

CURRENT TOPICS

L. A. GEORGE, of company E, Second Regiment Vermont Volunteers, writes from Milford, Neb., as follows: "I notice an article in The Commoner referring to Lincoln and the sleeping sentinel and credited to the New York Herald. As to the story about young Scott I do not know, but as to the skirmish near Yorktown, Va., I do know, for I was there. How an intelligent newspaper like the New York Herald can make such historical blunders I can hardly understand. The skirmish was made April 16 and four companies of the Third Vermont besides some of the Fourth Vermont crossed the Warwick creek (not the James river, which at that place is probably a mile wide). The whole siege of Yorktown was a farce and to think of it makes me mad after being in Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania and Coal Harbor."

SOME ONE has sent to Mr. Bryan a copy of the Farm News printed at Dallas, Texas, for Friday, November 27, 1908. This paper contains the formal statement filed by George L. Sheldon, treasurer of the republican national committee, purporting to show the money received by the national committee for the campaign of 1908. The party who sent this paper directs attention to the Sheldon statement and says: "You said they did not do it." This party has doubtless been misled by Mr. Bryan's statement that the republican congressional committee made no statement of its receipts. In the opinion of many people the failure of the congressional committee to report covers a multitude of questionable contributions.

THE FEDERAL grand jury in session at Washington, D. C., returned on February 17 indictments against the company publishing the New York World, also against Joseph Pulitzer, Caleb M. Van Hamm and Robert H. Lyman, editors of the World; also against Delavan Smith and Charles R. Williams, owners of the Indianapolis News. These gentlemen are charged with libel in publication in connection with the purchase of the Panama canal. Those alleged to have been libeled are: President Roosevelt, J. Pierpont Morgan, Ellhu Root, Charles P. Taft, Douglas Robinson, William Nelson Cromwell. Immediately upon the return of the indictment Justice Gould in the criminal court directed the issuance of a summons for the corporation that publishes the New York World, also bench warrants for the individuals indicted.

THE BALTIMORE papers recently printed the appeal of Thomas E. Swann, a young college graduate from Seattle, Wash., for any kind of work, which was made through an advertisement in the want columns of a newspaper, in which the young man offered to sell himself into temporary slavery rather than starve. The advertisement read: "White man twenty-seven years old, will sell himself into slavery to the highest bidder for any period not exceeding five years; graduate of high school and military academy; can use typewriter and assist in bookkeeping or other clerical work; am proficient in nursing and can perform minor surgical operations; competent to care for invalid or mildly insane case; am total abstainer; want work of any kind; purchaser must provide lodging and clothing."

THE BALTIMORE correspondent for the New York Herald says: "Swann has been looking for work for six weeks. He says he has been obliged to sell much of his clothing in order to get a little money with which to buy food, and that Wednesday night he had to sell his last extra pair of shoes. He stated that he had been working for a while in Chicago. He then went to Norfolk, Va., where he was employed in the navy yard as a timekeeper until discharged on account of lack of work. Then he came to Baltimore. Today's mail brought generous responses and offers to provide work for Swann in some cases and food and shelter in others. One tender hearted lady was touched by the young man's plight and even though she explained that she herself was in poor circum-

stances, she offered to take care of him until he could secure something to do more worthy than delivering himself into even partial servitude. Next, Harbor Master Joseph L. Farnam offered Swann work on a farm. Harry Hechheimer, an attorney, made a similar offer and A. S. Pettit, of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty company, called in person to interview the young man. A representative of the big department store of Joel Gutman & Co., sent Swann an offer of work. Mr. Gutman himself took an interest in the young man, providing him with a complete outfit of clothing and agreeing to put him to work Monday morning at a good salary."

THREE UNITED States senatorial aspirants appeared in one day before the Wisconsin committee which is investigating the senatorial primary election of 1908. Referring to the testimony of these gentlemen an Associated Press dispatch says: "Samuel A. Cook of Neenah, while his official statement showed that he spent only \$28,500, admitted that a supplemental statement would show that belated bills were making his expenditures above \$40,000. Mr. Cook engaged W. C. Cowling of Oshkosh, as his manager, paying him \$210 a month. Checks for nearly all expenses were made out to Mr. Cowling. Mr. Cook was asked by the committee if he thought a candidate for senator could spend \$100,000 legitimately in a senatorial campaign, and replied that twice that amount could easily be spent. Neal Brown of Wausau, the democratic nominee, testified to having parted with \$1,075.87, in what he termed a 'poverty' campaign. He managed his own campaign. William H. Hatton said his total expenses were \$26,613.08, and later added \$3,668.90 for bills which came in later. Mr. Hatton had as many as five men looking after his interests and most of the money was spent in sending out literature to voters. Both Cook and Hatton expressed the opinion that the candidate receiving the largest vote in a properly conducted campaign was entitled to election. United States Senator Stephenson recently filed a statement showing that he spent over \$107,000 in the primary election."

