CURRENT TOPICS

AN INTERESTING STORY is told by the Omaha World-Herald in this way: "You could see easy enough that they was a bridal couple," said the Pullman conductor. "A whole gang came down to the train to see them off, all a laughing and joshing them. Well behaved enough they was, understand, but having a pretty good time and a lot of fun at the expense of the couple who was leaving. There wasn't no rice nor old shoes nor anything of that sort, but the crowd was having a pretty good time with them in a ladylike and gentlemanlike sort of way. They was pretty uncomfortable and glad when the train pulled out and left the gang behind. Just before we pulled out a young fellow comes rushing into the car with a big armful bouquet of bride's roses and laid them down in the lady's lap. My, how she did blush. The whole car was wise and there was plenty of snickering and guying going on. He took it all calm enough, I'll say that for him, just as easy and natural about it as though getting married was an everyday affair with him, but she kept on a blushing and acting nervous and handling the bouquet like it was hot coals or something and she didn't dast drop 'em and didn't like to hang on to 'em. He finally settled that, though, by raising the window and dropping them out alongside the track. They sat for a while trying to look as though they wasn't just aching to hold hands and do the lovey dove act and finally he strolls into the smoking room and lights a cigar. He done little things for her, like bringing her a glass of water and all that, just as though he was perfectly used to it and not half ashamed of himself, either. Well, it went on like that until we pulled into Denver. Say, you could knocked me down with a lace handkerchief, when a big kid of thirteen or fourteen, I should say, met 'em at the depot. 'Hello, ma,' he says, giving her a kiss. 'How're yuh, pa? Gee, I'm glad you're home.' I found out after that they'd been married for years and had a whole family of youngsters. It was a standing josh among their friends how they managed to keep their youth and good looks, and they was all the time having joshes like that put up on em."

ANOTHER REPUBLICAN senator is likely to be investigated. The Chicago Tribune says: Isaac Stephenson, United States senator from Wisconsin, served two terms in the legislature of that state before he became a citizen of this country. For nineteen years he continued to accept honors from the people of Marinette county while still an alien and subject of Queen Victoria. Finally, after his timber land holdings in northern Wisconsin and Michigan had grown to large proportions, and he had abandoned any notion he might have had of returning to his native land—Canada—he went down to Milwaukee, which in those days of poor railroad facilities and no telegraph lines was further away from Marinette that it is now, and quietly put in his petition for citizenship. News of this Milwaukee trip never reached the people of Marinette. The first intimation that Isaac Stephenson lived so long among them without being naturalized came to them recently. The facts are to be submitted to the legislative committee at Madison, which has in hand the inquiry into Senator Stephenson's right to retain his seat in the upper house of congress. They will be adduced as ancillary to evidence that has been gathered showing the lavish expenditure of money in connection with the senator's recent election. This evidence shows that Mr. Stephenson spent more than $100,000 in his campaign for the senatorship and that his election was made possible after a protracted deadlock only by the mysterious conduct of three democratic representatives in absenting themselves suddenly from the joint session of the legislature when their remaining there would have prevented him from getting the deciding vote. A man who made the statement under oath that he saw these three legislators paid $35,000 in a hotel some time later is now serving a two-year term in the Waupun state prison for perjury. The charges relating to the senator's naturalization will reach the legislative committee from Senator Stephenson's home town. Two residents of Marinette, who with the Tribune were instrumental in unearthing the facts in regard to Stephenson's naturalization, will lay the evidence that has been gathered before State Senator Blaine, who is chairman of the Stephenson inquiry committee."

SPEAKING BEFORE THE Knife and Fork Club at Kansas City, Governor Woodrow Wilson approved the initiative and referendum and the recall "when properly regulated," but objected to applying the recall to judges. He said: "Among the remedies proposed in recent years have been the initiative and referendum in the field of legislation and the recall in the field of administration. These measures are supposed to be characteristic of the most radical programs, and they are supposed to be meant to change the very character of our government. They have no such purpose. Their intention is to restore, not to destroy, representative government. If we felt that we had genuine representative government in our state legislatures no one would propose the initiative or referendum in America. They are being proposed now as a means of bringing our representatives back to the consciousness that what they are bound in duty and in mere policy to do is to represent the sovereign people whom they profess to serve and not the private interests which creep into their counsels by way of machine orders and committee conferences. The recall is a means of administrative control. If properly regulated and devised it is a means of restoring to administrative officials what the initiative and referendum restore to legislators—namely, a sense of direct responsibility to the people who choose them. The recall of judges is another matter. Judges are not lawmakers. They are not administrators. Their duty is not to determine what the law shall be, but to determine what the law is. Their independence, their sense of dignity and freedom, is of the first consequence to the stability of the state. To apply to them the principle of the recall is to set up the idea that determinations of what the law is must respond to popular impulse and to popular judgment. It is sufficient that the people should have the power to change the law when they will. It is not necessary that they should directly influence by threat of recall those who merely interpret the law already established. The importance and desirability of the recall as a means of administrative control ought not to be obscured by drawing it into this other and very different field."

