

# CURRENT TOPICS

**A**N ORGANIZED movement for a safe and sane Fourth of July is now on. A Washington, D. C., dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "Co-operation of governors of all states and territories in a nation-wide campaign for safe and sane celebration of independence day in every hamlet, town and city throughout the country is the object of a movement now inaugurated. The plan contemplates the formation of a national committee on the promotion of the safe and sane celebration of the Fourth, the appointment as honorary chairman of President Taft in view of his endorsement of Washington's 'accidentless Fourth,' the appointment of the governors of all states and territories in the union as members and an active campaign by that committee all over the nation for diverting independence day from its annual toll of accidents. The endorsement by President Taft of the safe and sane plan for the celebrating of the country's birthday anniversary has led those back of the movement to believe that he will accept the honorary chairmanship of the convention. His position is expected to have a big influence in bringing success to the movement."

**T**HE PORTLAND Oregonian prints the following interview with Mr. Bryan: "I have said and repeat that while I will not promise any one that I never, under any circumstances, will be a candidate for office again," said William Jennings Bryan last night, "I do not desire to be a candidate for office again and do not expect to be a candidate for any office and hope that no conditions will arise which will make it necessary for me to consider the question again. I was not correctly quoted in the dispatch sent out from Spokane," continued Mr. Bryan in answer to a question if it was true that he might be a candidate for president again in 1912. "The press dispatch from Spokane illustrates the unreliability of some of the things that pass for news. I gave out no such interview and the sending out of that dispatch is the less excusable because the afternoon papers at Spokane had published a very different interview which I did give out. I do not understand why I should be annoyed every time I go into a town by the same question I have answered so often that I have the right to assume every person knows my position on the subject. But, that your paper may have no excuse for printing such a dispatch as was printed in other Portland papers from Spokane, I have again given my position for the benefit of the Oregonian and when it receives a press dispatch in the future that is contrary to this statement, it may know that the dispatch is unauthorized and unworthy of publication."

**P**ATRICK H. MCCARREN, the democratic leader of Brooklyn, died as a result of an operation. Senator McCarren anticipated death and to the physicians in consultation over him Monday he said: "Gentlemen, I know what you have come for; there is no need for a consultation. I knew I was dying the day I walked into this hospital. I have made a study of my own case, and I find that my trouble is an old heart and an old stomach. If you could replace them with new ones there might be a chance of my getting better."

**A**N ASSOCIATED Press dispatch, referring to the well known politician, says: "Patrick Henry McCarren, by trade a cooper, by profession a lawyer and by vocation a politician, was one of the most picturesque figures in the political history of New York. No leader was more roundly condemned, yet at the close of sixty-one years of his life he was probably the most strongly entrenched leader in New York state, and had even wielded some influence in national politics. Born in East Cambridge, Mass., he settled in Brooklyn when he was eight years old, and was graduated from the public schools. He was apprenticed to a cooper when sixteen, but having mastered his trade he answered the call to something more intellectual. He took to the law, and from the law went into politics.

In 1882 he was sent to the assembly, and has since served almost continuously in the legislature. He was elected to the senate in 1891, but two years later was defeated. Elected again in 1895, it was to stay there regularly until his death. Senator McCarren first became recognized as a coming leader in the days when David B. Hill was at the height of his power. By 1898 he had become so well recognized that the democratic state committee made him head of the executive committee. Five years later he wrested the leadership of Brooklyn from Hugh McLaughlin, who had had it for forty years. Since that time the senator has won at all primaries, though his political death was predicted each year. At the democratic national convention which nominated Alton B. Parker, the task of inducing southern leaders to remain in line, following the arrival of the famous 'gold telegram,' fell on McCarren's shoulders. McCarren's opposition to the candidacy of Mr. Hearst for governor led to charges of treason against him, and his delegates were excluded from the party convention in April of last year to name delegates to the Denver national convention. Nevertheless he appeared there with delegates who were again ejected. His downfall was then confidently predicted, but only last month he received what he considered as final vindication when he won nineteen of the twenty-three districts of his borough. Physically, Senator McCarren was very tall and lank. In manner he was courteous and generous of attention, but niggardly of speech. The qualities which in the opinion of his friends contributed most of his success in politics were keenness, tenacity of purpose, personal fidelity, perfect self-control and patience. He was sometimes called a hard man, devoid of sentiment. 'I had a romance once,' he said to a close friend. 'When I was a young man I fell in love with a girl, and we were married. We lived very happily. We had five children. When I was thirty-one I had buried my wife and five children.'

