

CURRENT TOPICS

REPRESENTATIVE Miles Poindexter of Washington is a candidate for the senate to succeed Senator Piles. Recently Mr. Poindexter visited Theodore Roosevelt and it was reported that Mr. Roosevelt had endorsed Mr. Poindexter as a senatorial candidate. Returning from Beverly, Mass., where he went to visit the president and to arrange for the discharge from the reclamation service of Director Newell, Secretary Ballinger gave out this public statement: "If the report published is true, Mr. Roosevelt has been led astray by the deception of those who claim to be his friends." He added that he had taken no active part in the politics of Washington for a long while and denied that he headed the party in that state or any wing of it. "I do not consider Mr. Poindexter a republican, but a rank socialist, or rather, if he is not one, he will be one soon."

LEAVING OYSTER Bay after a visit with Mr. Roosevelt, Representative Poindexter said: "I found Colonel Roosevelt unchanged. He is just the same as ever. He and I have worked together always, and he assured me that we always would work together. I am delighted with the result of the visit." The Associated Press report adds: "Colonel Roosevelt looked happy when he received the interviewers a little later. He was dressed in the crash riding suit which he wears most of the time while he is at home. Seated in his library, he spoke of his talk with Mr. Poindexter in a manner that showed plainly the pleasure which the meeting had given him. This is what he said: 'Representative Poindexter and I went over the political situation in the northwest. He assured me that he was in hearty sympathy with my conservation policy. Mr. Poindexter is a candidate for the United States senate and is politically opposed to that wing of the party headed by Mr. Ballinger, secretary of the interior.'"

MR. BRYAN, on his return home, learns that Mr. Hatfield of Lincoln and friends in other parts of the state have been circulating petitions asking him to allow his name to be used as a candidate for the United States senate. Mr. Bryan sent for Mr. Hatfield and, after expressing his appreciation of the kindly sentiment embodied in the proposition, he asked him to abandon the project. In explaining his position Mr. Bryan said: "I stated some months ago that I was not a candidate for the senate and did not expect to be. I told inquiring friends that while I would not promise anyone not to become a candidate, I regarded the possibility of my becoming a candidate as too remote to be considered by anyone desiring to be a candidate, and I was glad when others announced their candidacy. There were a number of reasons which combined to convince me that it was not advisable for me to enter the race. One reason was that I saw this fight on the liquor question coming up and thought it probable that I could do my duty better without being hampered by a candidacy for any office. Later developments have justified me in the decision not to be a candidate. I am needed in this state fight, and shall have plenty to do. The people of the state have done a great deal for me, and I have not had a chance to do much for them in return. I have an opportunity now, and I shall show my gratitude for past favors by rendering such service as a private citizen can render by helping to keep our party from becoming the tool of the liquor and other special interests."

THE PEOPLE of London have discovered an aged gardener bearing the name of William Shakespeare who is kin to the great poet. A London cablegram to the Philadelphia North American, referring to this gardener, says: "His photograph shows him to be almost a perfect image of his greatest collateral ancestor of immortal memory, so far as prints of the poet-dramatis bear witness. But this aged and contented man never heard anything about the recent beat-up of poets' descendants, nor can he even prove his pedigree. As to family history,

he is so honestly frank in disclaiming any knowledge, save that his forefathers were 'all from these parts,' that the fact of his connection with the original Shakespeares of Snitterfield is better proved than by a host of parchments; for the unwritten records of village dynasties are in their way the truest of any. It may be added that he confirmed one particularly interesting fact, namely, that his father and grandfather and all the family since he can remember have pronounced their name 'Shaxper'—as, indeed, it was sometimes spelled in the poet's own time. He has, too, a 'young' brother, Thomas, of whom he is rightly proud and who has achieved the honorable position of head porter at the Warwick railway station. This William Shakespeare, too, is the rightful transmitter of a tradition that the poet once went to sleep for twenty-four hours under a crab tree, and then awoke, exclaiming, 'Why, bless me, today's tomorrow.' He says that he can rely on the truth of the story because the crab tree is still there. The logic is as unanswerable as that of Smith the Weaver in Henry VI., who deposed that Mortimer's son, changed at birth, became a bricklayer. 'Sir, he made a chimney in my father's house, and the bricks are alive at this day to testify it; therefore, deny it not.'"

NOT LONG AGO, Senator Lodge of Massachusetts caused it to be announced that Theodore Roosevelt would help Mr. Lodge in his efforts to be re-elected to the senate. Mr. Lodge is a standpatter. Now Senator Beveridge of Indiana, says that Mr. Roosevelt has promised to go to Indiana and make a speech in Mr. Beveridge's behalf. Mr. Beveridge's opponent is John W. Kern, the democratic nominee for vice president in 1908.

