

## CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICA.

(By letter dated November 30th, from our New York correspondent.)

## THE DUTIES OF THE PRESS.

The importance of the public Press in America is a matter of common knowledge. It is extremely powerful as the mirror of public opinion. From time to time, however, it comes into conflict with it, and so it has happened that just those candidates for political offices were elected by a large majority of votes who had been characterized by the whole Press or part of it as unworthy public officials. These occasional conflicts are often enough a breach of those duties imposed upon the Press by the very power of its position. In a public lecture on "Government by public opinion" the State Attorney, Mr. Bonaparte, dilated on the duties of the Press from a politico-ethical point of view. He said that the American reading public—and this is numbered by millions, for newspapers in America are not read but devoured—is very sensitive and soon discovers if the editor is an honourable servant of public opinion. The influence of a dishonourable

**Busch & Co.**  
Waisenhaus Strasse 25.  
Imported cigars. Havana cigars at old prices in spite of a 10% increase of cost.

editor soon wanes. With regard to an editor's position towards political life Mr. Bonaparte said: Every editor is a politician or, at all events, ought to be. If he has no fixed views on all questions of public interest, and if he is not in a position to give expression to those views, he has no right to be an editor, for he is no editor but is only endeavouring to give himself out as one. As a matter of fact, an editor is a politician, whether he will or not. Even if he does not comment on matters connected with politics his very silence is a method of dealing with them. If his action or his inaction, his speech or his silence is influenced by the object of forwarding not the common weal but his own individual interests, he is himself a highly undesirable part of that which must be reformed. The first duty of the Press is to hold up a true mirror before the people; if it shows distorted reflections, it is a traitor to its confidential position. No worthy aim can be attained by deception, whether we deceive ourselves or others. Americans can confidently say: "We will know the truth, and the truth shall make us free."

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## THE PANAMA CANAL MAKES GOOD PROGRESS.

The Panama Canal Commission has just issued a detailed report as to the progress made with the construction of the Panama Canal during the Fiscal year ending June 30, 1907. During the year 5,570,432 cubic yards of gravel and earth were excavated. This work was carried out with the help of 63 steam excavators, 284 locomotives and 4,703 tilting trucks. The Canal construction now employs 500 European and 13,625 West Indian navvies. In the Canal zone 15 hotels for American (white) labourers are to be found, in which good meals can be obtained for 30 cents; besides these there are also 18 eating houses for whites. For the West Indian labourers 23 kitchens have been erected. Apart from the 50,000,000 dollars paid to the French Company and to the Republic of Panama for the acquisition of the Canal zone and for the material already on the spot, the American Government has, up to the present, expended 48,285,110 dollars on the Canal construction, the estimated total cost of which is 139,703,200 dollars. In the estimate, however, no account was taken of the expenditure on sanitation in the administration of the Canal zone, on the new equipment of the Panama railway, and other undertakings. The proposal to widen the Canal locks to 110 ft. in order that ships of the greatest beam may be able to pass without difficulty will be the subject of a special report of the Commission. The proposal to widen the locks was made after the building of the latest ocean greyhounds.

**Home School for Girls** — Villa Angelika —  
61, Schnorr Strasse.  
Speciality: Good German spoken and taught by the Principals (North Germans). Limited number of Boarders. Day-pupils received. Choice of school-course or private lessons. First class Music and Painting. French by a Parisian.

## A REAL MUNICIPAL BAND.

Chicago, the windy city, rejoices in a musical band of Common Councilmen. One of Chicago's Councilmen discovered by chance that many of his colleagues possessed musical talent. The idea at

once occurred to him of forming a Councilmen's Band which is to make its debut at the forthcoming city ball in January. It will play the music for the grand parade with which the German Mayor of Chicago, with his colleague the Mayor of Milwaukee, will open the ball. Absence from the ball on the part of any member of the band entails a fine of 100 dollars.

