

# CURRENT TOPICS

**C**ONCERNING THE proceedings recently brought against the editor of the Appeal to Reason, Upton Sinclair writes to The Commoner from Cutchogue, L. I., New York, to say: "Fred D. Warren, editor of the Appeal to Reason, has been convicted of sending scurrilous literature through the mails and sentenced to six months in jail and \$1,500 fine. This conviction is the result of a systematic and deliberate persecution, carried on for several years by the United States postoffice, for the purpose of breaking a socialist paper. The charge is an incredibly preposterous one; Warren's offense was offering a reward for the apprehension of Ex-Governor Taylor of Kentucky, a fugitive from justice—something which is done through the mails continually. I have no hesitation in saying that the conviction constitutes the most dangerous blow that has ever been struck at the liberty of the press in the United States."

**A** WASHINGTON correspondent for the Chicago Tribune sends to his paper the following dispatch: "William Jennings Bryan need not expect the active support of President Taft in obtaining the submission to the people of an amendment to the constitution authorizing the popular election of senators. The president has no intention of interfering directly in what he considers to be manifestly the business of congress alone. Certainly he will make no formal recommendations on the subject at this time when congress is in extra session for the single purpose of revising the tariff. This attitude of Mr. Taft is in keeping with that which he has uniformly observed since his assumption of the office of president. In attempting to induce him to depart from it, Mr. Bryan will have the support of republican senators like Bristow of Kansas, LaFollette of Wisconsin, and a few others in the upper house, who believe it to be desirable to give the people opportunity to say directly who shall be their senatorial representatives."

**A** COLORADO Springs dispatch under date of July 18, follows: "Mrs. J. Addison Hayes, daughter of the late Jefferson Davis, president of the confederacy, died tonight at her home in this city after an illness of several months. Mrs. Hayes was the wife of J. Addison Hayes, president of the First National bank, of this city. Many messages of inquiry were received recently from friends throughout the country who had gained the impression that Mrs. Hayes was suffering from cancer. The cause of her death as announced by the attending physicians, was a complication of diseases. Mrs. Hayes, the last of the family of the late president of the confederacy, after the death of her sister, Miss Winnie Davis, at Richmond, Va., made a trip south a few years ago, when she was made a Daughter of the Confederacy in her sister's stead. Her mother, widow of the southern president, died in New York about two years ago. Mrs. Hayes is survived by two sons, Jefferson Hayes Davis and William Hayes, and two daughters, Lucy and Mrs. Virginia Webb, wife of Dr. Gerald B. Webb, of this city. Jefferson Hayes Davis bears the name of his grandfather through a special act of the legislature."

**D**ON CARLOS of Bourbon, the pretender to the Spanish throne, died July 18 at Varese in Lombardy. A Rome cablegram, carried by the Associated Press said: "He had been ill for a long time and the latest reports indicated that he was suffering from apoplexy with the accompanying paralysis. Don Carlos, Duke of Madrid, who claimed under the special law of succession established by Philip V. to be the legitimate king of Spain by the title of Charles VII., was born at Laybach, Austria, March 30, 1848. His father, Don Juan, was the brother of Don Carlos (Charles VII.) known as the Count De Montemolin, in support of whose claims the Carlist risings of 1848, 1855 and 1860 were organized. As Charles VI. died in 1861 without children, his rights devolved upon

his brother, Don Juan, who had married the Archduchess Maria Teresa of Austria. Their son, Don Carlos, married on February 4, 1867, Margaret De Bourbon. In October, 1868, Don Juan abdicated in favor of his son, whose standard was raised in the north of Spain in 1872 by some of his partisans. Don Carlos himself, after addressing a proclamation to the inhabitants of Catalonia, Aragon and Valentia, calling upon them to take up arms in his cause, made his entry into Spain July 15, 1873, announcing that he came for the purpose of saving the country. Then followed the 'four years war' which ended in January, 1876, when Tolosa, the last stronghold of the Carlists fell and its defenders sought refuge on French territory. In the meantime the republic came to an end and the eldest son of former Queen Isabella returned to Spain as Alfonso XII. Alfonso XII. died in 1885 and the fight for the succession now raged between Marie Christina of Austria, the widow of the late king, and Don Carlos. The posthumous birth of the present king in 1886, however, kindled in the nation a feeling of loyalty which has continued to exist up to the present time. Within recent years there has been a recurrence of the Carlist agitation in Catalonia and other districts, which was attributed to the influence of Don Jaime, the only son of Don Carlos, but these movements have proved to be of little importance."

