

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE BUFFALO (New York) Times is curious to know where those people who profess ignorance concerning Vice Presidential Candidate Sherman have been hiding themselves all these years. The Times says: "His name is carved deep in the history of the nation. He is the 'My Dear Sherman' addressed in a letter on the subject of Harriman campaign contributions written by President Roosevelt; the very man who approached the great railroad magnate but heard abuse of the president from him instead of getting a check worth photographing; who reported the matter to the president and received from that official the same day the famous 'undesirable citizen' letter which brought from a pigeonhole the equally famous 'practical man' letter from the president to Mr. Harriman; altogether one of the most notable incidents in political history. It is true that his record of about eighteen years in congress is not marked by any advocate or support of legislation in the interests of the masses, but he has usually been in attendance at the sessions of the house and has always drawn his salary and mileage regularly. It is plain that the delegates who wanted to know who Sherman was were poor trash, for all the rich men of the republican party know him well. In the capacity of official fat fryer he called upon them all and severally, or words to that effect, in 1906, and with his story of financial necessities of his party touched them deeply; excepting, of course, Mr. Harriman, who made the fuss that made the president angry and Mr. Sherman famous."

WRITING UNDER date of June 11 to the Utica (N. Y.) Daily Press, Amelia Shaphopy says: "I wish to call your attention to the injustice of the unequal prices demanded for ice in this city. The same sized piece of ice delivered daily costs \$2.50 a month, or at the rate of about eight cents a piece, while if delivered only four times a week they charge \$2 a month, or at the rate of eleven cents a piece. Is not this an unfair discrimination against the poor who can not afford to buy ice every day and so must pay one-third higher for the same weight of ice? If two families living in one house or next door neighbors, wishing to take advantage of the lower price for daily delivery should pool their outlay for ice the company refuses to deliver that way. Also they will not sell a ten cent piece from the wagon, thus compelling the people to subscribe or go without ice. In Syracuse the companies tried that last year (although the price by the month is lower than in Utica), but the newspapers took it up so vigorously that the common council was compelled to act, and passed an ordinance requiring all ice companies to sell as small as five cent pieces of ice from the wagons, thus recognizing the fact that there are many poor people to whom ice is a real luxury in any but extremely hot weather or in case of sickness or infants' needs, and who could buy single pieces when needed, but could not possibly buy by the month and have a deposit of \$2 in advance. If the newspapers of Utica would take this matter up I feel sure they could accomplish wonders, as the Syracuse papers did, and so prove to the public that they actually have courage to take up a worthy cause against a monopoly. I have not heard that any of the ice companies of Syracuse have failed under their existing laws and because there was a scarcity of ice two years ago, that the price shall have remained up. They have not even the excuse that they are paying higher prices for labor this year, for they are not paying too much these hard times when laborers are plentiful. I trust you will give this your careful consideration, as I feel sure you will find that it deserves it."

HILARY A. HERBERT, who was secretary of the navy in Mr. Cleveland's cabinet, sent to the New York World, under date of Port Carling, Ont., this report: "Mr. Bryan was not my choice, but he and Kern are both able and clean and they are the undoubted choice of the democracy. I do not approve everything in the Denver platform, but it is infinitely pre-

ferable to the republican platform, and Bryan and Kern will receive my hearty support. If the contest ought to turn on tariff reform and fair elections, now is the time, now the opportunity, for the old fight over again between the people and the protected interests. Mr. Roosevelt has blazed the way. He saw soon after he came into office that the rapid growth and infinite multiplication of trusts and combines, fast following the passage of the Dingley law, robbing the people by arbitrarily raising prices, would be laid at the door of the party that passed that act. Logically he should have assailed the law, but that he either cared not or dared not do, yet he was brave enough to show up the iniquity of the trusts in messages and speeches and to pursue them in the courts until they spoke of him through the press as a crazy anarchist. Perhaps Mr. Roosevelt, by pursuing this course, has saved his party. That certainly was his purpose, but possibly Mr. Roosevelt has failed in this end, and he certainly has if the people can only be made to see that the trusts have been robbing the people, just as the president says they have, and further that these trusts, thriving under prosecution through the courts, have their citadel in the Dingley law. Let the people further understand that there is no free silver law issue, and it is not anarchy to insist on fair tariff laws. Then let us declare that we will have published to the world an account of all contributions to our election funds, not after the election, but before, and not only an account of moneys received by some one person called treasurer of a national committee, but by all treasurers everywhere. Pushing these issues to the front the democracy ought to win."

CONCERNING the democratic nominee for governor of Maine, the Bangor (Me.) Commercial says: "The Maine democracy, through its duly accredited delegates, on Wednesday nominated Obadiah Gardner of Rockland as its candidate for governor of Maine in an enthusiastic and harmonious manner and thereby made a choice of standard bearer that will be universally endorsed by the members of the

party throughout the state. While Mr. Gardner has not been prominent in politics, indeed has never entered the political field before, he is probably as widely known as any man in Maine from his long connection with the agricultural interests of the state. For twenty-two years Mr. Gardner has been very closely identified with the grange, being one of the charter members and first overseer of Pleasant Valley grange, Rockland, and its second master. He served for eight years as a member of the executive committee and might have continued longer in this capacity but refused election. In 1897 Mr. Gardner was elected master of the Maine state grange and was re-elected each two years until 1907, when he was defeated in a close contest. It is stated that a number of Mr. Gardner's closest friends, who are members of the democratic party, opposed his re-election as master because of the desire to have him receive and accept the democratic gubernatorial nomination. The Maine states grange owes much to Mr. Gardner who, during his years of service as its master brought about by his energy, enthusiasm and skill as an organizer, many salutary changes and the membership and influence of the organization was vastly increased under his wise leadership. From a membership of 21,515 in 1897 the grange has steadily grown until the roll of members now numbers more than 55,000. It is not alone, however, among the agriculturalists of the state that Mr. Gardner is well and favorably known for he has a wide acquaintance with the leading men and is highly respected for his honesty of purpose and his frank and open positions on the leading questions of the day. He is clean and wholesome in his public and private life and a worthy candidate for the suffrages of the people."

The Louisville Evening Post expressed the hope that Mr. Bryan would prune words, not ideas, when he began condensing his speech of acceptance. The Post seems to have been convinced that ideas were none too numerous in the 1908 speeches of acceptance delivered prior to August 12.



TWO POLICIES, AS MR. TAFT SEES THEM