

# CURRENT TOPICS

FRANCIS WAYLAND GLEN of Brooklyn, N. Y., writes to the New York World to say: "Justice John M. Harlan has never rendered a decision since he became a member of the supreme court of this republic unjust to the masses. He has been a member of that court since 1877. He therefore has served human liberty for thirty-one years as a member of the highest judicial court in the world. He has been weighed in the balance and not found wanting. He has never betrayed his trust as a justice of the people for all of the people. He will fill the office of president of this republic with dignity, sincerity and rare ability. He will unite as a candidate the Lincoln, Seward, Sumner, Greeley republicans and the Dix, Stanton, Randall, Dana democrats. As these form the vast majority of the electorate, his election, if nominated, will be a foregone conclusion."

THE GREENWICH (Conn.) correspondent for the New York World tells this interesting story: "Two starving chickens, hatched only a few days ago, were found today by James J. Nedley, of Byram Shore, when he drove a mothering pigeon off the nest. She still takes care of her foster children, as far as warmth goes, but has not acquired a hen's knack of feeding them. Nedley is a hen and pigeon breeder on a small scale. Both species are kept in the same house. A hen recently showed a great love for flying and its wings were clipped. It must have been this hen which flew to the nest higher up and laid two eggs. How could a dove, proverbially gentle, refuse to accept the burden thus placed on it by a giddy, fly-away mother? Accepting the setting, a dove kept at its task until two young chickens appeared. 'I had hard work to drive her off,' said Mr. Nedley. 'Talk about your angry lions! Well, now, that dove!'"

THE NATIONAL association for the study and prevention of tuberculosis has issued an interesting bulletin from which the following extracts are taken: "Consumption among Japanese laborers is increasing to such a degree that the figures are becoming a source of anxiety to Japanese merchants and officials. A large percentage of laborers who are sent back to Japan by the Japanese charity associations are consumptives. It is claimed by the Japanese newspapers commenting on this matter, that through the lack of hospital accommodations in the Japanese labor camps tuberculosis increases at an alarming rate. They suggest that a new system be employed in dealing with the sick in these camps, as the Japanese are quite ignorant of even the most simple health safeguards. There are in the United States 298 sanatoria, 222 dispensaries and 290 associations for the treatment or prevention of tuberculosis, while there are 600,000 cases of this disease in the country. It is estimated by the United States conservation commission that this country loses annually \$1,000,000,000 from preventable tuberculosis. For the past three years a persistent crusade has been waged against consumption amongst postoffice employees in France. Under these efforts, the number of cases has diminished 50 per cent, having been in 1906, 1,048 cases; in 1907, 808 cases, and last year the number fell to 505. The municipal authorities of Berlin have decided to introduce another feature in the municipal administration of tuberculosis. Heretofore municipal effort has been confined to the maintenance of one or two homes for curable consumptives, but it is recognized that, as useful as this is, it alone can not cope with this disease. They have resolved, therefore, to devote more attention to preventive measures. In England, in addition to other efforts to combat tuberculosis, a unique project is being placed on foot, to put into commission a sailing ship sanatorium for persons suffering with tuberculosis. Germany has eighty-two sanatoria for tuberculosis, which hold over 20,000 poor consumptives; the cost of each sanatorium is about \$100,000. Through organized effective methods, Germany has reduced the death rate from consumption by one-half throughout the nation. In the German

army, tuberculosis has diminished 42 per cent during the past twenty years (from 3.3 per cent per thousand to 1.9 per cent per thousand of the effective force)."

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON has drawn upon himself considerable criticism because of a speech in which he lauded Jack Johnson, the negro prize fighter. Speaking before the Negro Business League of New York City Washington referred to the "proper pride and self assertiveness of the colored champion of our race." Referring to Washington's speech the New York World says: "Although the name of the prize fighter was not mentioned from the pulpit, the pointed reference to him was greeted with wild applause and cries of 'Oh you, Jack,' interspersed with moans for 'poor Mistah Jeffries.' Mr. Washington was dwelling upon the necessity of the negroes respecting themselves if they ever expected to get others to respect them. 'The value of this self-respect,' said the educator, 'was shown in a little job which a member of our family did a short while ago down in Australia. He held his head up. He asserted his worth and when his friends tried to warn him that he could never get fair play in a white man's country, that the 'color line' would be drawn on him, he said, 'To — with the color line; bet every dollar you can lay your hands on that I will turn the trick.' The result was that by holding up his head and demanding the respect that was his due, he won a magnificent victory. If he had gone to Australia and cringed and whimpered about not getting fair play, do you suppose for a minute that he would have got it? Not a bit of it.' A few minutes later, in speaking of a great reputation which he said he had acquired as a fighter in his boyhood days, Mr. Washington said it was because he never fought with any boy who was not smaller than himself and whom he was not sure he could 'lick.' 'I measured them up first,' he said, 'and I was always mighty careful not to fight with boys bigger than I was. When I fought a boy and saw that he was afraid of me I knew that I could best him. The only ones I was ever afraid of were the boys who stood up with square shoulders and looked me straight in the eye.'"