FOLLOWING THE victory of Johnson, the negro prize fighter, at Reno, Nevada, there were many race riots throughout the country. Some of these taken from the United Press reports are as follows: "Little Rock, Ark.,—two negroes killed by whites. Houston, Texas—White man cuts negro to death. Roanoke, Va.—Six negroes critically beaten. Many whites arrested. Saloons closed. One white shot. Pittsburg, Pa.—Scores of race riots in 'black belt.' Thousands involved. Two policemen seriously hurt. One hundred arrests made. Louisville, Ky.—Negroes attack newsboys selling fight extras. Draw revolvers. Several arrests. More trouble feared. Philadelphia—Whites pursue negroes along street, throwing bricks. Several injured. Negro paraders in Germantown dispersed by whites. Wilmington, Del.—Negroes attack white man. Whites attempt lynching bee. Thousands engaged. Police answer riot call and use clubs freely. New Orleans—Riots in front of newspaper buildings. Knives and revolvers used; police called. St. Louis—Riots in negro quarter. Police force club many negroes. Atlanta, Ga.—Negro runs amuck with a knife. Mob tried to kill him. Rescued by police reserves. Several arrests made. Cincinnati—Negroes chased off streets for insulting remarks. Baltimore—Eighty arrests made in 'black belt.' Several negroes badly cut up. Washington, D. C.—Two whites fatally stabbed by negroes, two hospitals crowded with injured and 236 arrests made. Riots continued all night. Mounted police charged mobs frequently. Kansas City—Negroes driven off street cars. Entire police force on duty. Omaha, Neb.—One negro was killed and several injured here as the result of Johnson's victory. Dozens of arrests in race riots were made. New York—One negro beaten to death and scores injured in half hundred race riots in 'black belt.' Several thousand extra policemen needed to quell disorders. Chicago—Negro dying, stabbed by white. Scores injured in fights throughout 'black belt' last night between whites and negroes. Pueblo, Colo.—Thirty hurt in race riot at negro picnic. Two whites seriously stabbed, twenty-eight persons beaten up. Shreveport, La.—Three negroes killed. Iron Mountain railroad conductor fatally wounded, many others injured. Riots in

northern Louisiana. Uvalda, Ga.—Negroes insult whites. Pitched battle follows. Three negroes killed and many wounded. Mounds, Ill.—Negroes shoot up town, killing negro policeman. Tallulah, La.—Negro kills conductor who demanded railroad fare. Indianapolis—White man severely beaten and kicked by four negroes early today when he resented taunts over Johnson's victory. Police subdue negro revelers after all night carousal." General protest is being made throughout the country against the display of moving pictures representative of the Johnson-Jeffries prize fight.

THE DEMOCRATS of Lancaster county, Nebraska, held primaries on the evening of Friday, July 8 for the purpose of choosing delegates to a county convention. The issue before the primaries was whether a delegation favorable to the insertion in the state platform of a plank declaring for county option should be elected to the state convention which meets at Grand Island July 26. Mr. Bryan favored this plank. The county optionists won by a decided majority. When the convention met Saturday, July 9, a fight against this plan was led by Mr. J. H. Harley. Mr. Harley made a speech which stamped him as an orator of real ability and captivated his many friends on both sides of the question. Several speeches were made for and against the proposition and Mr. Bryan closed the debate. The delegates then proceeded to register the will of the voters expressed at the primaries and the county option plank was adopted by a vote of 134 to 30.

WHO DISCOVERED grape-fruit? A writer in Leslie's Weekly says: "Few of the thousands who daily enjoy the wonderful tonic found in those big, buttercup-yellow globules that have become a breakfast necessity to Uncle Sam's discriminating children know that they are indebted to a woman for discovering the value of the once despised fruit as a table delicacy. Not more than fifteen years or so ago the grapefruit was a thing without value—a product interesting because of its decorative appearance. Now the number consumed annually in the United States exceeds 4,000,000 boxes, which means approximately a half a billion grapefruit. About one million of these are grown in Florida, from which comes the story of the grapefruit's bow to the epicurean world. The woman to whom grapefruit growers should take off their hats is Mrs. Frank Leslie. She was on a visit to Henry Plant, the builder of the East Coast railway, in Florida. James E. Ingraham was then, as now, the vice president of the road, and it was in his car that Mrs. Leslie and her party traveled. On reaching the home of Mr. Plant, the travelers were first introduced to the delights of the refreshing citric fruit, which hung in clusters on the trees, bending the branches down almost to the ground. Thousands of bushels lay on the ground under the trees, from which they had fallen. There was no market for them. Only a few of the native Floridians liked them, so the fruit that could not be eaten by Mr. Plant's immediate friends was left where it fell. Nearly every plantation in lower Florida had numbers of the grapefruit trees, and under each one was the same display of golden-yellow balls which had fallen from the branches. Passing one of these plantations, Mrs. Leslie asked the planter what he would take for his crop. 'Why, madam, there is no market for it. Nobody wants grapefruit. Help yourself.' The party helped itself, and grapefruit was thenceforth a regular part of the daily menu. So much did Mrs. Leslie appreciate the fruit that she decided to introduce it to her friends up north. She carried home several boxes, and later Mr. Ingraham sent her forty barrels, which she distributed among her friends, with instructions how to prepare them for the table. Encouraged by the unanimous praise which issued from each recipient of the fruit, Mr. Ingraham had a famous New York physician make an analysis of it and to certify to its remarkable qualities as a tonic, especially in the spring. As a result of this combined effort of Mr. Ingraham and Mrs. Leslie, a demand for grapefruit grew rapidly."