**DECEMBER 13, 1912** 

The Commoner.

CURRENT GOPICS

THE general discussion concerning the pensioning of ex-presidents leads a writer in the Washington (D.C.) Post to say that prior to the administration of Mr. Taft 25 persons have held the office of president of the United States. Of these William Henry Harrison and Zachary Taylor died in office. Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley were assassinated. Of the remaining twenty men who held the office, not counting Mr. Roosevelt, of course, nine lived less than ten years after their retirement, seven lived between ten and twenty years, and only three survived longer than twenty. In 1826 there were four former presidents alive. Only two men who had served in the office of the chief executive returned to public life in some other capacity. John Quincy Adams was one of the presidents chosen by the house of representatives when no candidate received a majority of the electoral college. He retired from the White House March 4, 1829, and was elected to congress from Massachusetts, taking his seat when the Twenty-second congress convened, in December, 1831, being successively re-elected, and was serving when, in the Thirtieth congress, February 23, 1848, he fell on the floor of the house, stricken with apoplexy, and was carried to the speaker's room, where he died. Andrew Johnson, after serving as president following the assassination of Lincoln, returned to Tennessee and engaged actively in politics. He was defeated for the senate before the legislature in 1870; again he was defeated as an independent candidate at large for the Forty-third congress. In 1875 he was elected a United States senator, but died July 31 that same year. Of all these men, honored by their countrymen with the presidency, the only one for whom the government did anything in a pecuniary way was Grant. That, however, came to him because of his military career. He was placed on the retired list of army officers as a general, and received pay as such to the day of his death.

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THE average length of life of nineteen former presidents, not including Col. Roosevelt, after they retired from office, was according to the same writer, twelve years. The list of presidents and the length of time they lived after retiring from office follows: George Washington served two terms; retired from office March 4, 1797; died December 14, 1799-two years and three months. John Adams, retired March 4, 1801; died July 4, 1826—twenty-five years and three months. Thomas Jefferson served two terms; retired March 4, 1809; died July 4, 1826-seventeen years and three months. James Madison served two terms; retired March 4, 1817; died June 28, 1836-nineteen years and three months. James Monroe, two terms; retired March 4, 1825; died July 4, 1831-six years and four months. John Quincy Adams retired March 4, 1829: died February 23, 1848nineteen years. Andrew Jackson, two terms; retired March 4, 1837; died June 8, 1845-eight years and three months. Martin Van Buren, retired March 4, 1841; died July 24, 1862-twenty-one years and four months. William Henry Harrison, inaugurated March 4, 1841; died April 4, 1841. John Tyler, retired March 4, 1845; died January 17, 1862-seventeen years. James K. Polk, retired March 4, 1849: died June 15, 1849—three months. Zachary Taylor, inaugurated March 4, 1849; died July 9, 1850. Millard Fillmore, retired March 4, 1853; died March 8, 1874-21 years. Franklin Pierce, retired March 4, 1857; died October 8, 1869-twelve years and seven months. James Buchanan, retired March 4, 1861; died June 1, 1868-seven years and three months. Abraham Lincoln, two terms; assassinated April 14, 1865. Andrew Johnson, retired March 4, 1869; died July 31, 1875-six years and four months." Ulysses S. Grant, two terms, retired March 4, 1877; died July 23, 1885eight years and four months. Rutherford B. Hayes, retired March 4, 1881; died January 17, 1893-eleven years and eleven months. James A. Garfield, inaugurated March 4, 1881; assassinated July 2, 1881, and died September 19 following. Chester A. Arthur, retired March 4, 1885; died November 18, 1886-one year and eight months. Grover Cleveland, retired March 4, 1889, first term; retired March 4, 1897,

second term; died June 24, 1908—eleven years and four months. Benjamin Harrison, retired March 4, 1893; died March 13, 1901—eight years. William McKinley, two terms; assassinated September 6, and died September 14, 1901. Theodoro Roosevelt, retired March 4, 1909; still living.

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INCLUDED in the offerings of an auction sale of some of the effects of Arthur P. Heinse were many of the treasures of the late Robert G. Ingersoll. The house where these treasures were sold was once occupied by Ingersoll. The New York Herald in an advance notice of this sale, said: "Among these treasures are the furnishings of Mr. Ingersoll's Moorish den. It was in this small room on the second floor, sitting before the specially designed mahogany fireplace and mantle, that the great free thought exponent did most of his writing and thinking. Old friends of Mr. Ingersoll will have an opportunity to bid for mementoes when the auctioneer sells 150 camp chairs which were used in the aisles and on the stage when the audiences at Mr. Ingersoll's lectures were so large they could not be accommodated in the regular seats. The little theatre in still equipped with the two sets of scenery, one a garden scene and the other an exterior, that Mr. Ingersoll provided and which were used by members of the Ingersoli family in giving private theatricals. The stage is 15 feet wide by 22 feet deep. Among the art objects that belonged in the Ingersoll house are two pieces of statuary occupying niches in the main reception hall. One is a life size marble called 'Undine,' with veiled face and beautiful inline and drapery. It is signed 'J. Mozier, Rome, 1862.' Another is a marble and bronze bust of Augustus Caesar by Luigi Belli. Other objects that serve as reminders of Mr. Ingersoll are two Benares brass vases out of reach on either side of the great fireplace in the entrance hall. The neck of one is askew, either broken or naturally so, and such was Mr. Heinze's reverence for what Mr. Ingersoll had possessed that he never would allow anyone to ascend and find out. Among the paintings in the Heinze collection is Sir Anthony Van Dyck's 'Portrait of Anna Carr, Countess of Bedford, which Mr. Heinze acquired from the Rothschild collection. There is a 'Landscape with Cattle, by Gainsborough, dated 1760, bought five years ago by Mr. Heinze from a niece of Lady Waldgrave, in London, and there are canvases by George Inness, Mr. Henry W. Ranger, Mr. Ridgway Knight, Mr. J. Francis Murphy, Ralph A. Blakelock and by Vibert, Troyon, Piot, Dupre, Grolleron and Detti."