**A** NEW YORKER writes to the World to say: "When I said something the other day in the World about the color of the flag of Great Britain it was my belief that Great Britain really had a distinctive flag. I have been making some inquiries since and have come to the conclusion that Great Britain has no distinctive flag. What we are most accustomed to see in this country—the big red fellow with the union jack in the upper corner—is known as the 'mercantile ensign,' or merchant flag. The union jack—blue with bars of red and white—is the army and navy flag. There are others of white with red bars and one with the addition of the union jack in the corner, but none seems to be of more importance than another, unless it be the union jack. In several flag charts I have seen—Larousse (French) and various American charts—the merchant flag is labelled 'Great Britain,' with no explanation. I asked a couple of intelligent Englishmen what was the flag of Great Britain and they could not tell me, although they did tell me how many flags their country flew. But there was no distinctive—that is, national—British flag named. I am inclined to believe that the union jack takes patriotic precedence in the Briton's bosom, but it certainly does not on the flag poles I have seen flying the so-called British flag. 'Habitant,' who called me down for speaking of the British flag as red and explained that it was blue, was right in theory to some extent, but he was off as to practice.—W. J. L., New York, July 16."

**I**N A HEARING at Minneapolis it was brought out that express companies charge 30 per cent more to carry bread to a given point than beer. The Minneapolis Tribune says: "Rates charged by the eight express companies operating in Minnesota are to be thoroughly investigated by the state railway and warehouse commission before which body a formal complaint was filed yesterday, charging a violation of the law in several particulars. One allegation made, based on the schedule of tariffs attached to the complaint, is that the express companies charge more to transport the necessaries of life, such as bread, butter, meat and eggs, from Minneapolis to any point within the state, than they do to transport beer or ale. State Senator Bengt E. Sundberg of Kennedy, Minn., and James Mahan of Minneapolis, are complainants in the action and the Great Northern Express company, Lake Superior company and Great Northern railroad are defendants. Complainants assert that the Lake Superior company is a device created by the Great Northern Railroad company to enable it to engage in a business not authorized under its charter, viz., express. They

charge that the Great Northern Railway company organized and capitalized the Great Northern Express company at \$1,000,000, but that only \$25,000 was actually paid in and that R. I. Farrington, L. W. Hill, E. Sawyer, J. M. Gruber and W. W. Broughton, all general officers of the railway company, are stockholders in the express company for the sole purpose of acting as trustees and to control the express company for the stockholders of the railway company. That the Great Northern railway has allowed the Lake Superior company, and by that means through its own stockholders, to withdraw and divert money legitimately accruing to the railway company as earnings and available to it in maintaining its equipment and reducing its rates to a reasonable basis, is also alleged. It is further charged that after paying all its expenses of operation, one item of which disposes of 40 per cent of its gross earnings, which go to the railway company for transportation, the express company had a net profit of \$462,442.61, or 667 per cent net profit on its full investment. The state railway and warehouse commission, it is expected, will set a hearing for the near future."

**R**EV. CHARLES B. WILLIAMS, Episcopal Bishop of Michigan, occupied the pulpit of St. Bartholomew, New York, which is the church home of the Vanderbilt family, recently, and criticised the Bible class teachings of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Bishop Williams said: "A scion of wealth recently used the figure of the gardener's treatment of a rosebush, cutting off all but the hardest buds, that the flowers might be perfect, saying it was right to apply that idea to human relations, and that doctrine was advanced, not in a board meeting, but before a Bible class. They say that a rose by any other name will smell as sweet, but the odor of that rose to me smacks strongly of crude petroleum. In our industrial concerns such as soap factories and oil refineries we have learned that the profit is in taking care of the by-products and what would otherwise be the waste; and nature, we see, allows no waste. That is the way we must do to follow Christ's philosophy. I wonder if the young man ever read the Bible which he professes to teach. That doctrine of the rosebush was the cold, merciless scientific doctrine of evolution applied to human relations, the doctrine that the individual was of no use other than to perpetuate and develop the species. Compare that with Christ's philosophy of the shepherd who, having ninety-and-nine sheep safe in the fold goes out to look for the one which is lost. Compare it with the father who, having the righteous members of his family and household gathered around him, goes out to seek and welcome the prodigal, who has spent his substance in riotous living and in foreign lands. The present church, like the ancient synagogue, is lapsing into the work of ministering spiritual luxury to the morally fit. Parish work you have—yes; but it is a postscript to the real work of the church, which confines herself to one moral class, and when they move up town she follows them. Of course, it is a good thing to keep the core of society clean, but if Christ came again today, would He confine His ministry to this class? Two types of Christians compose our churches of today. One type preserves the character as the ancient Egyptians preserved the body by embalming it, and this type is very much like the mummies and not much good to anyone. There is a rich man in a southern city who for the last twenty years has been doing personal work without any trumpets to call attention to it. This man has taken fallen women into his home, has treated them as honored guests of his family, and by such care and treatment has rescued them and even carried many of them into happy marriages where, with their past unknown and buried, they have become respected and honored leaders of society."

Senator Gore is blind but when it comes to voting on the tariff question he seems to be able to see better than some of the democrats who have eyes.