AN ASSOCIATED Press dispatch from Jefferson City, Mo., says: "Henry S. Priest of St. Louis and H. Clay Pierce, chairman of the board of the Waters-Pierce Oil company, filed in the supreme court of Missouri an acceptance of the terms imposed upon the company by the recent ouster order of the court. The fine of \$50,000 was paid. The ouster decree provided that the company must show to the court that it had severed all connection with the Standard Oil company and a statement to this effect may yet be required by the court. Judge Priest, however, said that he believed today's action covered the case so far as the Missouri corporation was concerned and said he did not know of anything more that could be done. On the grounds that the Waters-Pierce Oil company of Missouri has not complied with the ouster decree of the supreme court of the state in an answer filed this morning, Attorney General Major this afternoon filed with the court a suggestion that the ouster be made effective against the concern. This course was agreed upon after conferences between the attorney general, Governor Hadley and former assistant attorney general John Kennish, who assisted Hadley in the original presentation of the case. The action of the attorney general will be based upon the fact that the company has not furnished satisfactory evidence that it has severed relations with the Standard-Oil company. The conference between the state officials followed a talk between them and Henry S. Priest, attorney for the company. Payments of the fine were made by a tender of a certified check for \$50,000. The acceptance is silent so far as showing a re-organization independent of the Standard Oil company is concerned, and there is no showing that the New Jersey corporation does not still own a per cent of the Waters-Pierce stock. It is said that the Waters-Pierce company will ask the court to aid it in carrying out the re-organization order portion of the decree. If this is

done a contest between the Waters-Pierce and Standard Oil company of Indiana is almost sure to result, the latter concern having petitioned the court to have the majority stock in the Waters-Pierce company, together with other Standard Oil property in this state placed in the hands of trustees representing the company and the state. This plan is not acceptable to the Waters-Pierce interests, who assert that it would not free them from the domination of the Standard Oil company as required by the original decree in ouster."

GERONIMO, the noted Indian chief, died February 17 at Fort Sill, Okla., where he had been confined for a number of years as a prisoner of war. The old chief died of pneumonia after two days' illness and was buried in the Indian cemetery near Fort Sill. The Lawton (Okla.) correspondent for the Associated Press says: "Geronimo was the war chief of the Apaches. He was captured with his band at Skelton Canyon, Arizona, twenty-two years ago, having surrendered to General Nelson A. Miles, who with his soldiers had pursued him for months. It is a curious coincidence that news of Geronimo's death was sent out from Lawton, which was named after the late Henry F. Lawton, the famous general who, as a member of Miles' command, led the 3,000 mile chase that resulted in the chief's surrender. The chase after Geronimo was begun at Omaha in January, 1885. General Miles, in command of the department of the Missouri, received instructions to rout the band of Indians headed by Geronimo and kill or capture its chief, and began operations by organizing an expedition consisting of the Second, Eighth and Ninth infantry and the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth cavalry, the horsemen being in charge of Henry F. Lawton, then lieutenant. The expedition was gotten under way in January, 1885, and the capture of Geronimo and his band finally made nearly two years later. Since he had been confined at Fort Sill Geronimo had made many attempts to gain his liberty. Early in 1908 Geronimo made a trip to Washington with a number of his followers in an effort to interest President Roosevelt in his case. The old Indian was unsuccessful, however, and to the last Geronimo had been full of bitter hatred for the white man. At the time of his death Geronimo was eighty-six years old. One daughter, Lola, who lives in Oklahoma, survives the aged warrior."

THE NEW YORK World has a hard time living down its record. The Omaha World-Herald says: "The New York Tribune has a mean disposition. The New York World, which became famous by publishing a 'Map of Bryanism,' and libeling the government's brother-in-law, surprised its readers the other day by coming out of the megrims and indulging in a beautiful spring rhapsody on the present and future of the democratic party. The World declared that the party which it loves so ardently—except just preceding election time—is neither dead nor half-dead. In proof it submitted the enormous increase in the democratic vote last fall, the gaining of democratic governors and senators in northern states, the death of the factional feuds and the amity and harmony which now prevails within the ranks. And it wound up with the assertion and prophecy that the party 'is in better condition than it has been since 1892, and has every prospect of being in still better condition two years from now.' The World is right about it, of course. We frankly admit it—and would be willing to stop at that, letting bygones be bygones. But the Tribune, as before remarked, has a mean disposition. It endeavors maliciously to open old sores by asking such questions as 'Under whose leadership were these gains in voting strength made?' 'Who stilled old factional feuds?' 'Who united the party in 1908 and put it in better condition than it has been in since 1892?' The Tribune is trying to ruffle the World's composure by intimating that Mr. Bryan is responsible, and that the World's 'Map of Bryanism,' which cheerfully accorded Mr. Bryan a monopoly for all the reverses that have overtaken it since