

CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICA.

(By letter dated April 10th, from our New York correspondent.)

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTE.

The Carnegie Institute in Pittsburg, which in connection with the opening of the new six-million-dollar main building has become famous in every country, is now the collective name for a whole series of Institutes: the Natural History museum, a picture gallery, a library, an institute of Music, and the Carnegie technical schools. All these have a Board of Trustees, or administrative council, in common. The library contains over 250,000 volumes, while the picture gallery occupies two gigantic halls and represents a fabulous value. Over the chief gate of the new main building stands the inscription: "This building, dedicated to Literature, Science, and Art, is the gift of Andrew Carnegie to the people of Pittsburg." The main building is 400 feet long and 600 feet broad. For the whole group of beautiful buildings now existing under the common name of the Carnegie Institute Pittsburg has to thank the liberality of Carnegie who feels himself specially drawn to the place in that it was smoky Pittsburg, with its gigantic iron and steel industry, in which he worked himself up to his position of American Captain of Industry, and laid the foundation of his gigantic fortune. Carnegie the Steel King has already presented the city with a total sum of over 32,000,000 dollars, about 19 millions having been employed for the various departments of the Institute. It was ten years ago that Carnegie made his first gift to the town, viz. a million dollars for a library. The collection of books increased so quickly that it had to be housed in much bigger rooms. The library building was then turned into the now completed main building. Its construction commenced two years ago, and it is a beautiful marble building of the first rank. Smoky Pittsburg can now point to a home of intellect and science than which none more magnificent, more brilliant, or more perfect can be found in any town of the world.

Both the exterior and the inside arrangements of the new building display a unique magnificence, costly marble having been used in its construction. The walls of the Reception Hall are built of green marble from the island of Tinos, those of the vestibules of the various departments being made of Sienna marble. Pentelicon marble from Greece adorns the walls of the Sculpture hall, while the magnificent smoking room is walled with red marble from Africa. All the floors are made of white marble from Belgium and Norway.

The Directors and teachers of the Institute in due course receive pensions and in cases of need their widows also are pensioned. Every year the sum of half a million dollars is placed at the disposal of the Trustees to defray expenses.

Carnegie, who has already given away countless millions, was only 11 years old when he first came with his parents to Pittsburg from Scotland. He first worked as a weaver's apprentice, and then became a messenger boy to a Telegraph Company. He then entered the service of the Pennsylvania Railway as a telegraph operator, and rose to be Superintendent. It was not until after the Civil War, in which he was Superintendent of the military railways and telegraphs of the East, that he directed his attention to the iron industry. In 1868 he introduced the Bessemer process in the manufacture of steel, and thereby laid the foundations of his fortune. He became interested in various iron and steel companies which in 1899 were amalgamated as the Carnegie Steel Company; this with other steel companies eventually became the United States Steel-Corporation. For the last six years Carnegie has not been actively interested in business. It has been estimated that he has donated, for libraries and scientific institutions here and in Great Britain, over 80,000,000 dollars.

"ROOSEVELT" THE RALLYING-CRY.

Not very long ago President Roosevelt stated, through his private secretary Mr. Loeb, that he could not imagine any combination of circumstances which would induce him to retract his declaration, made on the eve of his election as President, that he would never again be a candidate for the Presidential office. The Roosevelt-Harriman controversy, however, has now, some sixteen months before the next Presidential campaign, created an interesting situation. This controversy, painful as it was, has been able to detract but little from the popularity of the President. The actual points of the controversy have already been forgotten owing to the statement that various financial magnates have formed a conspiracy against the President, and have already subscribed a sum of 5 million dollars which will be employed in an energetic campaign against the President and Rooseveltism. The conspirators are said to have the intention of working with the object of being able to dominate the next Republican National Convention, and even of settling who the next candidate for the Presidency is to be. President Roosevelt has

