

# CURRENT TOPICS

**G**OVERNOR GILLETT, of California, created a sensation in prize fighting circles when he sent a letter to the state's attorney general, U. S. Webb, instructing him to see to it that the Jeffries-Johnson prize fight, scheduled for San Francisco July 4, does not come off. In his letter the governor expressed his disapproval of prize fighting in unmeasured terms, directs that the aid of the courts be invoked to prevent the match, and concludes with a positive order that in case the plea for a restraining order is not granted, and the fight is held, the attorney general shall proceed to gather evidence and prosecute the principals and those interested in the fight for violation of the penal code of the state. The letter declares the supreme court of California has never defined a prize fight, and suggests an opportunity be given to do so.

**O**NE OF THE things responsible for Governor Gillett's action was a telegram sent to William R. Wheeler, president of the San Francisco chamber of commerce, by Representative Bennet of New York on May 28. The telegram was to the effect that the moral sentiment of the country was so opposed to the fight that unless it was prevented there was grave danger that congress would take unfavorable action on the resolution now before it, naming San Francisco as the place for holding the international celebration of the opening of the Panama canal. Mr. Bennet is a member of the foreign affairs committee of the house which has the exposition resolution under consideration. The congressional foreign affairs committee will take up the resolutions of San Francisco and New Orleans asking for the exposition. In view of this fact Governor Gillett's decision to stop the fight seems to be extremely well timed. Mayor McCarthy of San Francisco says that the prize fight will surely take place in his town, as he is in favor of it and he "is running San Francisco." He was mistaken, however, for the fight will be held at Reno, Nev.

**T**HE SALE of the friar lands in the Philippines is kept conspicuously before the public by the agitation of Representative Martin of Colorado. Speaking in the house of representatives, Mr. Martin made this bold statement: "I will resign my seat if, before any fair-minded committee, I can not show them that the present administration of the Philippine Islands is guilty of the grossest forms of malfeasance in office. I know that the sale of the Tala Friar estate to the executive secretary of the Philippine government, Mr. Frank W. Carpenter, is the capstone of official turpitude down to date. I have been trying for several months to ascertain who got the Tala estate, and I am not all surprised now at the delay in securing the information. General Edwards, chief of the insular bureau, must have known that Carpenter had this estate when he answered my first resolution of inquiry, but care was taken not to give it out. In the report just received the sale of the Tala estate to Carpenter is spoken of as a lease, the lessee binding himself to rent all the vacant land on the Tala estate and all lands now occupied which may become vacant. The fact is, as shown by another report in my possession, that this was a progressive sale of the entire estate. Carpenter gets the land as fast as the tenants are dispossessed. They will go as fast as he wants to take it over. Furthermore, until such time as the final certificate of sale is executed, Carpenter pays only six cents per acre per annum on uncultivated land and only thirty cents per acre on land from which he produces a crop that pays him a net profit fixed in the contract of sale, while the native tenants pay \$1.17 per acre, hit or miss. How does that strike you as a cinch? I have a letter from a former official of the Philippine land office stating that a number of the officials in the interior department and land office bought themselves choice locations in Bagulo, the summer capital of the Philippines, and at choice prices. This summer capital was located up in the mountains for the benefit of the Philippine commission and others high in officialdom. A million dollars were squandered on forty miles of wagon road to

connect Bagulo with the railroad. On August 5, 1909, the present law providing for virtual free trade with the Philippines became effective. It was since the passage of that act, within one month in fact, that the acquirement of the various plots of the friar lands began. These aggressions on the part of the criminal trusts of the United States marked the beginning of the stroke which will eventually prove the death-blow to the prospective independence of the Philippines."

**I**N THE FIGHT for re-location of the Oklahoma state capital, Oklahoma City won out by a majority of 50,000. Immediately Governor Haskell and other state officials moved to Oklahoma City and established their headquarters there on the theory that the people had relocated it and that meant immediate re-location and a dispatch from Guthrie says: "Developments in the capital removal fight became more acute at Guthrie today with the return here of practically all state officials save Governor Haskell and Secretary of State Cross. The officials came back for the argument on the demurrer to the suit in the district court to enjoin the removal of the capital. That Oklahoma has a dual capital is no longer in doubt. Governor Haskell and Secretary of State Cross are transacting official business under the original state seal at Oklahoma City, while Assistant Secretary of State Leo Meyer has a duplicate seal and is transacting official business in Guthrie. The supreme court and other departments of state are proceeding with their various duties as if a capital removal election had not been held. The republican state committee this afternoon recognized the two capitals by filing at both Guthrie and Oklahoma City referendum petitions. Guards are stationed about the Guthrie statehouse to prevent the removal of records or other state property. Labor Commissioner Daugherty was searched today for state papers before leaving the city. Mayor Farquharson said tonight that he had given no orders for the search and that he disapproved the deed."

