

CURRENT TOPICS

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, returning from his European journey to his home in Cleveland, addressed his Sunday school, and, according to a Cleveland dispatch, preached "loyalty to the union." In his address Mr. Rockefeller said: "This is a great and good country to live in. It is a powerful country. It has grown to its present strength from the strength of a few Puritan fathers, who first settled here. It was this desire for right living, which laid the massive foundation of the United States. The Puritans made the beginning what it was; we should keep it as it was intended to be. That is why we should love this country of ours; love her people, her business, her institutions. We should sink the smaller annoyances in the greater things; we should remember that the events which seem overwhelming now will be forgotten in a decade. Through it all we must show our love for our fellow man. We are free in this country. We can study the Bible, live in the truth and accomplish great ends by our freedom. Over in Europe they do not have the advantages we have. I was surprised to find so few Sunday schools on the continent. You know, I take a great interest in Sunday schools. I think they are great institutions. Our country is much better for its Sunday schools. After I have seen how few Sunday schools there are across the water I have decided that this is a country of Sunday schools. Living in the United States you have a heritage that is most valuable."

THE CAMPAIGN IN MAINE is, this year, attracting more than ordinary attention. A heated contest on the county, state and national issues is on, and in various sections of the state, independent movements which make large drafts upon the republican strength have been inaugurated. The labor organizations are taking part in the campaign, particularly in Representative Littlefield's district. Littlefield was renominated after a hot fight and the democrats have presented as his opponent Daniel McGillicuddy of Lewistown. Many republicans have announced their determination to support McGillicuddy. The labor union men are supporting McGillicuddy also, and they are making a systematic fight against Littlefield. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has taken the stump against Littlefield.

MRS LAWSON, wife of Thomas W. Lawson, died at the Boston financier's country home in Massachusetts. A dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says: "At the bedside were her husband, who during her recent illness scarcely left her side in three weeks, and all her children except the oldest son, Arnold, who is away on his honeymoon. Mrs. Lawson was a most popular woman among the townspeople and was beloved by her close friends. Mrs. Lawson, before her marriage, was Jeannie Augusta Goodwillie. She was born in Cambridge about forty-seven years ago and was married in 1878. She was a woman of exceedingly domestic tastes, her preference for a simple home life having been in marked contrast with the strenuous public career of her husband. She had been in somewhat delicate health for several years, owing to heart trouble, and the thoughtful attention shown her by her husband on all occasions when she appeared with him in public was a touching testimonial of the affection of the millionaire for his wife."

IT WAS FOR Mrs. Lawson's sake, according to this same dispatch, that in 1899, Mr. Lawson paid \$30,000 for all the plants in existence of the then newly cultivated flower, since known as the Lawson carnation. This dispatch says: "Mr. Lawson had been accustomed to take bunches of them to Mrs. Lawson when she was confined to the house by illness, and they had given her so much pleasure that he determined to give her in a measurable degree the proprietorship of the beautiful flower. Mrs. Lawson was esteemed as one of the most kindly and generous of women, and almost without exception her benefactions were as unobtrusive as generous. It is said that the worthy poor in the various towns where the

family has lived have had many a cause to bless her name, and public charities have not been overlooked. She was noted among her friends for the possession of a cultivated mind, a keen intelligence of practical bent and an unfailing fund of good humor. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, and all of them are living. Arnold, the eldest, is 27 years old. He was married in New York July 28 to Mrs. Lucie Mitchell, and they are on a cruise in the yacht Cygnet. The next oldest child is Mrs. Eben B. (Gladys) Stanwood. She was 23 years old last Saturday. Then come the unmarried daughters, Marion, aged 20, and Doris, aged 18, and the second son, Douglas, 16. The youngest child, Jeanne Chandler Lawson, is 9 years old, and is known to the household as 'Bunny.'"

ENGLAND'S NEW premier, Campbell-Bannerman, is winning great popularity. A London cablegram to the New York World says: "When the ministry was formed he was spoken of as a mere 'stopgap' to be sent to the house of lords at the end of the first session to make way for Asquith's leadership. Today Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has a power and a popularity in parliament unequalled since Gladstone's rule. It is a triumph of character and ability combined. He has managed the house of commons business cleverly, tactfully, has invariably been honest, straightforward and clear in expressing his own views, he is courteous to everybody, accessible to his own followers, displays resource, and whenever appropriate in parrying awkward questions a humor far excelling in effectiveness Balfour's achievements in the same line—for Bannerman never quibbles nor prevaricates. In granting a really free constitution to the Transvaal and trusting the Boers Bannerman has given another evidence of his consistency. Balfour attacked the constitution savagely, raking up afresh the embers of race hatred, employing all his ingenuity to destroy beforehand that spirit of mutual confidence and of forgetfulness of the haste which is essential to the success of the scheme. The next day Balfour discovered that he had made one of the biggest blunders of his life in taking this course, for the conservative papers accepted the constitution more or less enthusiastically and the Morning Post roundly denounced Balfour's action. In fact, he found himself and ex-Colonial Secretary Lytton absolutely isolated in denouncing the settlement. This, of course, was a great triumph for Bannerman."

