

CURRENT TOPICS

WHEN Governor Johnson's death was announced by the tolling of a school bell at Rochester, Minn., all public activities ceased, banks, stores and offices being immediately closed. The governor's body was escorted to the depot by a throng of citizens and all along the line to St. Paul flags were at half mast and buildings draped. The body was placed in the state capitol building at St. Paul. An Associated Press dispatch says: "Norman E. Mack of Buffalo, chairman of the democratic national committee, sent the following telegram to Mrs. Johnson: 'Am shocked and distressed to hear of the death of your distinguished husband. The state has lost its leading son, and the country and our party one of its leading public men. I extend to you my heartfelt sympathy. I have just appointed a sub-committee of the national committee to attend the funeral.' The following members of the national committee were selected by Chairman Mack to attend the funeral: P. L. Hall, Nebraska; Roger C. Sullivan, Illinois; Moses E. Wetmore, Missouri; P. K. Ryan, Wisconsin, and the sergeant-at-arms of the committee, Colonel John I. Martin of Missouri."

MANY TRIBUTES were paid to the late John A. Johnson. Governors Carroll of Iowa, Hughes of New York, Hadley of Missouri, Shallenberger of Nebraska, referred to Governor Johnson's death as a national loss. James J. Hill, the railroad magnate, said this: "He possessed many of the qualities of a leader, combined with kindly disposition and a pleasant appearance. His ability was illustrated by his career, coming, as he did, from the lowest stratum of the social structure to the highest. And his life's work with its results were not matters of accident. They were due to his perseverance and ability. The state of Minnesota has suffered a great loss in the death of its leader."

MR. BRYAN was at Douglas, Arizona, when informed of Governor Johnson's death. He said: "I have just heard with deep sorrow of the death of Governor Johnson. His career illustrates the possibilities of American citizenship and his death is a great loss to our party and the country. His civic virtues won for him a host of admirers, and his personal qualities converted his admirers into friends."

PRESIDENT TAFT sent to Mrs. Johnson this dispatch: "My heart goes out to you in sympathy for you in your present deep sorrow. Governor Johnson was a national figure of great ability and great capacity for usefulness to his country as he had already demonstrated and his loss will be felt far beyond the state that loved him so well. I sincerely hope that the fond remembrance in which he is and always will be held in Minnesota and elsewhere and the record of his high and valued public service may come as a boon to you in your sorrow and may in time lighten the burden you are now called upon to bear."

ADOLPH C. EBERHART, lieutenant governor, was inaugurated governor of Minnesota. Mr. Eberhart was born in Sweden thirty-eight years ago, but came to Minnesota in 1881. He attended the public schools and was afterward graduated from Gustavus Adolphus college at St. Peter as a minister of the gospel. Soon after his graduation Mr. Eberhart abandoned church work and took up the study of law. He soon built up a large practice. For many years Mr. Eberhart has been interested in politics and has worked hard for the success of the republican party. He was at one time a clerk of the United States circuit and district courts, and later was United States commissioner for the district of Minnesota. In 1903 and 1905 he was elected to the state senate. In 1906 he was elected lieutenant governor and was re-elected in 1908. Mr. Eberhart's name originally was Olson. In Mankato, where he formerly lived, there were half a dozen or more Adolph Olsons, and much

confusion of identity resulted. So when the future state official was married he asked the court to permit him to take the name of his wife, a petition that was granted.

THE FUNERAL of Governor Johnson took place September 23. Business in St. Paul was practically suspended while the body was carried to the tomb. The pall bearers, F. A. Day, F. B. Lynch, T. D. O'Brien, E. T. Young, A. C. Weiss and J. C. Wise, carried the casket to the hearse, through the double line of honorary pallbearers composed of ex-Governors L. F. Hubbard, John Lind, S. R. VanSant, Knute Nelson and Governor Eberhart, Chief Justice Start, Governor John Burk of North Dakota and President Cyrus Northrup. At St. Peter, the governor's old home, the body was then taken to the Presbyterian church, where Governor Johnson was once a member of the choir. The funeral service was begun at 2 o'clock after the citizens of St. Peter had taken a last look on the face of their former fellow townsman. The interment was in Greenhill cemetery, beside the bodies of Governor Johnson's father and mother.

A FEDERAL grand jury in session at Council Bluffs, Iowa, returned indictments against James C. Maybray and eighty-four associates charging them with conspiracy to defraud by illegal use of the United States mail. Only four of the indicted men are in custody. The names of the others are not made public. It is claimed that Maybray's victims lost in the neighborhood of half a million dollars, sums for each victim ranging from \$1,500 to \$30,000. Maybray's scheme was to get up fake horse races and other alleged sporting affairs. One Missouri banker lost \$30,000 on a fake horse race. An Associated Press dispatch says: "Victims in eighteen states, the territory of Alaska and the Dominion of Canada, are named, indicating the wide range of territory over which Maybray and his associates are alleged to have plied their vocation. As a basis of operation they used, according to the indictment, the cities of Council Bluffs, Davenport and Burlington, Ia., St. Louis, Little Rock, Seattle, Denver and New Orleans, to which places, it is alleged, victims were taken by the numerous 'steers.' In setting out the specific instances in which violations of the postal laws are changed, the indictment includes copies of many sensational letters alleged to have been exchanged between Maybray and his associates, which refer to alleged 'deals,' and name various sums of money as having changed hands as the result of the operations of those mentioned in the indictment."

