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ROOSEVELT IN DANGER.

It is not at all reassuring that Presiwhile comprehensive to the point of discursiveness, so far contain not the This cannot of course, be inadvertent. Its deliberation is clearly shown in the the principal question in the popular mind will be unsatisfactory and may sitive undertaking which enlightened public opinion requires of the Republi-McKinley in 1896 and 1900 to vote for a Democrat in 1904.

It is not to be supposed that President Roosevelt either understands or enjoys. cal details, its very prosaic obscurity, do not appeal to his imagination or stir his blood. Such utterances as he has made on the subject are perfunctory are chiefly embodied in his first message to Congress. At that time he enunciated as the cardinal principle of protec-"tion that "duties must never be reduced below the point that will cover the difprovise of the proper protection neces wary to our well-being at home, the principle of reciprocity must command our of our export trade emphasizes the urgency of the need for wider markets and for a liberal policy in dealing with foreign nations . . . To secure these markets we must utilize existing duties in any case where they are no longer needed for the purpose of protection,"

It is perfectly obvious that these s tences contain no original contribution to the subject, unless it be the irrele that the propositions laid down are valueless if not positively indefensible. Growth of export trade does not show reason for a change in order to get foreign markets, for if it showed anything it would show that we were doing quite well as it was. And the idea that tariff concessions abroad are to be secured by concessions that involve no sacrifice on our part is absolutely insupportable. Products that do not compete with our home industries are already on the free ilist or a purely revenue basis, for the simple reason that no suppliant has ever appeared before our tariff-makers with a plea for protection on something he does not produce. Nor are foreign nations to be bargained with on the basis of concessions that cost us nothing to give. Nothing that involves no sacrifice for us is of any value to them. The reciprocity treaties have been defeated by the opposition of those industries that were menaced by the proposed reductions on competitive products. Yet to this fundamental fallacy of reciprocity has the President been committed. He embraced it specifically in his first message to Congress, in which he maid:

sweeping revisions of the tariff are ant to pro-duce conditions approaching panic in the busi-ness world. Yet it is not only possible, but eminently desirable, to combine with the stability of our economic system a supplementary system of reciprocal benefit and obligation with other nations. Such reciprocity is an in-cident and result of the firm establishment and preservation of our present economic policy. It was especially provided for in our present tariff laws. Reciprocity must be treated as the handmaiden of protection. Our first duty is to see that protection granted by the tariff in every case where it is needed is maintained and that reciprocity be sought so far as it can enfely be done without injury to our home

It will be necessary for the President and his advisers to dismiss at once and for all the idea that tariff revision is to be accomplished through the medium unscientific, false in theory, pernicious criminating treaties. The object of at- ing to push a railroad into the Klicki- nearly all came from this country. Now

porations or rapacious producers, but River; and local movements in active the relief of the consumer and the

Treasury's need of revenue. The demand for tariff revision is the most pressing demand upon the United States Government. It cannot be juggled by Congress or evaded by the President without invitation to disaster, These things will be better understood by the time Congress meets in December. Then, it is reasonably certain, the discussion of the Congressional campaign will have demonstrated the temper of the people in terms too plain to be misunderstood. ----

OREGON IS GOING FORWARD. There can be no doubt that the in-

dustrial awakening of Oregon, so long hoped for and so long delayed, is at last coming about. It is manifest in a thousand circumstances whose meaning cannot be misinterpreted. In the first place, the country is extremely prosperous. Every local industry, new and old, is on a profit-yielding basis, and for the first time in the history of the country there is a definite and more or less A large section of the press of that active market for Western Oregon farm | state was engaged for many months in property. This is due in part to the derelopment of new industries like dairying and hopgrowing, and in very large and getting rid of the primary election measure to the fact that there are so agitation, of which he was the chief longer wide areas of Government apostle. The machine that controlled land which may be had by the new- the politics of the state for more than a comer for the taking. Settlers, who are generation, save for a short term of fore, no longer expect to find free lands. forces after the plan of Tammany, and Western Oregon, so long passed by bought important newspapers and put in Salt Lake by the Salt Lake News as a settled country, is not now neg- agitators in the field against the Gov lected for the newer districts. There is ernor and his hateful election reform. not a county from Portland south to the A bitter fight was waged, and every state line which is not feeling the im- possible advantage was taken of cirpulse of new blood and new capital, and cumstances that might weaken La Folwhere land values long reckoned on a lette's support. It was found possible nominal basis are not becoming active and available.

industrial and social character of the sacrifice of dignity, deny the relations just now has been the mainstay of the puted to them, because there was a country, is becoming a "back number," for the land can now be put to the success of both men seems inevita-more profitable uses; and it is found ble and the meddlesome politicians can in the bin can be used more profitably as a stock feed than sold to dent Roosevelt's New England speeches, culated to work a revolution in the Wil- Governor. The truth doubtless is that lamette Valley; and, in fact, it is already doing it. It is tending to break slightest reference to tariff revision, up the great grain farms and to give new value to the foothill and other pas- La Follette is in the old machine manture lands. While making room for rigor with which his references to reci- newcomers on the old and too-large trol that was established by the late procity are confined to the topic of farms, it is at the same time making Senator Sawyer many years ago. Re-Cuba. For him to persist in ignoring the original occupiers of the country more prosperous on smaller tracts.

