

# CURRENT TOPICS

**T**HE DEATH of Justice Brewer may necessitate re-argument of the big cases against the Standard Oil trust and the tobacco trust. There are nine members of the supreme court. Justice Moody's illness and Justice Brewer's death leaves but seven active members. Unless there is practically unanimity of opinion on these two trust cases among the seven judges, re-argument is believed to be likely. For Justice Brewer's successor these men are named in newspaper dispatches: Federal Judge Walter H. Sanborn of St. Paul, Minn.; Federal Judge Willis VanDeventer of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Solicitor General Bowers of Chicago, now in the department of justice; Secretary of War Dickinson and Senator Root of New York.

**A**N IMPORTANT decision rendered by the New York supreme court is told in a dispatch carried by the Associated Press as follows: "George W. Griffin, a negro porter, was awarded \$1,000 damages for false arrest from Daniel M. Brady, a manufacturer, by the supreme court here. In a former trial of the case before Justice Dugro, the court laid down the dictum that a colored man could not suffer shame to the same extent as a white man as the result of false arrest. Justice McCall today expressed an opposite opinion. 'The tribunal of justice has nothing to do with the color of a man's skin,' the court said."

**T**HE INDIANA republicans in state convention showed their opposition to the republican tariff law. Yet they did not renounce it in their platform. An Associated Press dispatch says: "When United States Senator Albert J. Beveridge, in his speech as temporary chairman of the Indiana republican convention today declared his antagonism to the new tariff law, his periods were marked by storms of applause from the delegates and the crowded galleries in Tomlinson hall. Repeating as a text, 'I could not stand for it then, and I can not stand for it now,' Senator Beveridge made an impassioned defense of the counts upon which he based his vote in the senate against the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, which he did not call by name. George A. Cunningham of Evansville, permanent chairman of the convention, said: 'We can make no adequate answer to the address of your temporary chairman, Senator Beveridge, at this time. The real answer will be made at the polls in November. We are all of us for the re-election of Albert J. Beveridge to the senate in 1911. In this campaign, so far as it effects national politics, the re-election of Senator Beveridge has become the overshadowing issue, on account of the principles in which we all believe and for which he has stood and continues to stand in the United States senate.'"

**T**HE INDIANA tariff plank is as follows: "We believe in a protective tariff, measured by the difference between the cost of production here and abroad. Less than this is unjust to American laborers; more is unjust to American consumers. That difference should be ascertained with the utmost speed and the present law modified accordingly. We demand the immediate creation of a genuine, permanent, non-partisan tariff commission with ample powers and definite duties fixed in the law itself." On the income tax the platform says: "In time of war, or any other emergency, when ordinary forms of taxation are not enough for the needs of the government, the nation should have the constitutional power to tax incomes. We heartily favor an amendment to the constitution giving congress this power." The section endorsing the administration and Senator Beveridge reads: "We recognize that no president in our history ever began his administration with such universal favor and good will as did William Howard Taft; few men have entered the presidency with such extraordinary training. We indorse his administration and pledge to him our support in any efforts to secure the enactment of genuine progressive legislation. The spirit of the times demands not only wise policies and sound principles, but clean, vigilant,

brave and sincere men in public office. We indorse and applaud the splendid record of our senior senator and especially his record in the last session of congress, which deserves the unqualified approval of all the people of the state. With pride and confidence we make a solemn pledge to the people that a republican legislature will return to the senate of the United States this man, whose name is synonymous with victory—Albert J. Beveridge." The platform favors "such limitations of the powers of injunction as will not imperil the liberty of any man without notice and hearing; child labor legislation, publicity of campaign contributions, election of senators by popular vote, good roads, revision of criminal codes to expedite justice. The conservation plank reads: "We demand comprehensive laws for the construction of our natural resources and especially that the coal deposits of Alaska shall be kept the property of the nation, to be developed only under lease and payment of just royalties to the government." The following nominations were made by acclamation: Secretary of state, Otis L. Gulley, Danville; auditor of state, John E. Reed, Muncie; clerk of the supreme court, Edward V. Fitzpatrick, Portland; state statistician, John L. Peetz, Kokomo; state geologist, W. S. Blatchley, Terre Haute; judge of the supreme court, Second district, Oscar H. Montgomery, Seymour; appellate judges, Ward H. Watson, Charlestown, and C. C. Hadley, Danville; treasurer of state, Jonye Mokyhan, Orleans; attorney general, Finley P. Mount of Crawfordsville.