them didn't understand it. But, then, as an English guest remarked, "They 'new it was something nasty, and that's enough." Mr. Gaynor put spissitude into the bright lexicon of New York when he was Jealing with the subway tangle last year. He told how honestly and conscientiously and splendidly he and the department wrestled with the problem, and how mistaken the newspapers were in thinking that the wisdom of Solomon and the rectitude of the Chevalier Bayard were not at all times evident. "We were fumbling around reading the World and other newspapers for guidance," said the mayor, with sarcastic inflection. "And perhaps we were also wondering at the mental and moral spissitude with which some persons who run the newspapers are afflicted." That brought a howl. "Spissitude! Spissitude!" ran from lip to lip. After describing how unkind the newspapers had been to him and Borough President McAneny and others over the subways, Mr. Gaynor declared that "For myself I don't care, as I have been pictured as a bad man so long that I don't care any more."

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THE death rate among the members of the United States senate during the last twelve years has been very large. The Washington correspondent for the Baltimore Sun says: The passing away of Senator Rayner runs the death list up to thirty-four in that period, which shows that more than one-third of the total membership of the upper branch of congress has passed away. These figures do not include the members who died after retiring from the senate, but only the men who succumbed while in harness. The present membership of the senate is ninety-six. The death roll includes some of the strongest characters and most prominent statesmen of the present generation. Senator Rayner's death is the fifth, counting Vice President Sherman, among the members of the upper chamber in the last eight months and during the present session of congress. Senator Robert L. Taylor of Tennessee died last spring after a term of four years; Senator George S. Nixon of Nevada, who was elected in 1905, was stricken down last summer, and only a month ago Senator William B. Heyburn of Idaho, who had served since 1903, passed away

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THE latest and best woman suffrage story is given by the Kansas City Star in this way: A Kansas grocer who had wasted his presidential vote for twenty years was so overjoyed at the result of the election that he attempted to paint a mammoth rooster on his show-window. But art being entirely out of his line of business, the chanticleer did not have the triumphant pose desired by the painter. "That's no rooster," sneered a small boy; "that's a bloomin" hen!" A shout of derisive laughter from a group of citizens greeted this sally, but the amateur artist came right back at them: "Well, didn't woman suffrage carry in this state? What's the matter with you all?"

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M AYOR GAYNOR of New York created something of a sensation recently when he used the word "spissitude." Referring to this word the New York World says: This is the very latest Gaynorism. The man who rehabilitated Epictetus as a popular character shot these sibilant syllables of dispraise at the newspapers, choosing the banquet of the Fifth Avenue association at the Waldorf-Astoria as the spot to spring spissitude. Afterward there was a hurry up call for dictionaries, with this result: Standard dictionary definition—Spissitude— Thickness; visco~ity. Ninety-five per cent of the vocabulary students had then to turn to viscosity, with this result: Viscosity—Stickiness; gumminess. Spissitude got laughter and applause from the 500 diners, even if a lot of after a few months of illness. The fatality among Maryland members has also been striking. Senator Rayner is the third Marylandet to die in harness during the last five years. Senator Arthur Pue Gorman and Senator William Pinckney White, both of whom had served in the upper chamber with him, yielded to the fearful strain and arduous labors which are now a part of the life of a senator.

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IN the last dozen years such powerful figures as Marcus A. Hanna of Ohio, John W. Daniel of Virginia, Redfield Proctor of Vermont, Stephen B. Elkins of West Virginia, William P. Frye of Maine, John T. Morgan and Edmund W. Pettus of Alabama, George F. Hoar of Massachusetts, Cushman K. Davis of Minnesota, Matthew Stanley Quay of Pennsylvania, and J. P. Dolliver of Iowa, have disappeared. The senators who died in the last twelve years are as follows in the chronological order of their deaths: John H. Gear, of Iowa; Cushman K. Davis, of Minnesota; J. H. Pyle, of South Dakota; William J. Sewell, of New Jersey; James McMillan, of Michigan; Marcus A. Hanna, of Ohio; Matthew Stanley Quay, of Pennsylvania; George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts; William B. Bate, of Tennessee; Orville H. Platt of Connecticut; John H. Mitchell, of Oregon; Arthur Pue Gorman, of Maryland; Russell A. Alger, of Michigan; John T. Morgan, of Alabama; Edmund W. Pettus, of Alabama; S. R. Mallory, of Florida; A. C. Latimer, of South Carolina; Redfield Proctor, of Vermont; William James Bryan, of Florida; William B. Allison, of Iowa; Martin N. Johnson, of North Dakota; A. J. McLaurin, of Mississippi; S. D. McEmery of Louisiana; John W. Daniel of Virginia; Jonathan P. Dolliver, of Iowa; A. S. Clay, of Georgia; Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia; C. J. Hughes, jr., of Colorado; William P. Frye, of Maine; Robert L. Taylor, of Tennessee; George S. Nixon, of Nevada; William B. Heyburn, of Idaho; Isidor Rayner, of Maryland.