

CURRENT TOPICS

A TOKIO cablegram carried by the Associated Press says: "According to statistics recently compiled, there were in December, 1906, 59,100 Japanese subjects in the United States, and out of that total no less than 53 per cent were in California and its immediate neighboring states. In California itself 50 per cent of the total were found, and of these 26 per cent were engaged in labor on railways and in mines, the remaining 24 per cent being occupied with agriculture. It is in the last named enterprise alone that anything like signal success has been attained. There are 14,000 Japanese farmers—speaking roughly—in the state of California and they own an aggregate area of 12,000 acres which land is devoted mainly to the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. Many of the settlers have been living there from some ten to thirty years. They speak English excellently and may be said to be virtually domiciled. An important feature is their contribution to trade with Japan but much more remarkable are the sums remitted by them to the home country. In 1904 they sent to Japan \$3,750,000, in 1905 nearly \$5,000,000 and in 1906 \$5,633,000."

THE NEBRASKA City correspondent for the Omaha World-Herald sends to his paper this interesting dog story: "William Topping, who resides in this city and works his farm south of this city, has one of the most intelligent dogs to be found in this part of the state. While at work on his farm, which is seven miles from this city, Topping was taken sick and, being alone in the house there, had no way to send for aid. He finally thought of the dog and, writing a note, tied it about the dog's neck and told him to take it to his wife. The dog made the trip in a short time and, reaching the home in town, began scratching on the door, and howled until some one came to the door when he pushed inside and lay down on his back, displaying the note. The wife and son went to the aid of the sick man at once, accompanied by the dog which seemed to realize that he had accomplished his mission. The dog is a half-breed shepherd."

HERE IS another fine story from life carried by the Associated Press in a dispatch under date of Pittsburg, Pa., April 13: "Miriam Sawyers, nine years old, the daughter of Mrs. Anna Sawyers of Southern avenue, was kneeling in front of her bed saying her prayers, when she heard a sound under the bed and, glancing down, saw a man's feet protruding. She did not scream or become excited, but slowly finished her prayer. Then she asked the man, who was a burglar, to come out. 'You wouldn't hurt a little girl, would you?' she asked him. 'No,' the man answered, 'I wouldn't hurt a little girl, so you needn't be afraid. Just show me the way out.' Clad only in her white nightdress, the child escorted him to the front door. He bade her a hurried good night and started on a run down the street. No attempt was made to recapture him. Several 'jimmies' were found under the bed in Miriam's room."

THE SUGAR scandal attracted attention in the senate when Senator Owen of Oklahoma assailed the New York newspapers for maintaining silence regarding the operations of the sugar trust. He said the present customs scandal is being ignored. He prefaced his remarks by having read a long article on the existing situation in New York as depicted by the representative of a Washington paper. "This policy," he said, "has led to a condition in which frauds of such magnitude as these, of such a sensational character, are not mentioned by the leading newspapers of New York City. Instead, we have the spectacle of this remarkable fraud being suppressed, while full-page advertisements of the American Sugar Refining company appeared in the newspapers of New York in lieu of the truth, which ought to be known by the people. I desire to congratulate the national administration on the detection and exploitation of this fraud. Frauds arising from the corruption of weak men are liable to arise at any time and under the best intentioned administration

of affairs. As to the powerful interests which have perpetrated these gigantic frauds on the government, and which have paid into court more than \$2,000,000 rather than stand trial on the fraud charges, I have only to say that they are shown to be receiving benefits of from \$50,000,000 to \$80,000,000 a year through the tariff. Why, sir, every child's piece of candy represents a contribution to the tax which this beneficiary of the tariff is permitted by the tariff to levy upon the people. Sugar is an article of universal consumption, and when this organization is allowed to tax all the people, rich and poor alike, a dollar per capita per annum for the further enrichment of a purse already bursting with wealth, it is time for the senate to observe this schedule and to cut out that part of it which serves the trust alone. It does not serve the people, the government, the cane sugar grower or the beet sugar producer. It serves the trust alone, and puts in its pocket the riches with which it corrupts. I ask why are the words 'not above No. 16 Dutch standard in color' retained in this bill? They ought to be stricken out of it. I ask that the finance committee be directed to report to the senate why these words are not stricken from the measure." There was instant objection to consideration of such an order. Senator Aldrich remarked that when sugar is reached "the amendment of the Oklahoma senator will be in order." "I have introduced no amendment," retorted Senator Owen. "I have introduced a resolution directed to the chairman of the finance committee." "That is, to the finance committee," suggested Senator Beveridge. "The chairman of the committee, who is the committee," persisted Senator Owen.