JOHN NORRIS, representing the American Newspaper Publishers Association, sent to Senator Root a letter relating to paper and pulp tariff. In this letter Mr. Norris urges that the newspaper and periodical publishing constituency in New York employs 30,927 people and spends \$27,679,000 a year in wages and salaries while the paper making business in New York employs only 6,976 people and expends only \$3,600,000 in wages and salaries; the average compensation in the paper making business being \$1.65 and in the publishing business \$2.87 per day. Insisting that the cost per ton of producing print paper is higher in the Canadian mills than in the United States, Mr. Norris presents statistics from a wide range of sources, official and unofficial, representing examinations of books, government inquiries in this and other countries, statements of manufacturers, etc. These show the United States price to range (exclusive of interest and depreciation) from \$23 to \$30.50, while the Canadian mills are credited with costs of \$34.41 at the Booth, \$32.65 at the Canada Paper company, and \$31.08 at the Belgo-Canadian mills. Finally, as to Sweden, the one European competitor to be considered, the Swedish government report shows a cost of \$37.52 per ton. The Baltic paper, Mr. Norris urges, is slivery and of inferior quality because not made of so good wood as American paper. The \$2 tariff provided in the house bill, plus the advantage in favor of American makers in freight rates and the removal of the Canadian stumpage tax, which the house bill contemplates, it is found that the Canadians have a total handicap of \$3.10, aside from the fact that their production is more expensive. The labor cost of producing a ton of paper is given for three Canadian mills as \$9.05, \$8.62 and \$8.72 respectively;

for four American mills, as \$8.33, \$6.89, \$8.52 and \$8.43, and for Sweden as \$8.22. Mr. Norris points out the grave danger of embroiling Canada and the United States in commercial warfare unless reasonable consideration be given to Canadian sensibilities in this tariff adjustment. "Are we to start upon a retaliatory and industrial warfare," he demands, "to insure another lease of opportunity for these groups of law-breakers who have done violence to every sound principle of trade in their efforts to crush competition, to restrict production, and to impose upon the people a monopoly of an article that is essential to the dissemination of knowledge?" Mr. Norris makes a bitter attack upon the International Paper company, declaring that it brought together a lot of antiquated mills and immensely overcapitalized them, and now begs that there be no reduction of the tariff lest it wreck the company. "An appeal to sentiment is made," he says, "by the statement that some of the stock of the International is owned by women and that they would be injured by interference with the tariff on paper. The International was organized to unload a lot of old mills on investors. Mr. Chisholm and the other capitalists who financed that proposition and made it possible to sell worthless securities to gullible women, should be made to bear the burden of liability—not newspaper publishers."

THE CONFEDERATE reunion was held at Memphis, Tennessee. General George W. Gordon in his address of welcome to the confederate veterans said: "Comrades and Countrymen: A king, much less my humble self, might well be proud to stand, uncovered, before the venerable fragments of as brave and heroic armies as ever stormed a citadel, fought a battle or won a victory. Representatives from every battlefield from the Potomac to the Rio Grande are here. The followers of Lee and Jackson, Longstreet, Hill and Gordon, of Stewart and Hampton, are here. Soldiers who followed the two Johnstons, Bragg, Beauregard, Hood, Polk, Hardee, S. D. Lee, Buckner, Cheat-ham, Hindman, Walthill, Cleburne and Grandberry, Forrest, Wheeler, Morgan and VanDorn are here. Heroes that carried the flags of Kirby Smith and Price, McCullough, Cabell and Marmaduke, are here, as also perhaps seamen who were with Semmes, Maffett, Buchanan and other naval celebrities. I welcome and bow to the revered and honored remnants of armies that fought battles and won victories when barefooted, ragged and hungry, and we would marvel that men of such mold could never have been vanquished if we did not know that they were finally overpowered more by the vast preponderance of numbers and resources than by generalship, courage and prowess—more by famine than by fighting. When the disparity in men and means, in war facilities, appliances and resources of all kinds are considered, it must be admitted that the south made a gallant fight in defense of her right to independence. And I congratulate the survivors of her passing armies, not only upon the gallant fight they made, but upon the justice of their cause. I have the fullest faith that posterity will honor and perpetuate the story of your just and heroic struggle; and though our hearts are beating slower than they did in the wild, stirring days of other years, every throb is a conscious memory of a right and an honorable cause. No right cause can ever die."

## FOES

Senator Borah, in defending the lumber tax, declared that "the greatest foes to the protective policy are found in the ranks of protectionists who would always make exceptions." And the advocates of free lumber might have retorted that the hardest load the protective policy has to carry is the well-grounded accusation that high tariff bills are made by a few privileged individuals who levy a tribute on the rest of the country. By the way, does the record show any acquaintance between Senator Borah and the lumber barons?