HERE'S A LOVE STORY right in the midst of party politics. A St. Paul, Minn., dispatch to the New York World, says: "The announcement of the engagement of Miss Constance Day, daughter of Frank A. Day, to Everett F. Tawney, eldest son of ex-Representative James A. Tawney, which takes place at the Day home at Fairmont, Minn., next July, serves to unite the ties of two famous families in Minnesota, the heads of which have been leading factors in opposition parties in the state for a number of years back. It is significant that James A. Tawney and Frank A. Day, then both republicans, began their political careers together in the same body in 1890. Mr. Tawney in that year was elected to the state senate from Winona and Mr. Day from Fairmont. The two became staunch friends, politically and personally during that session. In 1893, when Mr. Day was unseated in the memorable fight on the senate floor between Mr. Day and Mr. Dunn, Tawney was one of Day's ablest defenders. At that time Mr. Tawney had already been elected to congress from the First district, although he served out his senate term. Mr. Day some years later joined the democratic ranks and became a party leader, but Tawney during those years was serving in the national congress. Thus Tawney was recognized as one of the republican and Mr. Day the democratic leaders in Minnesota. The two, however, never came into direct conflict for there was never any occasion for that. It is said, however, that during the second Johnson campaign Tawney's support of the opposition candidate dimmed the friendship between the two men. A year ago, when Tawney announced that he would again enter the First district campaign for re-election, Mr. Day gave out an interview attacking his old friend. Everett F. Tawney is twenty-five years old. He was educated in the public schools in Winona and was graduated from the high school there in the class of 1907. After several months spent at Wisconsin university he entered the customs service in North Dakota. He was subsequently shifted to St. Paul, New Orleans, New York and recently he was placed in temporary charge in St. Paul. He is now in New York on a special case and expects in about ten days to be sent to Seattle or Spokane, which will be his permanent headquarters. In the east he has gained considerable prominence by prosecuting a number of important cases. Mr. Tawney met Miss Day about three years ago at a fraternity party at Minneapolis. His fiancee is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. She was prominent in musical and sorority circles and has also had a prominent part in the productions of the University Dramatic club. At present she is teaching a grade school at Virginia, Minn.

NOW THE INCOME tax is being used by a church. A Milwaukee dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says: "The graduated income plan of assessing members of the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian church, in the aristocratic part of the city, tried for the first time in any Milwaukee church during the last year, was shown to be a success at the annual meeting held recently. For the first time in the history of the church the year closed with a surplus on hand instead of the usual deficit. The plan adopted at the last annual meeting provided for a graduated income tax amounting to 2 per cent of income of $1,000 and less and ranging to 5 per cent on those of $3,000 or over. In this way it was promised that none of the members of the church would be asked to contribute toward the support of the church more than once. A budget is prepared at the beginning of each year and submitted to the members of the congregation for approval. Possibly the most notable phase of this unique plan for paying the church expenses was the fact that no collections were taken during the year."

ACCORDING to former Senator Chauncey M. Depew, Mr. Taft is growing in favor and his will be the only name presented to the republican national convention in 1912. Mr. Depew added: "I believe that as President Taft's measures are better understood and his unselfish patriotism and devotion to the public service become better known among the people he will grow in popular favor. He is one of the most misunderstood of our presidents. His life has been judicial and never one of political strife, and so he looks upon questions as a judge and not from the viewpoint of a politician. It never occurs to him what may be the effect of a measure upon his own political fortunes." Mr. Depew gave what he termed an accounting of his stewardship during his twelve years at Washington. Incidentally he said that he "tried insurgency in early life" and got over it.

BRYAN AS A MUCKRAKER

"William J. Bryan, speaking before the Y. M. C. A. of Virginia on the 9th is reported by the dispatches to have quoted Theodore Roosevelt as saying there is scarcely a predatory conspiracy against the country that does not have Harvard brains behind it, and to have added that those men were no better men who hold horses in a dark place for thieves to get away on after a burglary. This comment has probably made Mr. Bryan a muckraker—in the estimation of the men who hold horses for burglars and furnish brains for big business."
—Louis F. Post "The Public."