THE LIST OF names of Maybray's victims include men of prominence in all parts of the country. The list is as follows: A. A. Van Cleave, St. Louis; Dr. C. C. Vanderbeck, St. Louis; George A. Quinby, Denver; M. Jackson, Minneapolis; Louis Pendell, Marquette, Mich.; W. H. McGrath, Pine City, Minn.; M. Meuer, Bristol, S. D.; C. E. Hayward, Garden City, S. D.; William H. Stine, Chicago; Joe P. Walker, Denver, Thomas Cale, Fond Du Lac, Wis.; Adolph Yeske, Harding, Mont.; D. C. Harrington, Sioux Falls, S. D.; P. W. Whalen, Port Arthur, Canada; Alexander De Lain, Pembine, Wis.; T. W. Ballew, Princeton, Mo.; Hans Anderson, Ketchikan, Alaska; A. J. Olson, Memphis, Tenn.; Dr. C. J. Harrish, Jr., St. Louis; Joseph W. Leisen, Menominee, Wis.; Ed. Jones, Shamokin, Pa.; C. M. McCain, Denver; J. M. Turner, Chicago; F. Ellison, Kamloops, Canada; Z. Pierpont, Marysville, Mo.; R. L. King, Fowler, Colo.; Edwin James, Blue Springs, Neb.; J. C. Bowman, Denver; R. W. C. Shull, Minneapolis; George I. Brown, Norton, Kan.; F. G. Allspaugh, Terre Haute, Ind.; J. E. Harrington, Sioux Falls, S. D.; James Servais, Port Arthur, Canada; George F. Castle, Britt, Ia.; John Blegger, Sioux Falls; H. Ford, Vancouver, B. C.; R. A. Frazer, Helena, Mont.; Frank R. Baker, —; J. H. Secrest, Iowa City, Ia.; F. R. Marts, Polk City, Ia.; James Webber, Shamokin, Pa.; Max Lindenbaum, Louisville, Ky.; N. A. Ketchell, Denver;

Ed. Stenger, Hermosa, S. D.; John Hermelbrecht, Bancroft, Neb.; A. Harrington, Minneapolis; F. X. Roethle, Neenah, Wis.; M. S. Mansfield, Winnebago, Neb.; John Corbin, Chicago; Cecil F. Walker, Denver; Samuel Sutor, Cass Lake, Minn.; W. H. Bedford, Bolckow, Mo.; Ralph P. Mattingly, Nashville; George S. Bedford, Greeley, Colo.; John Kozelek, Chicago; O. L. Cramp, San Francisco; J. B. Titterington, Dallas, Texas; C. W. Field, Minneapolis; A. F. Cook, Memphis; James Tierney, Streator, Ill.; S. McMairn, Toronto, Canada; Joseph A. Young, —; J. E. Cavanaugh, McAlester, Okla.; E. S. Bessey, Oklahoma City; J. P. Schuermann, Leoti, Kan.; Henry Stoggsdill, Cabool, Mo.; William Burke, St. Louis; H. A. Berthold, Aurora, Ill.; E. L. Collins, —; S. A. Johnson, Streator, Ill.; John H. Sizer, Seattle; C. T. Woods, —; Charles D. Alberts, Sioux City; Lee J. Schniff, Kansas City; W. S. Wagner, Aurora, Ill.; T. E. George, San Antonio, Texas; J. W. Springborn, Cleveland; William Dwyer, La Crosse, Wis.; Eugene Schmidt, Los Angeles; F. E. Ray, Woodward, Okla.; C. Nelson Pratt, Toledo, O.; C. A. Nason, Alma, Mich.; Henry Rasmert, Douglas, Wyo.; Thomas Agern, Fergus Falls, Minn.; John Gozelek, Chicago.

THIS IS THE way the New York World describes Mr. Taft's western speeches: "We learn from Mr. Taft's speech at Winona that 'the Payne tariff bill is the best tariff bill that the republican party has ever passed.' We learn also that the wool schedule 'is too high' and that it 'ought to have been reduced,' but that a combination of the wool growers and wool manufacturers 'was sufficiently strong to defeat any attempt to change the woolen tariff, and that had it been attempted it would have beaten the bill reported from either committee.' We learn also that through the tariff board the president expects to obtain data 'upon which a new and proper revision of the tariff might be had,' but that it will probably take the rest of this administration to accumulate such data. We learn also that after the Payne tariff (which is 'the best tariff bill that the republican party has ever passed') has been in operation for two or three years 'we can tell more accurately than we can today its effect upon the industries of the country and the necessity for any amendment in its provisions.' The average reader is likely to be hopelessly bewildered by the contradictions and conflicting statements of Mr. Taft's speech, but it must be remembered that there are two Tafts on the platform. One Taft is the republican party's lawyer. He has a bad case and a sinful old client who has been caught with the goods more times than can be enumerated. The other Taft is a straightforward, honest-minded statesman who is trying to do his best and is having a good deal of trouble with some of his associates. When both of these Tafts talk at once there is bound to be confusion."

AN INTERESTING story from Alabama is told in a Birmingham dispatch to the Rocky Mountain News. The dispatch follows: "The statement made by Judge Thomas G. Jones of the United States court for the middle district of Alabama that this state narrowly missed an armed conflict with the federal government in 1907 because of the conduct of Governor B. E. Comer in defying the mandates of the United States court, came as a big surprise to the majority of the citizens of Alabama, few of whom realized the gravity of the crisis. The statement, which was made in a bitter arraignment of Governor Comer by Judge Jones, has served to direct public attention anew to the conflict which has raged for two years between these officials, and interest is rapidly being fanned to fever heat. According to the signed statement of Judge Jones, Governor Comer carried the controversy before President Roosevelt, with the statement that 'if the president did not call down his judge here, he would have trouble in Alabama.' The reply of Roosevelt, according to Judge Jones, was that if Governor Comer made any trouble in Alabama 'the president would see that it did not last long.' Judge Jones also says that he received assurance