

CURRENT TOPICS

SEATTLE WILL make use of the recall provision of her charter during the present month. The subject of the recall will be the mayor of the city, Hiram C. Gill. The San Francisco Star says: "Gill is charged with permitting gambling and other vice to be conducted by syndicates which paid for their special privileges. The necessary signatures for the mayor's recall have been secured, the petition containing 11,300 names, 2,600 in excess of the number required. Of the signers, 631 are women, who qualified as voters for the purpose of signing the petition. Under the law, the comptroller at Seattle has ten days in which to check the names and send the petition to the council. The council must set the date of the recall election within ten days after receiving the petition. This will bring the election late in January or early in February. The outcome will be watched with interest. At Los Angeles two years ago, a recall movement was started against the mayor of that city, but before the election could be held the mayor resigned. The Seattle mayor, however, seems likely to fight for his seat. If he does, the recall will be put to practical test."

THAT PRESIDENT TAFT and Theodore Roosevelt have been corresponding regularly for several weeks is the report that comes from Washington by way of "Sumner," the Chicago Record-Herald's Washington correspondent. This correspondent says: "The Taft-Roosevelt relations have been a matter of much gossip since before the recent elections. Now it is strongly intimated at the Washington end that to all intents and purposes the two men are working together for the general good of the republican party in the next national campaign. As interpreted by friends of President Taft this means, of course, that the renomination of the latter will not be opposed by Colonel Roosevelt. As to New York there seems to be an understanding that the president's interests are not to be menaced by any factionalism and that as matters now stand a Taft delegation is likely to be chosen on a real harmony basis. The exact nature of the correspondence passing between Washington and Oyster Bay has not been disclosed. Some of it, however, it is understood, has pertained to matters of legislation designed to round out the progressive policies inaugurated by Roosevelt and supported by Taft. Letters are understood to have been exchanged with particular frequency since President Taft's return from Panama, the latter part of November. Whether personal politics has been referred to directly is doubtful; but the impression conveyed through persons in close touch with the White House is that the relations between the two men are far more friendly than was supposed to be the case just prior to and immediately following the November elections."

THE NEW JERSEY campaign is getting hotter and hotter. James Smith, Jr., has made a reply to Governor-elect Wilson in which he says: "Dr. Wilson's statement is as I expected it would be. It appears over his signature, but the reasoning is not familiar. The charges and insinuations suggest a harassed mind. Uninfluenced Dr. Wilson would have been above misrepresentations. But certain public applause has proven fatal to calm judgment. He has been swept to the heights with such suddenness that his judgment has not accompanied him. He has my sympathy. He asserts that I am pledged to special interests. He was charged with being Wall Street's candidate. I say that neither statement is true and Dr. Wilson should have been the last man to assert the contrary. I do not stand for free trade, free silver, or new nationalism. I stand for state rights, for a just tariff, for such conservation of our natural resources as will permit of their wise development, not their wasteful distribution; for the restoration of our merchant marine, and for other doctrines which I recently publicly enumerated. Dr. Wilson says that he was assured by my spokesman be-

fore his nomination that I would not be a candidate for the senatorial office. I never made such a statement. No one was ever authorized by me to make such a statement and no one representing me made such a statement to Dr. Wilson. Furthermore, here is a challenge which I submit for his acceptance. Let him name the man or men coming from me who so informed him. Let there be no hiding behind the seal of confidence. If he be my spokesman, I remove the seal. Let Dr. Wilson speak or by his silence stand convicted before the public of attempted trickery and deceit. I called on Dr. Wilson shortly after election. The senatorial matter was discussed. I told him that I had not yet reached a decision as to my candidacy. Professing a high regard for me, Dr. Wilson said that my candidacy would meet with some opposition from the people, that in his judgment they wanted a man who had not previously appeared in the political arena, some untried man. Stating that the recent primary was a farce and that 'it would be a disgrace' to the state to send James E. Martine to the senate, he asked me to sit down with him and agree upon a candidate who would be acceptable to him and to me. How it will sear the doctor's soul to have his real view as to the primary and as to the man he now lauds for senatorial honors brought home to him with such painful accuracy. He will try to disavow it, but it is true, and in his heart he knows it to be true."