**J**UDGE W. O. HOWARD, a justice of the New York supreme court, and a republican, delivered an address recently at Troy, N. Y. Referring to the Allds investigation now going on at Albany, Justice Howard said: "In my own party a queer condition exists, and, in consequence, every one is seized just now with a desire to clean house. Whether it is the grafter or the 'reformer' that is to be cleaned out I have not learned, but \$50,000 is to be spent to clean house; 50 cents worth of whitewash would do as well. Of course, a few dead bones may be rattled by these investigations, or, perhaps, a few live ones, fully protected by the statute of limitations. But suppose they are rattled—what follows? Even if somebody is punished—what of that? No reform is worked. It is not more investigations that we need; it is more honesty; not more laws, but more common sense. We have too many laws now—so many that nobody knows what they are nor where they are. The way to clean house is the way that Gaynor is doing it. His way doesn't cost a cent. He is not a counterfeit reformer, but a real one. He is cleaning house with the laws which he has; they do not assist him much nor hinder him any—he would do it if he had no laws at all. He saws wood. He will clean up New York before he gets through with it, and clean it up well at a saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the taxpayers."

**E**MIL SEIDEL, Milwaukee's socialist mayor, is by occupation a pattern maker. He is regarded as a modest, conscientious and earnest man. In a newspaper interview Mr. Seidel said: "Monopoly, as it exists today, is as crushing as the land feudalism of the middle ages—only more so. The overlord of the middle ages gave his subjects a bit of land for their own use. The industrial overlord of today does not allow his workmen to own his own tools and appropriates the benefit of them after paying him a wage for his labor. So the situation has become just this: The owner does not use the tool and the user does not own the tool. Now, we socialists believe that the tool and its profit must be returned to the user. The way we think is clear. Monopoly is here, whether we like it or not. We can't divide up the tool piece by piece without destroying it. So we will be insistent on public monopoly of it instead of private monopoly and will begin with those monopolies that oppress us the most. If the city takes the part of the middle man in slaughtering its meat, his big profit will be clipped from the present prohibitive prices. It's

the same way with ice and other necessities, down to the cutting of burial prices when we die. We don't raise campaign money through the corporations. We take up a collection after a mass meeting, and here in Milwaukee we were the only body of men who could go away from a meeting, even if it were held in a saloon, without taking a drink. Then there isn't the job-seeking with us. During the five years I've been an alderman not one comrade has asked me for anything and they will not now. We socialists are after something better than jobs. And then the children—that brings me to the biggest thing in good government—making good citizens of the boys and girls. As it is now in society, a young man, dissolute to a more or less degree, marries a carefully brought up girl. The children are the sufferers physically and mentally."

**M**R. SEIDEL contended that municipalities have not done what they should for children. He added: "Parents are so stupid that in their desire to have their children good they give them nothing they want, but the devil knows more; he gets them by giving them attractions. He has shown how many he can lure with music and dancing and moving picture shows and we socialists believe the same attractions should be in the schools and other social centers where they can be enjoyed and the right influences shown. Besides we want parlors well conducted, where the girl, who lives in a hall bedroom or home where she can't entertain, can have the callers she otherwise meets on the street. Up to the age of fourteen here in Milwaukee we spend about \$22 per capita on our children's schooling, then 90 per cent go into the factories and 10 per cent to the high school. For that 10 per cent we spend \$50 per capita while the other 90 per cent help pay for it. Yet, the city does nothing for this 90 and we socialists believe the 90 are not fit to be citizens or bear the burden. We intend to shorten the working hours of these children and provide some means for adding more education to their toll days. If all that doesn't explain what we mean by socialism, why here's something shorter," he concluded. "Socialism is a satisfaction in work that melts and blends lives, women's and men's together, for the good of all. It's going to make Milwaukee famous for something better than it has been."

**C**HICAGO THEOLOGICAL circles were considerably stirred recently by the appearance of a little book written by Edward Holton James. In this book Mr. James undertook to prove that the Jews were not responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. He claims that the Master was killed by the Romans for the crime of lese majeste. The Chicago Record-Herald interviewed a number of clergymen and said: "In the main the theologians are inclined to doubt Mr. James' statements. They question the authenticity of his discoveries. Some, particularly Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, are inclined to agree with his conclusions. Dr. Hirsch declares that Christ was slain by the Romans at the instigation of the priestly party of Jewish politics of the time, the members of which were the tools of the Roman rulers and did not share in any way the sentiments of the Jewish people. Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus declared that both the Romans and the Jews were to blame, the Romans for their weakness in yielding to Jewish clamor for the life of Christ, and the Jews for the malignity with which they turned upon one of their own race who meant them nothing but good. Bishop Charles P. Anderson of the Episcopal church said that he must see some of Mr. James' proofs before revolutionizing his belief that the Jews were responsible for Christ's death. Professor Shaller Mathews declared that Mr. James' proof ultimately would support the biblical story of the crucifixion. Dr. Charles J. Little could not agree with Mr. James. Neither could Rev. Johnston Myers. He said that Mr. James' history was impaired by a desire to injure the Roman Catholic church. Rev. Alexander Patterson, himself the author of a life of Christ, said there was not the slightest proof that Jesus was a political leader. Dr.