lodge of Elks throughout the world. It is our day of Gethsemane. The certainty of death is one of the laws of life. Like every law of nature it is invariable. It knows no distinction between aught that exists in nature. It rules in every kingdom whether animate or inanimate. That which was is not and will not be. Death is the great leveler

of men. Before him the peasant is the equal of the king and in his presence the wise man is even as the fool. No mountain peak raises itself above the level of the plain in his domain. Like the level of the sea it stretches off into the horizon, immeasurable, monotonous and changeless. But from its surface all heights and depths are measured while to its dark and cheerless bosom all things in time are surely gathered." From the contemplation of the question of death, Mr. Thomas turned to reflection on the life that is to come. "Whether it be life or nothingness beyond the grave," said he, "we do not know but we may be sure that it is as it should be. The ordered perfection of the universe has no flaw in its perfect mechanism. We may therefore rest content feeling that 'whatever is, is right,' and that our primal duties and responsibilities are here and that as we meet and perform them so will we have the merit of others here and certain justice elsewhere."

THE LONDON Mail's New York correspondent gives his paper a good story that has escaped general attention in this country. The story, as printed in the Mail under a New York date line, follows: "A faultlessly dressed man, with a Vandyke beard and of distinguished appearance, who gives the name of Montefiore Myers, was committed to the Tombs prison this afternoon on charges of grand larceny. Mr. Myers, who hails from Australia, and gives London as his place of residence, was brought here by the night train from Pittsburg, where for two months past he has been the close friend, companion, and honored guest of the steel and other industrial magnates. He went to Pittsburg armed with introductions, now alleged to be false, from many of the most notable men of this country, including Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the ambassador in London. He is alleged to have stated that he was an agent of Messrs. Rothschild, and had \$200,000,000 (£40,000,000) to invest as soon as it was certain that Mr. Taft was elected president. Mr. Myers was welcomed with open arms and received invitations to civic banquets, at which he was treated as a man of immense power. He is also alleged to have promised Mr. David Belasco, the actor-manager, to invest \$250,000 (£50,000) in the construction of a model theater. Mr. Belasco drove Mr. Myers in a motor car all over Pittsburg investigating sites for the theatre, and at a dinner given at the Lincoln hotel introduced him with a toast brimming with enthusiasm. Dramatically waving his arms, the celebrated actor exclaimed: 'Gentlemen, look well upon this man, for you may never see his like again. This man has at the back of him a fortune of \$200,000,000, which can scarcely be realized by the human imagination. He is the man who will finance our new theatre.' Mr. Myers received this eulogy modestly, blushing painfully, and with lowered head he murmured, 'You flatter me.' Mr. Myers is said to have boasted of an intimate acquaintance with Messrs. Roosevelt, Rockefeller, Morgan, and Taft. His gorgeous suite at the Hotel Schenley was decorated with what purported to be autograph photographs of these and other celebrities. He dressed magnificently, and when the police invaded his rooms they found an assortment of five hundred neckties, and letters couched in familiar language from princes and eminent women all the world over. Mr. Myers obtained among other concessions an option on the great oil holdings of one Colonel Guffey, but as he failed to deposit the requisite money the option lapsed. He was the guest on Thursday at a brilliant banquet given by the National Municipal League, where he was introduced to the attorney general, Mr. Bonaparte. He was suddenly arrested on a charge of stealing in February last year five bonds of the Central Coal and Lumber Construction company, valued at \$4,500 (£900). He declared in the New York police court today that the charges were based on perjured testimony. After he had been committed to gaol in default of bail, the assistant district attorney declared that he was the most inter-