

CURRENT TOPICS

VIOLETS IN BLOOM on November 11! That sounds strange, indeed, but the Chicago Record-Herald is responsible for the following: "Violets were in full bloom in the woods north of Evanston yesterday—November 11. And it's no 'nature fake.' School children of the suburb are earning candy money by selling the flowers at 15 cents a bunch. Old residents of Evanston can not recall a time when wild violets could be picked so late in the season. C. B. Atwell, city forester and professor of botany at Northwestern University, said he had never known of the second bloom appearing later than October. The woods where the violets are found in the greatest number are just north of Centrale street and between the lake and Sherman avenue."

FORMER GOVERNOR Larrabee of Iowa went to Washington and gave newspapers there this interview: "We are beginning to miss Roosevelt and wish he were back. President Taft's indorsement of Aldrich's tariff views has lost him much of his popularity out our way. We all think he made a big mistake. Colonel Roosevelt is more popular today than he ever was; people are beginning to miss him and his rugged, thoroughly American and patriotic views expressed on every subject concerning the welfare of the country. If he were to land today at San Francisco and travel across the continent to his Oyster Bay home he would receive a reception, the like of which no American ever experienced. He is bound to come to the front again before many years, and the country will be the gainer thereby."

REFERRING TO the Larrabee interview, the Washington correspondent for the Louisville Courier-Journal says: "In the meantime, the president's attitude is said to be such that he would resent with righteous indignation a suggestion by even his closest advisers that Mr. Roosevelt is willing to obey a 'countrywide call,' as the Rooseveltian boomers call it. Whatever may be the result it is certain that President Taft, in spite of his confidence in Roosevelt, has many sleepless nights ahead of him. It is embarrassing enough to have it constantly pounded into a man of self-respect that he has got to follow Roosevelt 'policies' to secure a re-nomination. President Taft will be assured by Mr. Roosevelt without solicitation that he is not a candidate and will not accept a nomination, but just the same there will be a continual cropping out of little things that will not make for the comfort of the executive."

THE NEW YORK Tribune, whose editor, Whitelaw Reid, is about to be retired from the court of St. James because President Taft is not particularly fond of him, prints a dispatch from Washington giving details of "a far-reaching and shrewdly organized movement which has for its purpose the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt in the national convention of 1912." Referring to this dispatch the New York World says: "There is such a movement. Mr. Taft's friends have known about it for months. But it is not far-reaching and it is not shrewdly organized. For the most part it is kindergarten politics played by a small coterie of Mr. Roosevelt's intimate personal friends, abetted by a handful of republican insurgents in the middle west. For weeks various western newspapers have been discussing the political possibilities of a theatrical Roosevelt 'return from Elba,' as it is frequently called. They have explained in detail how, if he were to land in San Francisco and cross the continent to New York, he 'would burn up the country like a prairie fire,' and nothing could prevent his renomination. All the fair-haired boys of the Roosevelt administration whose vanity has been bumped since Mr. Taft became president are yearning for the political restoration of the great faunal naturalist. The insurgents are naturally in favor of his candidacy, because it gives them a weapon to use against Mr. Taft and the administration. Mr. Roosevelt is still very popular in the west, where his cowboy methods were regarded as the

supreme achievement of American statesmanship, and there is no question about the fact that the Roosevelt third-term movement is causing some of Mr. Taft's friends a great deal of anxiety. But there are a few obstacles to Mr. Roosevelt's nomination in 1912, unless the Taft administration sees fit to abdicate."

FOR ONE THING, according to the World, the administration can control the southern delegates to the republican national convention. The World adds: "Thirteen southern states have 282 of the 992 delegates. The eastern states are not clamoring for four years more of Roosevelt. They have already had enough. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware will have 252 delegates in the next national convention. Combined with the southern delegates here is a total of 534, or considerably more than a majority, and the forty-six delegates from Mr. Taft's own state can be thrown in for good measure. Once upon a time a far more popular man than Theodore Roosevelt returned from a journey around the world. The republican organization was more demoralized than it is now, and the administration had a weaker hold upon the country. But all of Grant's popularity plus Roscoe Conkling's genius could not break down the barrier against a third term. Mr. Taft is stronger than he was at the time of his inauguration and is likely to grow in strength. To be sure, if Mr. Roosevelt decided to be an open candidate for the nomination in 1912 against Mr. Taft he could split the republican party and add much to the gayety of nations. But we doubt if Mr. Taft is greatly worried or if he is seriously disturbed by pictures of the 'return from Elba.' Possibly the president remembers that it was only a hundred days from Elba to Waterloo."