WOODROW WILSON has replied to former Senator James Smith, Jr. Dr. Wilson says: "I certainly would not have allowed my name to go before the convention that nominated me if I had not thought that the man who told me that Mr. Smith would not be a candidate for the senate spoke to me for Mr. Smith. I had every reason to think he did. I will not name him because he is a man whom I very highly esteem, and on whom I do not care to bring the mortification of being drawn into this now very public matter. I am quite willing to go with Mr. Smith before the court of public opinion on the charge of attempted trickery and deceit. If the gentleman of whom I have spoken did not speak for Mr. Smith, in what he told, why did Mr. Smith corroborate what he said. He himself told me exactly the same thing after election. He told me in the plainest terms that before the election he had not desired to go to Washington; had not felt equal to seeking, or occupying the office, but that he was now feeling stronger and did desire it. He was evidently referring to something he knew I had known. I pointed out to him the deep discredit that would fall on him if he were himself to seek the senatorship. Finding him utterly contemptuous of the primary and towards Mr. Martine; finding that he insisted that the state would be disgraced should Mr. Martine rather than he represent it in the senate, I tried to point out to him in all kindness the only course that lay open to him in the circumstances where he could win through faithful men. I told him that, feeling as he did, the only honorable course open to him was to come out and say that he was not himself a candidate and would co-operate in the choice of any man whom general opinion might agree on as representing, not special interests, but the opinion and the character of the state. He told me that he did not know of any such man in the state who had any 'claim' on the party comparable to his own."

TEN PER CENT of the voting strength in Adams county, Ohio, is under indictment charged with corruption at the polls. A Portsmouth, Ohio, dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "With a total of 633 indictments and 114 pleas of guilty to charges of vote selling during the recent election, Adams county, Ohio, presents a condition unique in political history. A vigorous campaign of investigation carried on by a grand jury acting upon the instigation of Common Pleas Judge A. Z. Blair of Portsmouth has resulted in the indictment of nearly ten per cent of the voting strength of the county and predictions were made that the number of

indictments would reach 2,000. Judge Blair says vote selling in every township will be probed. During a gubernatorial campaign in the eighties, republicans, by an alleged liberal use of money carried the county, which previously had been democratic. Since then control has shifted back and forth. As a result of the grand jury's investigations, it is apparent that both parties have participated in the vote buying. Starting at \$1 and \$2, prices have risen in recent years to \$20 per vote. Much of the hoodling has been almost public. Instances of auctioning votes are reported. Judge Blair, born and brought up in the county, recently determined to end the corruption. Among those indicted are many of his life-long friends and some of his early playmates. Men in all walks of life and unblemished reputation otherwise, have been caught in the net. So far, the judge has indicated his purpose to go after only the vote sellers. So strong have been their demands for compensation for their ballots that officeholders have been able to earn only small net salaries. Where pleas of guilty have been made the offender has been disfranchised five years and fined a nominal sum. Workhouse terms have been given to practically all, but most of the prison sentences have been suspended. An editor who denounced the investigation has been punished for contempt. Corruption in Adams county goes back for more than twenty years and is perhaps largely due to a general sanction of a growing custom as well as the absence of railways, telegraph and the telephone. There is in the county only one railway line, a branch of the Norfolk and Western, and few telegraph and telephone lines. West Union, the county seat, is not reached by either telegraph or railway. In this respect it stands alone among county seats in Ohio."

THERE WILL BE a hot scramble for positions for the democratic house of representatives. A Washington dispatch printed in the Sioux City (Iowa) Journal says: "When the democrats come into control of the house in the next congress they are expected to make a clean sweep of republican officeholders in the organization of that body. Since 1895 the republican party has had a majority of the house membership. Now office hungry democrats in every state are demanding appointments. The democrats will fill every position from the clerkship of the house, which pays \$6,500, down to the committee janitors and the pages. In all, the triumphant democratic hosts will dispose of jobs worth more than \$500,000 a year. The clerk of the house, the doorkeeper, each with a small army of well paid assistants, are doomed to leave Uncle Sam's payroll. The four officers named will be selected by the democratic caucus. Here is the present lineup of those who seek some of the best paying positions at the disposal of the democratic house: For sergeant at arms, a position worth \$6,500 a year—Representative John A. Keliher, of Boston, defeated for renomination; Representative Leonidas F. Livingston, of Georgia, also defeated for renomination after twenty years' continuous service in the house; Clyde H. Tavenner, of Illinois, in charge of publicity for the democratic congressional campaign committee; Charles A. Edwards, newspaper correspondent, of Texas and Washington; Hamilton DeWeese, of Columbus, O.; John W. Thompson, of Raleigh, N. C.; George Scanton, of West Virginia, and Stokes Jackson, state democratic chairman, of Indiana. The clerkship of the house of representatives also is a much sought for position. It, too, pays \$6,500. The candidates so far announced are: Ex-Representative South Trimble, of Kentucky; ex-Representative W. H. Ryan, of Buffalo, N. Y. The duties of the house doorkeeper are comparatively easy, and that place pays \$5,000 per year. Joe Sinnott, now a special employe of the house, who hails from Richmond, Va., wants to be the next doorkeeper. So does George F. Parrish, of Ohio, secretary to Representative Sherwood of that state. The postmastership in the house pays \$4,000. There are as yet no active candidates, but they will materialize."