In the forest districts there is an be dangerous. Tariff revision is the one activity such as the country never saw vent it. Mr. La Follette started the agibefore. Export mills have been put in wherever there is a supply of timber in can party today. It is, moreover, the the Lower Columbia and Coast reone achievement which in its default gions, and they are rapidly penetrating into the long-isolated regions of the He was nominated for Governor, and will tempt the independent voter who into the long-isolated regions of the elected Cleveland in 1884 and 1892 and Cascade Mountains. Mining, too, is contributing largely to the activities of | cally for primary nomination of candithe country. In Southern Oregon, par- dates for public office. A Republican ticularly in Josephine County, it is tearing down mountain sides and tunneling the tariff question. Its dry and techni- into the earth, employing a weight of that it failed miserably to perform its capital five times greater than ever before, and yielding returns which appear to be satisfactory to the operators. In Eastern Oregon mining has grown into and discover muddy thinking. They an industry of enormous proportions, bringing in a steady stream of new population and serving to stimulate every other interest. At Medford and Grant's Pass, at many points in the Willamette Valley, at Hood River and in the whole ference between the labor cost here and region of Northeastern Oregon, fruitabroad," and added: "Subject to this growing, with especial emphasis upon by those who have given no heed to its hearty support. The phenomenal growth development. These are the newer forms of activity in the country, and and increase rather than supersede the the appearance of discord between older types of our domestic industry. With the exception of wheatgrowing in may be robbed of the strength to carry the Willamette Valley, which is being replaced by more profitable uses of the land, no old form of production has de- and it is making a desperate fight for clined; in fact, every old industry is made more profitable by the larger and more active market which the newer operations have created, And the loss in wheat production in the Willamette is more than compensated directly by the broadening of the wheat area in Sherman and Umatilla Coun- thy with it. The Federal influence was ties and other districts east of the moun-

This development of the east-of-themountains country is worth special notice, for it is no small factor in the gen- Spooner was responsible for that. Preserally advancing condition of Oregon at | ident McKinley was not much inclined this time. In Sherman County, a re- to lend aid to political reforms, particgion which only a little while back was ularly where they eavored of innovaa sheep pasture, there has grown up a tion, and then the other Senator from great farming industry, this county Wisconsin, Quarles, is entirely in the alone yielding about one-sixth of the control of the machine. The fact of the whole wheat product of the state. And matter is that the differences between on to the south as far as Prineville, and Senator Spooner and Governor La Fol even beyond, settlers are coming in to lette are insignificant, but that the polioccupy the old ranges and to add their | ticians have sought in every manner industry to the productive and vital possible to introduce discord and aggraforce of the state. And in the remote Harney country, far away from any railroad and beyond the line where it has ever been supposed immigration would go for a century, the settler's cabin is dotting over the productive spaces and encroaching upon the wastes hitherto given over to the wide-reach-

ing range stock industry. Large capital is quick to heed move ments like these and to give its aid where returns may be had. Already it is busy with colossal schemes of irrigation throughout Eastern Oregon; and it is only a matter of a little time when the sage plains of Baker, Malheur and Crook Counties will cease to be deserts, of the island government. The duties to share with the naturally more-favored districts the advantages of population and the profits of production. Eastern Oregon, a land of incalculable potentialities, has long been retarded by isolation and the problems of irrigation, but its day is coming on rapidly, and the time is soon to come when it will be the most productive district of the state.

Capital in the hands of the railroadbuilder is active as never before. The of reciprocity treaties. It is dishonest, line of the Columbia Southern, which ton and pork, 50 per cent; sait pork, 100 has so promoted the development of per cent; bacon and ham, 50 per cent; in practice. Even if it were not all Sherman County, is about to be extendthis, experience should have taught us | ed into Crook and the region of the by this time that it is impossible of Upper Deschutes, and another branch is realization. The pending treaties can't planned to connect its southern termibe ratified. It is five years since the nus with The Dalles below the obstruc-Dingley law authorized them. It is tions to navigation a A little line of three years since they were signed by road is being actively pushed into the Kasson and pressed upon Congress by Nehalem country, from Columbia City, President McKinley, Their theory is the a point on the Columbia River some relief of certain selected exporters of thirty miles below Portland. