

CURRENT TOPICS

THERE WAS A carnival of killing at the automobile racing in Long Island. A New York World report says: "All records were broken in the big Vanderbilt cup race yesterday. Never before had there been so many cars entered; never before had the winner travelled at such great speed; never before had such an enormous outpouring been thrilled by the contest. Never before had the toll of death been so heavy. Four men dead and five dying and fully a score more injured more or less seriously is the new mark made in yesterday's Long Island race. Never before had the speed mania claimed so many victims except in the fatal Paris-to-Madrid road race a few years ago."

CHINA TOOK another forward step when the newly constituted imperial senate was opened by the regent, Prince Chun. A Pekin cablegram to the Chicago Tribune said: "There was little or no ceremony to mark the historic event. In a brief address Prince Chun stated that the wish of the people was for a parliamentary government and commanded the senators to labor for this consummation. A parliamentary building of ample dimensions will be constructed, but pending its completion the sessions will be conducted in the narrow quarters of the law college. The lack of room was given as the reason for the exclusion of representatives of the press from today's proceedings. The same rule was applied to outsiders, not even the members of the foreign diplomatic corps being invited to be present. The imperial senate constitutes the second stage in the development of a popular representative government. The first was the inauguration a year ago of the provincial assemblies. The crowning event will be the establishment of a general parliament, which is promised."

CONCERNING THE democratic nominee for governor, the Springfield (Mass.) Republican says: "John A. Dix's relationship to the famous General John A. Dix, of the civil war period, is not yet wholly clear. One New York paper says he is the general's nephew, while others leave him the son of a cousin of the general. It is the same old family of Dixes, in either case, which is again before the public. The earlier Dix was named John Adams Dix and the later one John Alden Dix, it is worth while to know. The earlier Dix had a considerable career in public life, for he was United States senator from New York in 1845-49, secretary treasury in 1861, a major general in the civil war, minister to France in 1866-69, and governor of New York in 1873-75. He became a republican after the war, having been previously a leading war democrat. The general is best remembered by his dispatch to a New York official, while he was secretary of the treasury in the last months of Buchanan's administration: 'If anyone attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot.'"

REVOLUTION IN Portugal has resulted in the substitution of a republic for a monarchy. Lisbon, the capital, was captured by the revolutionists and the King Manuel, a mere boy, accompanied by his mother, found refuge in flight. The army and navy deserted to the revolutionists and the overthrow of the government was complete. An Associated Press report of the causes leading up to the overthrow, says: "Rumors of the overthrow of the monarchy in Portugal have been current for a long time past. In fact the voice of dissension has not been silent since Manuel ascended the throne after the assassination of King Carlos and the crown prince on February 1, 1907. The Lisbon newspapers within recent date have printed alarming reports of an alleged plot of the clerical party for the overthrow of the Portuguese government and the establishment of a military dictatorship. The Seclou declared that the clerical party's strong dissatisfaction with the policy of the government has culminated in the organization of a rebellion to overthrow the government, since Manuel became sovereign half a dozen

cabinets have been formed and have resigned. The ministry under the presidency of Francisco Daveiga Beirao resigned on June 17, after having recommended the dissolution of the chamber of deputies, which was opposed by the king as well as the liberals, the monarchists and the republicans. A new cabinet was formed on June 26, with Antonio L. Leixeira de Sousa as premier. In addition to serious dissensions over political matters, Portugal has been on the verge of a rupture with the vatican, a fact that has led to serious conflict between the clericals and the anti-clericals. The ransacking of houses was a daily occurrence. The liberty and dignity of the population were violated in every possible way by a criminal court officer possessing the powers of inquisitor. These monstrous acts and this renewal of the worst epoch of tyranny happened at the moment when the advent of the young king led the credulous to believe that an improvement in affairs was about to take place. The republicans, however, were not deceived. They continued their propaganda throughout the country, convinced that the salvation of Portugal was only possible in a republic. The republican propaganda, showing a succession of scandals and the ministers compromised in shady affairs, forced the king to summon to power men calling themselves liberals. This final action was the last straw. Opinion was such that the biggest commercial association in Lisbon, took the initiative in a formidable movement of protest involving, if necessary, a general strike. The monarchist parties, forming the conservative 'bloc,' scoffed at the entry of republican deputies into parliament. Although their number doubled in three years, the monarchists did not understand that this was the will of the people manifesting itself in spite of formidable pressure on the part of the authorities and the inequity of the electoral law against the republicans."