already shown that in the selection of a candidate he has an important word to utter. It naturally concerns him that a candidate should be chosen of whom he knows that as President he will carry on his policy, viz. that of Rooseveltism, on his own lines; but that is exactly what the conspirators wish to avoid. The whole story of the conspiracy, which is not lacking in romance, is described on the Democrat side as a trick invented to divert attention from the controversy. The story of the discovery of the conspiracy may, it is true, have been told to the President in a way not quite in accordance with the actual facts. A Federal Senator, who is said to have given information of the conspiracy when in a postprandial mood after a banquet, has already denied the story. It is, however, a fact that the controversy with Harriman betokens the first shot in an anti-Roosevelt campaign on the part of interests to which the trust-, railway-, and other policy of the President are by no means comfortable. Even if Rooseveltism is now and then described as precipitate and radical, and that, too, only because evils which have existed for decades are now suddenly with one blow to be hurried out of existence, this policy is only a concession to public opinion, which President Roosevelt knows how to interpret better than any of his predecessors. That is the whole secret of his popularity and of public condonation of every phase of his policy. For the last few years public opinion has looked somewhat askance at the great corporations and capitalism, and for this the revelations as to the manner in which the great financiers speculate with money entrusted to them, and their whole manner of conducting business, are largely to blame.

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The news that a combination is working against the President has had the consequence that from all sides politicians are swarming to Washington to assure the President of their unswerving loyalty. One thing the opponents of the President have certainly achieved by their anti-Roosevelt campaign. They have brought it about that the cry is going up from all sides that the President must also be the next President. A circular sent to the Republican editors of the country has shown that the President was never so popular as now. Many, indeed, assert that the President, or rather his friends, have invented the story of the five-million dollar fund in order to make it possible for the President to create the impression that the reactionaries in the Republican party desire to throw his whole policy overboard, and to enable him, in spite of his reported declarations that he would not stand again, to come forward as a candidate. The interesting situation now is this, that the Presidential campaign is actually beginning already, and that in spite of the strong pro-Roosevelt movement in all the States, there now comes from the White House, for the so-and-so-many hundredth time, the statement that the President will not after all again stand for office.

The louder the cry that ascends for Roosevelt the stronger becomes the determination of the War Secretary, Mr. Taft, to continue his candidature for the Presidency. He is from every point of view the incarnation of Rooseveltism.

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Medical College (Dental Department).
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CHURCH SERVICES.

ALL SAINTS' (ENGLISH) CHURCH!

Wiener Strasse.

Thursday, April 25th. *S. Mark's Day.* 8.0 a.m.
Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins.
Friday, April 26th. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
Chaplain: The Rev. C. A. Moore, M. A., B. C. L.
Hon. assistant Chaplain: The Rev. M. S. Farmer, M. A.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

Reichsplatz 5, at the head of Reichs Strasse.
Friday, April 26th. Litany 10.0 a.m.
The Rev. J. F. Butterworth, M. A., Rector.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

Bernhard Strasse 2, at corner of Bismarck Strasse and Winckelmann Strasse.—Services every Sunday at 11.0 a.m. Communion on the first Sunday of the month.—The Rev. J. Davis Bowden, Minister, Bernhard Strasse 2, I.

GAGGING THE CONFERENCE.