LONDON ADVICES say that at the next session of parliament, the Irish secretary, Bryce, will introduce a bill extending the Irish local government staff at Dublin castle and doing away with many of the forty boards that govern Ireland, thus placing the land under popular control. According to the Dublin correspondent for the New York World, Sir Anthony Macdonnell, speaking at a recent dinner, foreshadowed certain Irish reforms. He said: "My firm belief is that the coming year, 1907, will see the fruition of many hopes which the best Irishmen have for many years entertained. It may not mean the full fruition of all that many Irishmen have hoped, but it will mean so much that Irishmen, if they are true to themselves, may make it the source from which all their hopes may be fulfilled."

WHEN WILLIAM H. BELCHER, former mayor of Paterson, N. J., was sentenced to twelve years in the penitentiary, the officiating judge was an old time and intimate friend of the prisoner at the bar. Newspaper reports say that the court room was crowded. Judge Scott, who had been in Maine on a vacation, returned to impose the sentence. "I have returned to fulfill my duty as judge of this court," Judge Scott said, "and it is the most painful one I have ever been called upon to perform. I know how, through poverty and toil, you have struggled up to become a respected member of the bar and the chief magistrate of this large and prosperous city of Paterson. With hosts of friends and followers, your future gave even greater promise. A year ago, while holding the office of mayor, your flight disclosed to the astonished public

those crimes so manifold, so grave and apparently so deliberate that our people stood aghast. I shall not enter into the painful details. There are many indictments for forgery, the greatest of which was the use of the county clerk's stamp, which is barred by the statutes. We can not, however, lose sight of these in dealing with the indictments for embezzlement before the court and to which you have pleaded. You have injured others, but none more than yourself. Your return to be punished shows that you have suffered much, yet it is necessary to inflict the punishment the law demands, particularly in this case, as an example to others whose position and power in the community may not be used to obtain from trusting people their hard-earned money. There seem to be no mitigating circumstances and there seems to be no reason for lessening the extreme penalty except that mercy which is usually exercised to temper justice itself." The court then pronounced sentence, which is two years on each indictment. Only once during the unpleasant ordeal did Belcher show signs of breaking down, and that was when Lawyer Barbour, his friend and counsel, was making a plea for clemency. Tears streamed down his face while the lawyer was pleading. He sat with downcast eyes while Judge Scott was speaking.

THAT THE PEOPLE are thoroughly aroused on the subject of "graft" in all its phases is abundantly borne out by reports coming every day from all sections of the country. In Omaha discovery has been made that a lot of scales in grocery stores and meat markets weigh "short," and investigation revealed that one manufacturer of "short" scales advertised that the retailer could "sell goods at cost and make three per cent profit." As a result of this disclosure two firms manufacturing scales are engaged in a bitter personal warfare, and the city inspector of weights and measures has a choice collection of "short" scales and measures in his office. From Providence, R. I., comes the report that 60,000 glass milk jars in use in that state are "short," and the state sealer of weights and measures charges that all the jars condemned as "short" in Massachusetts during the last fifteen years have been shipped into Rhode Island, the most of them into Providence. "Pound cans" of meats usually weigh fourteen ounces, and the "three-pound" buckets of lard are usually "short" considerably more than enough to make up for the cost of the tin bucket. Pint and quart bottles of medicines, pickles, preserves, etc., will usually be found considerably short of honest measure. The revelations of these things, coming all at once, clearly shows the temper of the people, who have grown tired of continued imposition.

JUSTICE BREWER of the United States supreme court recently said that Secretary of War Taft is Mr. Roosevelt's candidate for the republican nomination in 1908 and now comes the Washington correspondent for the Kansas City Journal, a republican paper and prints under date of Washington, the following dispatch: "Secretary Taft is being boosted by President Roosevelt for republican nomination for president. First comes trouble for Mr. Taft in Ohio. A speech from the secretary defeated the republican candidate for governor last fall. He was a good man but had sinned by being a friend of the late Hanna for many years. So Taft made his speech and it was boosted as a Roosevelt expression, a sort of inspired affair. Trouble was on hand and resulted in defeating the head of the ticket. Now it happens that the president is trying to fix this up. Dick took lunch at Oyster Bay and it was given out by the president that there was 'harmony in Ohio.' The lack of 'harmony in Ohio,' dated from the Taft speech. Some are suspicious and see Taft boomed for nomination and later Roosevelt put Taft on the supreme bench and run for president himself. But this theory is held only by those who fear the tricks of the past are to be repeated. There is in fact plenty of reason to believe that Roosevelt will not chase the nomination, openly or secretly and this is another story. But if Taft should slip and miss the nomination he will likely be cared for by Roosevelt. By this is meant