THE FATHER of Manuel, King Carlos and the Crown Prince Luis were assassinated February 1, 1908, while riding in a carriage through one of the principal streets of Lisbon. At the same time the present King Manuel was badly wounded and Queen Amelle, who interposed her body in a vain effort to save her son, narrowly escaped death. A writer in the Denver News says: "The assassination followed close on the discovery and frustration of a plot to assassinate Premier Franco, on January 23, and between that date and the date of the murder of the king and crown prince there were a succession of determined attempts by the terrorists to assassinate prominent persons connected with the monarchy. The arrest of conspirators and seizure of bombs and arms was of almost daily occurrence, and for a time Portugal was a seething hotbed of anarchy. The assassination of King Carlos and the crown prince was one of the most daring in the history of anarchy. The royal family had been on a visit to Villa Vicosa. The date of their return was known, and apparently every precaution was taken by the police and military to protect them on their journey. Arrived at Lisbon, the king, crown prince, the second son, Manuel, and Queen Amelle, entered a carriage and started on the drive to the palace. The route was lined with soldiers and a strong military escort rode on either side, and before and behind the royal carriage. The drive was without incident until the carriage approached a corner, where a tall building concealed anyone lurking in its shadow. As the carriage came opposite this corner a man stepped from behind the building, raised a carbine and fired. Instantaneously a dozen or more men followed the first and fired into the carriage. King Carlos was seen to rise partially from his seat, grasp his throat and sink back. At the same time the crown prince apparently struggled to rise, but collapsed and slid to the floor of the carriage, and Manuel cried out and placed his hand to his face. Almost with the first flash of the guns, Queen Amelle sprang from her seat beside the king and threw herself between her sons and the guns of the assassins. She was an instant too late, however, to save the crown prince as the last bullet had been

fired. The soldiers turned upon the assassins, killing three of them and capturing a fourth, the others escaped in the confusion. The king and crown prince were hurried to the military arsenal which was nearby, but both expired."

THE PRESIDENT of the new republic of Portugal is Theophilo Braga. The emblem of monarchy on the palace has been replaced by a flag of red and green, the colors of the revolutionists. France has recognized the new republic and the Spanish minister in full uniform paid his respects to President Braga. Paris dispatches say that Spain may be the next monarchy to be transformed into a republic. Young King Manuel, with his mother, landed at Gibraltar under British protection. The Spanish premier has announced that his government is not yet ready to recognize the new republic and that appears to be the attitude of other governments.

IN AN INTERVIEW with A. N. Rubankin, political writer for the Novoe Vremya, St. Petersburg, Tolstoy made some interesting statements concerning what he conceives to be the dangers confronting America. Tolstoy said: "America has always looked to me like a boiling magic pot, a regular fairy land. You know that if you ask a Russian peasant what he thinks about America he will reply that America is a country of pigmies and giants, an island of demons and angels—something beyond his actual comprehension. America, to me, looks like a new stage of historic dramas, the cradle of new human experiments. I have been always a staunch admirer of its public men, its cosmopolitan spirit and its optimism. What wonderful statesmen and men of action it has produced! Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Lincoln and Washington—those men were giants. I imagine a typical American as an alert and optimistic toiler, whose success and ideals of life are in his work, no matter whether that work is for the good or harm of his fellow men. It is a quality which we Russians lack entirely. I have known scores of such Americans personally. What for a Russian is fascinating and dramatic is usually for an American monotonous and uncomprehensive. Action, action, action, that is the whole thing in an American novel, therefore it reads, for the Russian, shallow, unpsychologic and boyish. If an American can not reason out a subject he hates it. Therefore everything must be obvious and tangible. For a Russian, religion must be mysterious and symbolic, allegoric and poetic. He likes to feel a religion. An American wants a religion he can thoroughly understand."

ASKED CONCERNING Theodore Roosevelt's criticism of his works, Tolstoy said: "I have read Mr. Roosevelt's condemning criticism of my work, published last year. I was rather surprised that Mr. Roosevelt was so superficial and shallow in his judgment of my work. He says in a few sentences that my writings are grossly immoral and have done more harm than good. I was deeply affected reading that, for I had written with the very opposite purpose in view. My idea of writing was to show how bad it is to follow our selfish inclinations. When Mr. Roosevelt says that selfish passions never have actuated the Americans or Anglo-Saxons he ignores the fact that every twelfth marriage in America ends with divorce. He ignores the fact that I have not written my novels for men of his type and of his age, and he either has not read my novels at all or he has read them but has not understood them. Now in regard to his second criticism of my books, in which he says they have influenced only the feeble folk, but have never had any influence upon men of action; that shows that Mr. Roosevelt thinks he is the only typical man of action. If my books have not had any influence upon him, they have failed to have an influence upon every other man of action just the same. But there he is greatly mistaken. How does he know of other men? He should name at least one other man of action beside himself. But he makes a conclusion with-