

CURRENT TOPICS

NOW THERE are bribery charges in the Mississippi legislature. It is alleged that at least one member was paid to vote for Senator Percy against Former Governor Vardaman. State Senator Bilbo told the grand jury that he accepted \$645 from L. C. Dulaney to vote for LeRoy Percy in the recent senatorial contest. The grand jury indicted Dulaney. Bilbo said he merely wanted to expose the machine and that later he gave the money to charity. Senator Percy denies that he knew anything of bribes or attempted bribes and he has called upon the United States senate for an investigation. Other members of the Mississippi legislature have told of attempts to bribe them.

DAVID JOSIAH BREWER, associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, who died suddenly of apoplexy, was seventy-three years of age. Justice Brewer was in good spirits on the day of his death and after spending the evening in reading he retired to his room about 10 o'clock. Mrs. Brewer heard a heavy fall and found the justice prone on the floor of the bath room. He did not regain consciousness. Next to Justice Harlan, Justice Brewer was the oldest member of the supreme court. He was appointed to the supreme bench by President Harrison, succeeding the late Stanley Matthews. He began the practice of law at Leavenworth, Kansas, and served on the bench of that state, becoming, in 1870, judge of the state supreme court. In 1884 President Arthur appointed him judge of the United States circuit court and while he held that position he was appointed to the supreme bench.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT has made a mess of things in Egypt. At Cairo he was invited to address the University of Egypt. He was warned not to stir up feeling among the nationalists who are fighting for reform in the government and particularly for a constitution. He refused, however, to heed the warning. A Cairo dispatch said that he took such a pronounced stand against the nationalists that even those best acquainted with him were amazed. The nationalists are charged with responsibility for the recent assassination of Boutros Pasha, the premier, and Mr. Roosevelt denounced this assassination in bitter terms. Later two hundred students from the University of Egypt made a demonstration in front of Shepherd's hotel, where Colonel Roosevelt is stopping. The students carried an Egyptian flag and as they marched by the hotel shouted "Long live the constitution and the liberty of Egypt." Mr. Roosevelt paid no attention to the demonstration, which was a sort of protest against his speech at the university.

THE LONDON view of Mr. Roosevelt's Egyptian talk is interesting. An Associated Press dispatch says: "Former President Roosevelt's address before the students of the University of Egypt yesterday has caused considerable comment here, where there is a difference of opinion as to the good or evil effects of his plain talking. In denouncing the assassination of the late Premier Boutros Pasha Ghali, Colonel Roosevelt did not mince his words with a view to avoiding offense to the nationalists, a great many of whom have openly sympathized with the assassin. The radical press today takes exception to Colonel Roosevelt's remarks and even the moderate Westminster Gazette says editorially: 'Disquisitions on the readiness or the reverse of Egypt for self-government, while permitted to men without great position, are perhaps better hushed in the breasts of ex-presidents.' Recalling Mr. Gladstone's pronouncement in regard to the early indiscretion of the present Lord Salisbury, 'Mistakes which are pardonable in a private individual become scandalous in an ex-solicitor-general,' the Gazette recognizes Mr. Roosevelt's desire to be friendly and helpful to Great Britain, but says his pronouncement is not calculated to make easier the path of the government in Egypt. On the other hand the tory press is highly laudatory of the fearless declarations. The Pall Mall Gazette considers that the American states-

man has done a service not only to the Egyptians, but to the cause of human progress throughout the world. The paper adds: "Mr. Roosevelt is providing our sentimentalists of the Keir Hardie breed with a healthy spectacle of the representative of the greatest democracy in the world, giving pseudo-democracy a sound trouncing." The Evening Standard warmly approves the address as "The wise words of a great statesman."

GRAFT INVESTIGATIONS at Pittsburg appear to be somewhat like an old time revival meeting and "while the lamp holds out to burn the vilest sinner may return." One after another councilmen and former councilmen have hurried to the prosecuting attorney in order to make confession. It was all brought about by the confession first made by Captain John Klein, a member of the council. He is now in prison serving his sentence. William Brand, formerly president of the council, who is now in the penitentiary, has also made a complete confession. It seems that the prosecuting attorney is holding out the hope to the men who received bribes that if they will confess he will give them immunity baths. His purpose is to capture the men higher up, and he has a number of bankers and capitalists now on the string.