**T**HEODORE ROOSEVELT, writing of his South African experiences, tells of meeting and killing a lion. He says: "Now, an elderly man with a varied past, which included rheumatism, does not vault as lightly into his saddle as his sons, for instance, can, and I had already made up my mind that in the event of the lion's charging it would be wise for me to trust to straight powder rather than to try to scramble into the saddle and get under way in time. I could still not see the lion when I knelt, but he was now standing up, looking first at one group of horses and then at the other, his tail lashing to and fro, his head held low and his lips dropped over his mouth in a peculiar fashion, while his harsh and savage growling rolled thunderously over the plain. Seeing Simba and me on foot he turned toward us, his tail lashing quicker and quicker. Resting my elbow on Simba's bent shoulder, I took steady aim and pressed the trigger. The bullet went in between the neck and shoulder and the lion fell over on his side, one foreleg in the air. He recovered in a moment, and stood up evidently very sick and once more faced me, growling hoarsely. I think he was on the eve of charging. I fired again at once, and this bullet broke his back just behind the shoulders, and with the next I killed him outright, after we gathered around him."

**S**PAIN HAS A new cabinet. Premier Maura and his cabinet associates resigned as the result of the bitter attacks made against them by the former premier, Prendergast. After the resignation Prendergast undertook the formation of a new ministry and he became the premier. Referring to the change an Associated Press dispatch from Madrid says: "Preceding the formation of this cabinet there had been five liberal ministries in eighteen months. The religious issues had been the rock on which these ministries were wrecked, and the accession to power of Senor Maura, who had before held the premiership, was regarded as a sweeping victory for the clericals and one likely to arouse a revolutionary spirit. This proved to be the case,

the opposition finally uniting against the government's conduct and furtherance of the war in Morocco. The stern measures taken to put down the recent anti-war demonstrations in Spain tended to inflame the opposition, and the execution of Ferrer, followed by popular demonstrations of disapproval, brought matters to a crisis. When parliament re-opened the liberals, republicans and socialists bitterly assailed the government, but the cabinet showed a disposition to fight for its life. There was a violent scene in the chamber of deputies yesterday when the opposition, headed by Senor Morety Prendergast, the former premier, renewed its attack upon the government. Minister of the Interior Lacierva, however, declared that the ministry would not resign under threats. It was then believed that while Senor Morety was determined to unhorse Premier Maura the liberals, as distinguished from the republicans and socialists, did not desire to assume power, as under the circumstances they would then become responsible for the expenditures involved in the war in Morocco."

**R**EFERRING TO the decision of the federal court, destroying the Nebraska guaranteed bank deposits law, Professor George E. Howard of Nebraska University says: "It is a mistake in a self-governing democracy to vest a court with power to declare a law enacted by the legislature void. With respect to what constitutes good law the legislature itself as representing the will of the people, should be supreme. The law making body should not be subordinated to a court. No other federal government, Australia alone excepted, has given the courts this dangerous authority. Neither Canada, Switzerland, nor federal Germany have done so. For more than two hundred years the English courts have been incompetent to declare a parliamentary statute void. The parliament is higher than the court. Moreover, the tenure of the English judges is dependent on the will of the two houses of parliament, which may remove a judge on a joint address to the executive, that is in reality, to the prime minister, who always represents the will of the house of commons. It was not positively known that our courts could determine the validity of either a state law or of a federal law until the days of Chief Justice Marshall. It may be that the makers of the constitution intended the courts to exercise this function; but it is easily conceivable that, with a different chief justice, the court might never have established it by precedent. The personal equation has always counted much in our judicial history. It is almost certain that eventually public sentiment will demand an amendment to the constitution taking from our judges this dangerous and anomalous power. If this decision is good law, it nevertheless discloses in our jurisprudence a social menace. But is it good law? To the lay student of our legal history the arguments of the judges are far from convincing. Frankly, with all due respect for the judges, their decision seems to rest upon reasoning which would render unconstitutional a large part of our statute law, I can not but regard the decision as unfortunate. If there was any doubt, ought not the desires of the people expressed through their law makers to have had the benefit of it? The times are calling loudly for the socialization of our jurisprudence and for the socialization of our judges."

**D**RAMATIC SCENES occurred in the city of Chicago on the night of October 18. An Associated Press dispatch tells the story in this way: "Fifteen thousand men and women, praying for Chicago's deliverance from sin, invaded the tenderloin district of the city tonight, led by Gypsy Smith, the Romany evangelist of England, who is conducting a revival here at the Seventh regiment armory. A monstrous chorus, singing sacred songs, drowned out the coarse music of the cafes and saloons, and the lights were dimmed by the glare of the brilliant illumination which blazed the way of the Christian army. For two miles the procession of evangelists into the district in the vicinity of Twenty-second and State streets extended on its march