## The Royal Court Pharmacy.

English and American Dispensary.  
Prescriptions—Patent medicines—Mineral-waters  
Schloss Strasse, opposite the Royal castle

## OKLAHOMA INCORPORATED IN THE UNION.

Oklahoma, the latest Federal State of the American Union, is made up of the former territories of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. A special ceremony was connected with the signing by the President in the White House of the State Constitution of Oklahoma, which gives it the full rights of a Federal State.

In the presence of a number of members of Congress, Federal officials and representatives of the Press, the President signed the document with a pen made of the pin-feather of an American eagle. The President's proclamation merely announced that sufficient had been done to satisfy all legal requirements for the admittance of the new State and that in accordance with the State's Constitution the introduction and sale of alcoholic drinks in the new State is forbidden. Oklahoma's population, which is overwhelmingly Democratic, numbers 1,408,732 souls; its area of 70,430 square miles is greater than that of Ohio and Indiana put together. Its petroleum industry is developed to such an extent that the State contributes 20% of America's petroleum production. The State yields yearly 97 million bushels of maize, 30 million bushels of wheat, 10 million bushels of oats and 670,000 bales of cotton. Of live stock the State contains 1,500,000 cattle, 650,000 horses, 600,000 pigs, 150,000 mules and 85,000 sheep. It has also large deposits of minerals of all kinds.

## ENGLISH EGGS FOR AMERICA.

The S. S. "Majestic" on her latest trip to New York brought the unusual cargo of 1,327 cases of eggs, imported from England by New York firms on account of the high prices of eggs here. It is some decades since eggs were imported from abroad.

**A chain instead of swivels**  
The best spectacles for nervous people and for ladies, and especially suitable as working spectacles.  
Sold by  
**GEBRÜDER ROETTIG, Court opticians,**  
5, Prager Strasse 5, Dresden.  
**OTTO WALTER, Optician,**  
Waisenhaus Str. 40, corner Georg Platz, Dresden.

**"Oculi"**  
gesetzlich geschützt.  
Deutsches Reichs Patent  
-175913-  
Patentiert in  
Oesterreich Ungarn.

## THE DANGER OF FOOTBALL.

The Americans are known the world over as friends of sport in all its branches, and the more personal courage and daring a sport requires, the more popular it is. The fact that a sport demands its victims makes it none the less popular. As far as the number of the victims goes football easily takes the lead, encouraging as it does rough methods that shrink from nothing. Various sports are frequently carried on purely professionally, and each University, college school and other institution has its football and baseball team. Educational establishments two years ago issued new rules for football in consequence of the various deaths and injuries due to the rough way the game was played. It is now stated with some satisfaction that in the present football season only 10 deaths have occurred, while 98 players have received injuries. The rage for betting goes hand in hand with this rage for sport. The American's love of a wager crops up in all kinds of matters. His every other word is "I bet you." The betting craze is especially noticeable, of course, in connection with horse racing, and it is estimated that Americans wager on an average 25 million dollars annually on horses.

## THE BOSS AND HIS PATRONAGE.

Patronage plays a great rôle in the political life of America. A political "boss" sees his political influence soon disappear if he has no patronage i. e. political offices to bestow on his loyal followers. Politics for these political bosses and their adherents form a pure matter of business. In conferring a political office on an adherent a politician obtains a certain influence over him. The distribution of patronage belongs, of course, only to those politicians who have emerged triumphant from the polling booths. The greatest controversies often arise as to the distribution of this patronage. For example, the Federal Senators Kittredge and Gamble, of South-Dakota, were unable recently to come to

an agreement as to the partition of patrodane, i. e. Federal offices in their State. Each of them desired to reserve as many offices as possible for his own friends. President Roosevelt heard of their controversy and summoned them both to his presence. He determined to leave the partition of the offices to chance. The names of the offices to be distributed were written upon a piece of paper. Then, taking a silver coin from his pocket, the President decreed that it must be thrown into the air for each office; it was agreed that if the coin came down "heads", Senator Kittredge should be allowed to dispose of the office in question, Senator Gamble having the same privilege when "tails" was called. In this curious way the allotment of all the offices was decided and both Senators expressed their complete satisfaction with the decision of the Goddess Fortune.