PRESIDENT TAFT has issued a proclamation granting the minimum rate of tariff under the Payne-Aldrich act to Canada, Australia and a number of other countries, aggregating 130, including their dependencies. The Washington correspondent for the Associated Press says: "The work involved in determining whether or not any of the nations included in this long list were discriminating in their tariff against the products of the United States has occupied the attention of the tariff officers of the government almost continuously since the passage of the tariff act last August. The tariff schedules of each one of these nations have been critically examined by tariff experts, and where doubt has existed, the services of the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States were requisitioned. Although no official statements were available at this time as to the net results of the negotiations with all of the nations of the world, so far as the rates on American products are concerned, there is reason to believe that the government officials regard them as eminently satisfactory. A semi-official statement is made, however, that from this time forward, from 40 to 50 per cent of the products of the United States will be admitted to foreign countries free of duty, and that of the American products which pay a duty in foreign countries, 89 per cent will be entitled to the minimum rates; a large proportion of these products hitherto have paid the minimum rates."

THE CANADIAN tariff settlement is regarded as the most important of all. The Associated Press correspondent says: "The unofficial story of the negotiations with Canada looking to the settlement, announced today, by which Canada is declared entitled to the minimum rates of the Payne-Aldrich law, is perhaps more interesting than the specific announcement, as to just what articles are included in the concessions granted on either side. President Taft, from the first, did not hesitate to let it be known that he would go a long way to avoid a tariff war with Canada. Such a war, he believed, would fall heavily upon the American interests. It was the president who took the initiative in inviting Finance Minister Fielding to Albany to discuss the differences between the two countries. The exchange of views at Albany was such as to indicate that peace was assured. The charge that Canada was unduly discriminatory against the United States, originally grew out of the Canadian treaty with France, whereby the latter country was given a reduction of from 2½ to 5 per cent. President Taft did not take the view that this was discriminatory, inasmuch as France in return offered to Canada a similar reduction of rates.

The United States never having offered concessions to Canada, Mr. Taft said, could not expect such preferential treatment on the other side. There stood in the way, however, the fact that the reductions granted by Canada to France were automatically applied to thirteen other countries, included in Great Britain's 'favored nation' policy. This the president held did not amount to discrimination against the United States. President Taft made the proposition that Canada would be absolved from 'undue discrimination' against the United States if this country were given a 2½ per cent reduction on the articles in which American firms compete with the 'favored nations' in the Canadian market. The dominion government finally agreed and on these terms, the settlement was reached. Thus, while the reductions actually applied only to something like three per cent of American exports to Canada, the large part of the exports are in the non-competitive classes, where America would have the market, anyway. Canada conceded thirteen numbers to the United States, the thirteenth being a 'basket' or omnibus clause, which includes a host of articles, among which cotton seed oil is one of the heaviest exports. As to wood pulp and print paper, some criticism has been leveled at the president. It was officially stated at the White House today that these items did not, and could not enter into the negotiations. The rates and terms of duty on wood and wood pulp are fixed in the tariff law, and can not be made the subject of negotiation, or discretionary action on the part of the president."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT reached Rome April 3 and immediately trouble was brewing. He wanted an audience with the pope but it was made a condition that he must not address the Methodist society. American Catholics sought to have the vatican change its attitude. This was without effect and Mr. Roosevelt did not get to see the pope. Mr. Roosevelt telegraphed Dr. Lyman Abbott, editor of the Outlook, the following statement: "Through the Outlook I wish to make a statement to my fellow Americans regarding what has occurred in connection with the vatican. I am sure that the great majority of my fellow citizens, Catholics quite as much as Protestants, will feel that I acted in the only way possible for an American to act, and because of this very fact, I most earnestly hope that the incident will be treated in a matter-of-course way, as merely personal, and, above all, as not warranting the slightest exhibition of rancor or bitterness. Among my best and closest friends are many Catholics. The respect and regard of those of my fellow Americans who are Catholics are as dear to me as the respect and regard of those who are Protestants. On my journey through Africa I visited many Catholic as well as many Protestant missions. As I look forward to telling the people at home all that has been done by Protestants and Catholics, as I saw it, in the field of missionary endeavor, it would cause me a real pang to have anything said or done that would hurt or give pain to my friends, whatever their religious belief. But any personal considerations are of no consequence in this matter. The important consideration is the avoidance of harsh and bitter comment, such as may excite mistrust and anger among good men. The more an American sees of other countries, the more profound must be his feeling of gratitude, that in his own land there is not only complete toleration, but the heartiest good will and sympathy between sincere and honest men of different faiths—good will and sympathy so complete that in the innumerable daily relations of our American life, Catholics and Protestants meet together, and work together without thought of the difference in creed being ever present in their minds. This is a condition so vital to our national well-being that nothing should be permitted to keep it different. Bitter comment, and criticism, acrimonious attack and defense, are not only profitless, but harmful; and to seize upon such an incident as this as an occasion for controversy would be wholly indefensible, and should be frowned upon by Catholics and Protestants alike, and all good Americans."