Considerable dissatisfaction is being expressed in England at the action of the Government in refusing to allow the discussions at the Colonial Conference to be carried on in public. This action is the more remarkable, in that the Colonial Premiers have one and all expressed themselves in favour of the fullest publicity. The Government has been pleased to admit full freedom of discussion to the Conference, but what it gives with one hand it takes away with the other, and by refusing to admit reporters and the public it altogether discounts the value of such permission. Official summaries of the proceedings are indeed issued, but no one attaches much weight to resolutions, however pregnant their contents; it is the arguments which led to the adoption of these resolutions and the speeches in which these arguments were conveyed to the Conference that would excite indignation or arouse enthusiasm. The reasons for the Government's action, which is insulting to the Conference itself, inasmuch as the serious deliberations of the responsible heads of the self-governing Colonies are at the mercy of a Civil Service clerk, as far as publicity goes, are not far to seek. Both in their own countries and in England since they have been there, the Colonial Premiers have expressed themselves, not once, but often and with emphasis, in favour of Colonial preference. But this idea is anathema to a Government whose Chancellor of the Exchequer could not introduce his budget without a long digression as to the blessings of Free Trade, which he described as the breath of life. Mr. Asquith stated that in the recent controversy Protection presented itself to the electors in its most questionable and vulnerable shape. He claimed that it was entangled from the first, and ultimately strangled by being bound up with the taxation of corn and meat, and it would have had the inevitable consequence of taxing the raw materials of the various industries. This it was that, according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, killed Protection. It seems an unusually bold statement to make, that Protection is killed at all. Gathered together at the Conference are the Prime Ministers of the young countries, all vastly bigger than England, and their Prime Ministers are one and all of opinion that Protection is by no means dead. But while Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman and his associates cannot help their Colonial guests holding these very inconvenient views, they can, and are determined to prevent the public expression of them at the Conference. Whatever is said about Protection and Preference will be watered down to a few stereotyped phrases in the bald summary of the proceedings which is all that is issued for the delectation of the public. That same public, however, even if it is debarred from all knowledge as to what goes on at the Conference, is able to gather the views of the country's distinguished guests from their utterances at the interminable series of feasts through which they are gallantly eating their way. Both Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Joseph Ward, speaking at the luncheon given them by the Imperial Industries Club on Saturday, spoke in no uncertain terms in favour of Preference. Mr. Moor, representing Natal, in pointing out that this colony imported more English manufactured goods and commodities than any other colony, took occasion to warn those who controlled the industries of the home country that the foreign competitors were knocking harder every minute at the door of Natal. With regard to preference, while they in Natal had granted it to England, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, it was with them no longer a theory but a conviction. Speeches such as these are doubtless unpleasant reading for the Radical Government with their parochial, as opposed to an Imperial attitude, but comforting themselves with the idea that post-prandial orations are not always taken very seriously and to prevent such heresies, even if uttered at the Conference, being published abroad, they resort to the expedient which they have frequently found of such assistance in Parliament: the use of the gag.

MALIGNANT CRUELTY.

The bakers' strike in Paris has produced at least one outrage of a fiendishly cruel description. While a non-striking baker was at work in one of the bakeries, sulphuric acid was thrown on him through one of the ventilators, burning the poor fellow so badly about the head and face that permanent disfigurement, if not disablement is inevitable. The deed has aroused so much anger in Paris that one leader-writer, more given to striving after effect than to solid reasoning, openly declares that the time is coming when combinations for the enforcement of condign punishment outside the law will have to be formed. The argument for a *Vehmgericht* in the twentieth century, strange under any circumstances, seems especially so in a country which hesitates between "Yes" and "No" in upholding the legal death penalty.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.
Moderate southerly winds, fairly bright, mostly dry, temperature not much altered.

In the is called ment ma columns the effect have at the power the Comr good cam not perfe the newly Peers or to serve the Radie stituencies Governme fied retice be that th destined t should th ceed in i draw mu Those jou that it is the jeun should be is obviou their, rusl will conti sessed by date prin of hand. form a n Scotland, sibility of adopted a groups of unwieldy ejaculate of Lords' Governme many pol to Radica by no me of the U ment tha ducing to existence bold wate instance Peers, an impossible the last who, tra be in th keepers; is believe been impl debar hin has ever Members for its a being rec peculiarly ment of t by accide House of stitution nation, th were a s The sugg eently by that may House o peerages a limited and the advantage to these l peers, an element; Chamber all right-matter a the Gover lately dis however a House wi measure the three tion, and tions, no question about.