**A. K. JANSON, American Dentist.** Graduate from Chicago College of Dental Surgery  
Dresden, Prager Strasse 10, I.  
Specialist in straightening teeth.

## CHURCH SERVICES: DRESDEN.

ALL SAINTS' (ENGLISH) CHURCH, Wiener Strasse.  
Friday, December 20th. *Ember Day.* 10.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins, Litany 3.0 p.m. Confirmation Instruction. 5.0 p.m. Choir Practice.  
Saturday, December 21st. *St. Thomas, Ap. and M. Ember Day.* 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 10.0 a.m. Matins.  
Sunday, December 22nd. *IV. Sunday in Advent.* 8.0 a.m. and 10.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins, Sermon. 6.0 p.m. Evensong.  
Monday, December 23rd. 10.0 a.m. Matins.  
Tuesday, December 24th. *Christmas Eve, or Vigil of the Nativity!* 10.0 a.m. Matins. 6.0 p.m. Festal or first Evensong of Christmas: Carols.  
Wednesday, December 25th. *Christmas Day. The Nativity of our blessed Lord according to the Flesh.* Offertories for the Continental Chaplaincies' Aid Fund, the Poor and General Expenses. 8.0 a.m., 9.0 a.m., 10.0 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 11.0 a.m. Matins, Sermon, Carols. 4.30 p.m. Evensong.  
Thursday, December 26th. *S. Stephen: The Protomartyr.* 10.15 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins.  
Friday, December 27th. *S. John, A. E. and M.* 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 10.0 a.m. Matins, Litany. 5.0 p.m. Choir Practice.  
Saturday, December 28th. *Holy Innocents' Day.* 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 10.0 a.m. Matins.  
Chaplain: The Rev. C. A. Moore, M. A., B. C. L.

**The International Pharmacy**  
**Reichs-Apotheke**  
Grande Pharmacie Internationale  
THE LEADING PHARMACY FOR FOREIGNERS  
Dresden, Bismarckplatz 10, Next to the Hauptbahnhof.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, Reichs Platz 5, at the head of Reichs Strasse.  
Friday, December 20th. Litany 10.0 a.m. Junior Auxiliary 3.0 p.m.  
Sunday, December 22nd. *IV. Sunday in Advent.* Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. Sunday School 10.0 a.m. Morning Service and Sermon 11.0 a.m. Afternoon Service and address 5.30 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 25th. *Christmas Day.* Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. Service and Holy Communion 11.0 a.m.  
Friday, December 27th. Christmas Tree Festal for Poor 3.0 p.m.  
The Rev. J. F. Butterworth, M. A., Rector.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Bernhard Strasse 2, at corner of Bernhard and Winkelmann Strasse.  
Services every Sunday at 11.0 a.m. Communion on the first Sunday of the month.  
At the request of the Committee of the Church in Scotland, the Rev. Dr. Simon will conduct the services until January, when the minister appointed to take charge arrives.

## BRITISH AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BRITISH LEGATION: Wiener Strasse 38.—Minister Resident: MANSFELD DE CARDONNEL FINDLAY, Esq. C. M. G.  
THE BRITISH CONSULATE Altmarkt 16.—British Consul: H. PALMIÉ, Esq.  
THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL: Ammon Str. 2, p. American Consul-General: T. ST. JOHN GAFFNEY, Esq.

## PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF ABSINTHE.

A movement is on foot in Switzerland for the prohibition of absinthe. A petition has been formulated, and the Federal Council have proposed to the Chambers of Deputies that the question should be submitted to the vote of the various communes and cantons for decision, with, however, a recommendation that the petition should be rejected.

## RATHER MISLEADING.

The headline "TURKEX MOBILISING" (until we realised that it referred to North Persian operations) suggested that some malcontent of the poultry-run had at last decided to rebel this Christmas.

## WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.  
Variable winds, snow at first, clearing up later, temperature nearly at the freezing point.