**A** GREAT celebration of the capital re-location was had at Oklahoma City, June 15. Governor Haskell addressed an immense audience at State Fair park. An Associated Press dispatch says: "Judge Huston is expected to render his decision in the demurrer to the removal injunction tomorrow morning. Governor Haskell is to appear in the federal court here on Friday on citation issued by Judge Cotteral. No decisive move is expected on the part of Guthrie until the courts have passed on the pending actions. Police are still on duty about the state house today with instructions to report at once any attempt to remove the state records in violation of an injunction issued by the court. Judge Huston of the district court said he would rule on the attorney general's demurrer to the injunction late this afternoon. In reply to Governor Haskell's demand for an apology from Mayor Farquharson of this city because of the action of a policeman in examining the luggage of Labor Commissioner Daugherty, the mayor today declared that the city had no apology to make. The governor declared that when the people of Oklahoma, by an overwhelming majority, voted for the capital location bill and by a much larger majority for Oklahoma City as the permanent seat of government he has no alternative than to come to Oklahoma City to transact official business. "There was never any merit in the claim that the people of Oklahoma could not locate their state capital wherever they saw fit," Governor Haskell said. "The provision in the enabling act (which required that the capital should remain at Guthrie until 1913) was nothing more than a suggestion to the constitutional convention, and the constitutional convention refused to adopt the suggestion by a vote of more than ten to one. Thereafter the people of the state and the president of the United States in passing upon the rejection of the suggestion as emphatically as they approved the affirmative acts of the convention." Governor Haskell's speech was a feature of the statewide celebration which

was attended by people from all parts of the state. The state election board hopes to announce the complete returns by tomorrow. Sixty-one counties show a majority of thirty thousand for the location bill. Ten of the sixteen counties yet to report were favorable to the bill. Sheriff Mahoney of Guthrie, today apologized to the governor for the acts of inferior officers in searching state officials and declared it was not his intention to interfere with state officials."

**F**ROM GUTHRIE the Associated Press sends the following dispatch: "Closing up the offices of the state treasurer and state auditor today, and the consequent tying up of the financial affairs of the state, marked a new phase of the capital removal contest. Treasurer Menefee and Auditor Trapp say their offices will remain closed officially until the capital removal injunctions are determined by the courts. Not a bill by the state is being paid and scores of employes, chaffing under enforced idleness, are unable to draw a dollar. The corporation commission has not ceased to transact business and the school land department continues in operation in a perfunctory way."

**I**N ITS ROOSEVELT symposium Collier's Weekly prints the following letter from Mr. Bryan: "In response to your request for a word, I beg to say that the American people will extend a very cordial welcome to ex-President Roosevelt when he returns to the United States after an absence of more than a year. They appreciate what he has done in directing the attention of Europe toward the public questions which are of universal interest. His notable speech at Paris made a profound impression, and his words are needed in this country as well as in Europe. It is now a little more than fifty years since Abraham Lincoln gave expression to the idea that the man is more important than the dollar; and the phrase that he coined will not die. Mr. Roosevelt's statement that human rights are superior to property rights is but another way of stating the same idea, and the truth that he stated is so obvious that we may well be surprised that it seemed to startle two hemispheres. However, all truth is startling when epigrammatically expressed, and it is sometimes necessary to express the truth in a startling way in order to call attention to it. But aside from the interest that the people feel in what Mr. Roosevelt has said abroad, they will welcome him home because of the importance of the public questions at issue in the United States. The ex-president is a man of ideas, and he is able to give forcible expression to them. Whether one agrees with Mr. Roosevelt or not, one must be glad, if he believes in free speech, to have him express his views with characteristic clearness. Truth does not shun discussion; it grows in the open, and grows most vigorously where speech is free and the opportunities for debate are broadest. Mr. Roosevelt has evidently found renewed strength in recreation, and political friends and political foes alike will be pleased to see him again in the political arena, and they will wish him length of days."

**G**OVERNMENT ownership of railroads in five years is the prediction of an old time railroad chief. A Chicago dispatch carried by the United Press says: "E. P. Ripley, president of the Santa Fe, predicted today in an interview with the United Press that within five years the United States government would own every line of railway within its domain. He believes that the measure for government control will be introduced in congress, at the initiative of the government, for the purchase of all the railway systems as an economic necessity. How much money will be required for the purchase, Ripley refuses even to estimate, but says that the present capitalization of the railway systems is not their total value. If the railroads are asked to name their price, Ripley says they will ask more in nearly every case than the capitalization at present. 'Within five years, certainly not more than ten years,' said Ripley, 'the United States government will own all the