

Published Tuesdays and Fridays by GAZETTE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

The Subscription price of the GAZETTE for several years has been, and remains \$1.00 per annum, or 25 per cent. discount if paid in advance. This paper will be continued until all arrearages are paid.

THE REASON WHY.

Much ado is making by the press over the admirable speech recently made by the President at Nashville, Tennessee. It is a timely and brave statement of the President's purposes, set forth in clear, plain, direct and forcible English. It merits all praise. It makes no special appeal to man to support the presidential policies, yet it is the strongest, most effective appeal to all right-minded men to stand by the President. They are doing so. They will continue to do so.

This speech, possibly more than any other public utterance of Mr. Roosevelt, furnishes us the key to his wonderful popularity—a popularity equal to, but hardly exceeded by that of Washington, Jackson or Lincoln. As the people believed in Washington's patriotism and unbending integrity so they believe in Roosevelt's; as they believed in the courage, patriotism and honesty of Jackson and of Lincoln so they believe in Roosevelt's courage, patriotism and honesty. The simple, rugged, democratic characteristics of Jackson and of Lincoln identified them with the people and led the masses to regard them as but one of themselves.

So it is with Theodore Roosevelt. The people, the plain everyday, common people look on him as one of themselves. He has discovered no new law for the moral government of men. Neither have they. He believes

in the efficacy of those laws which were communicated to Moses amid the thunders and lightnings of Sinai. So do they. His policy looks to the enforcement of those laws, hence they approve it.

It is said it requires courage for public men to take such a stand as the President takes. Perhaps it does. But why should it? Leading a regiment into battle requires both physical and moral courage, but when its commander sees a thousand glistening bayonets following his lead he would be a sorry coward if he faltered.

The President practically has the whole American people at his back and he cannot falter. He is not more courageous than multitudes of his fellow citizens. He has no greater reverence for nor attachment to the requirements of the decalogue than have millions of Americans. His ideals and leading characteristics are American, democratic, and identify him as one of the people. He represents and stands for those things in which the people believe and which they desire. His fidelity to those things explains their attitude toward him. Any other man equally exponential of American ideals, purposes and conscience would be as popular as he. It is his good fortune that he, like Lincoln, sees the public conscience right, knows the people and trusts them.

It would be dark a day for the republic if the mass of the people should not be found in full accord with whoever stood up to battle for truth, justice and righteousness in both social and civic life.

RECKLESS OF LIFE.

There is no civilized people on earth so utterly reckless of human life as the American people. As individuals we are reckless of

our own life and continually heedless of that of others. Whether our objective be sport, pleasure or business we rush forward at a mad pace which is fraught with imminent peril to ourselves and to all who are in our path.

Passing by the long and ghastly list of fatalities occurring in the domains of sport and pleasure, we find almost every industrial pursuit is attended by a fearful destruction of human life.

The American Institute of Social Service reports that nearly 537,000 people are killed or maimed annually in American industrial pursuits. These figures are appalling. We cannot grasp them. Think of the OAC cadet corps, 500 strong, every one of them lying on the campus dead or maimed for life. Now increase this number 1074 times and we have an annual number of death-dealing and incapacitating casualties attending our industrial pursuits. We could not and would not long conduct a war resulting in so great a number of casualties.

Much has been done by way of legislation to prevent or to minimize this waste of life and energy. Employes and owners operating mines and mills and factories have been compelled to adopt almost every conceivable safe-guard for the life and limb of their employes. They are made criminally liable to heavy fine or imprisonment or to both for their failure or neglect to do so, beside being liable to civil action for damages. The courts, too, by limiting and clearly defining contributing negligence on part of the employe, have aided to make the self-interests of employers an active agency for preventing conditions which menace the safety of their employes.

More remains to be done. But when all that legislation can do

has been done there will yet remain a long list of fatal or serious "accidents" to deal with. These are very largely the result of ignorance and of sheer recklessness on part of employes themselves. The green hand is ignorant of the dangers which surround him. He has to learn his duties and his place and the certain danger to himself and his fellow workmen if he neglect one or get out of the other. Rude, sharp, painful the warnings he must receive and the lesson he must learn before he moves with automatic unconcern and intelligence about his work. Some loose their life, others are maimed and but few pass this "learning process" unscathed. Those who do escape incapacitating "accident" have learned to keep their place and do their work whoever and whatever may be in their way.

Constant familiarity with danger begets contempt for it, reckless, heedless exposure to it and ultimate destruction of himself and possibly of some of his fellow workmen. There seems to be no way to avoid this. The oldest, most skilled and most intelligent workmen usually fall victims to their own negligence.

The disregard for human life that marks the American people is, without doubt, a legacy of our civil war. We have not emerged yet far enough to forget that it taught us that "one man killed does not count." Four years passed in killing and maiming men caused the value of human life to become a negligible quantity. This sentiment the survivors of the war carried, as employers or employes, into the pursuits of peace.

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