THE SPRINGFIELD (Ill.) Register prints this story: "When T. H. Benton was in the house, he was of the opinion that the third day of March, and consequently the congressional term, ended at midnight of that day, instead of at noon on the fourth, as unbroken usage had fixed it. So on the last morning he sat with his hat on, talked loudly, loafed about the floor, and finally refused to vote or answer to his name when the roll was called. At last the speaker, the Hon. James L. Orr, of South Carolina, picked him up and put an end to these legislative larks. 'No, sir; no, sir; no, sir!' shouted the venerable Missourian; 'I will not vote. I have no right to vote. This is no house, and I am not a member of it.' 'Then, sir,' said Speaker Orr, like a flash, with his sweetest manner, 'if the gentleman is not a member of this house, the sergeant-at-arms will please put him out.' And so this vast constitutional question settled itself."

THE LONG deadlock in the Illinois legislature on United States senator was broken by the election of William Lorimer now a member of congress from Chicago. Lorimer succeeds Senator Hopkins. A New York World writer, referring to the new senator says: "'Billy' Lorimer is regarded as a perfect type of the boss in machine politics. He so dominates republican politics in Chicago and Cook county that no man can be appointed or elected to the humblest position without his consent. He is the other pole from the independent or the reformer, and has no apologies to make for the motto: 'To the victor belongs the spoils.' He was born in 1861, in Manchester, England, of Scotch parents, and was reared from his fifth year in this country, first a newsboy and bootblack; then a worker in the glue works of the Armour packing plant; later a street car conductor, real estate dealer, brick manufacturer and railroad contractor; he made his advent in politics as a Chicago ward boss. Through self-education, native ability, an understanding of human nature, imperviousness to criticism, daring support of the money powers that supplied the sinews for the success of 'practical' politics, and by sobriety and a practice of the personal moral virtues that give a clear brain and physical health, Lorimer became a general political boss of great power. By reason of his political affiliations he has a word of high authority in the republican state machine. In campaigning in

1898 for re-election to congress he employed a circus tent, band, negro quartet and moving pictures—and lost, his only defeat to date since his first advent in congress in 1895. He fought the bill introduced in 1900 to have oleomargarine branded so that it could not masquerade as butter. He stoutly fought the bill in 1906 for the inspection of meat and the packing houses, offering as a substitute a measure denounced by the World as a 'piece of hypocritical false pretense.' In January of this year the Michigan congressman and a delegation of Michigan citizens protested at the White House against a bill introduced by Lorimer with reference to public works at Sault Ste. Marie, which they declared would foster a great water power monopoly upon the country, and was instigated in the interests of the Chicago lighting trust. Lorimer is said to have grown rich through speculation in the stock market. He is not an orator, seldom being heard in the house. He is reposeful and persuasive. His private life is said to be unblemished. He has a large family of his own children and has reared several children of relatives that were left orphaned and without money."

A GOOD STORY and probably a true one concerning the late Benjamin Harrison is told in the Saturday Evening Post in this way: "Thomas H. Carter, now senator from Montana, had charge of the campaign that had for its object the re-election of President Harrison in 1892. It was a sad campaign from the Carter viewpoint, sad in progress and melancholy in its ending. Naturally the campaign needed money, and money was scarce. One day when Chairman Carter was thinking of ways to raise the wind, the late Collis P. Huntington came in to see him. His railroads had not contributed, nor had he. In a casual manner Mr. Carter veered the conversation around to money. Huntington was not responsive. Instead he veered the conversation himself, and he was a good veerer, to a little bill that was before the president. 'Simple little thing,' he said. 'Just gives a corporation which desires to get land that has been homesteaded under proper proceedings the right to call the proceedings and witnesses to any jurisdiction it sees fit—to begin the suit there, you know, in Washington or elsewhere. Why don't you see the president about it?' Carter had to go to Washington presently, and one of the matters he talked with Harrison about was this bill. 'I know about that,' said Harrison. 'So should you, for you have been in the land office. As the law now stands, when a case of this kind comes up the settler can go to the nearest land office and bring his witnesses, and the proceedings cost nothing. Is that right?' 'It is,' replied Carter. 'Well,' continued the president, 'if this bill becomes a law the railroad or other corporation can bring action in Washington, say, and the settler will have to come here and bring his witnesses. Is that right?' 'It is,' replied Carter. 'Now, Carter,' said the president, 'where would that settler be with all that expense? He would be eaten up. You go back and say to the people who are behind this bill that I wouldn't sign it if I were given a certificate of re-election before I put my pen to paper.'"

IN AN EDITORIAL entitled "The Mecklenburg Myth," the New York World says: "Beginning Tuesday and ending their three days' celebration today, Charlotte, N. C., and the county of Mecklenburg challenge general attention in their attempt to give the so-called Mecklenburg declaration of independence a definite status as a part of American history. The presence of President Taft today at the crowning exercises of the celebration lends additional interest and significance to the belated honors accorded to the signers of the alleged declaration. Certainly it is an interesting and notable fact if, as the Charlotteans and Mecklenburgers seem to believe, the declaration of independence was really adopted in Charlotte May 19-20, 1775, ante-dating the declaration at Philadelphia more than a year. That President Taft's presence and participation in the celebration will tend to give the story of the supposed declaration a standing