GOVERNOR BURKE of North Dakota gave the politicians quite a surprise when he appointed Fountain H. Thompson of Cando as United States senator to succeed the late Martin M. Johnson. A Bismarck dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says: "The appointment of Mr. Thompson was announced from the governor's office at a little after 5 o'clock this afternoon. The announcement of Thompson's appointment followed one of the busiest conferences that has been held among the leading democrats of the state during the three weeks in which the senatorship has been in the balance. The announcement came, it may be said, as a surprise to the greater number of the democrats who were in the city, and it is likely it will be as equally a great surprise to the democrats of the state. Thompson has not been reckoned as among the leaders of the North Dakota democrats, his activities having been largely confined to Towner county, where he has been a member of the board of township supervisors and county judge. He is a close personal friend of the governor, and it is said that he was turned to as an appointee after it was seen that the democratic leaders of the state were hopelessly divided as to a choice for the senatorship. Few of the democratic leaders in the city but were surprised at the appointment, from the fact that Thompson was not looked upon as a possible appointee, and his claims had been urged only within a day or so by a delegation from Towner county."

IN HIS NEWSPAPER, "The Issue," Former Governor Vardaman discusses the claim that "Mr. Taft is close to the southern people." Governor Vardaman says: "Let us see how close Mr. Taft is to the southern people—what he stands for, that they are interested in. He is the embodiment of the Payne-Aldrich bill, which is the most iniquitous of all robber tariffs. He stands for ship-subsidy, which is a steal pure and simple. Grand larceny by law. He stands for a central bank of issue, which will put the control of the money supply of the nation in the hands of a few great financiers who would scuttle the ship of state and outrage the Goddess

of Liberty, coin the tears and blood of the tolling people into dollars, or damn their immortal souls for profit. He stands for a great army and a great navy, which increases the burden of taxation, now so heavily borne by the farmers and laborers of this republic. He stands for social and political equality between the white people and the negroes, which means the destruction of the white man's civilization in the south, and the contamination of Caucasian blood. If Mr. Taft's views on the race problem should be carried out, the white people would ultimately be forced to leave the south. He stands for imperialism which is violative of the genius of our government. He stands for usurpation of power by the federal judiciary. In other words, he is the incarnation of the extreme infamies of the republican party gilded with an innocent smile. If Mr. Taft 'is close to the people of the south,' he is only close to them to corrupt the integrity of the white race, to plunder by law the people who toil, that the few pets of the republican party may grow richer still. To do everything against their interest and nothing for their interest, is what he stands for in politics. About the only thing he is willing to give the southern people is the sunlight of his trade-mark smile and a few hot air compliments. And with all that, I think Taft is a much better man politically, much truer to his convictions, and closer to the southern people, than Dickinson. Taft is what he pretends to be. Dickinson is as much of a republican as Taft, and pretends to be a democrat. I prefer the genuine article to the gilded counterfeit."

ONE VIEW of Ferrer is given in an editorial by the Chicago Inter Ocean as follows: "The world-wide agitation over the career and end of Francisco Ferrer, the Spanish anarchist, must rank as one of the most curious modern illustrations of self-delusion. It would not be correct to call it popular delusion, since its victims were commonly persons who passed as educated and well informed. In France the incident was, of course, seized upon by socialist, anarchist and anti-church agitators as campaign material. In Paris it produced a riot in which one policeman was killed, a dozen wounded and from which the prefect of police narrowly escaped with his life. In England the chief victims of the delusion about Ferrer seem to have been the evangelical nonconformists. The Liverpool body of these persons passed resolutions condemning Ferrer's execution as 'a judicial murder,' and condoling with his 'wife and children.' When these worthy persons learn that Ferrer's wife found cause to leave him years ago, and that the woman with him in Spain was not his wife, their embarrassment may be imagined. In the United States the immediate victims were our 'sociologists' and the great numbers of well-intentioned people whose willingness to be guided by noise and names causes them to echo any sentiment expressed in the name of 'humanity.' But who was Ferrer, and what had he done to make him worthy, even for a moment, of the outpourings of sympathy that were given to his fate in this and other countries? A Paris correspondent of the New York Evening Post answers these questions from the record: Francisco Ferrer was self-educated, which was to his credit as a man, but which fact makes intelligent people distrustful of him as a far-reaching thinker. His first public appearance was about twenty years ago as a teacher of Spanish in Paris. He had a wife and two little daughters. His wife found cause to leave him, taking the children with her, and they have been brought up without his help. One of them is a widowed working woman, with two little children. The other is an actress. About the time his wife left him Ferrer became intimate with an unmarried French woman of fortune, who in her death left him \$150,000. Her executor and the notary who drew her will state that the object of the bequest was to found an orphanage in Barcelona, but that the testator not having expressed this intention in her will, but only in private letters to Ferrer, it was not possible to prosecute the latter for breach of trust in using the money to subsidize anarchist schools and to circulate anarchist lit-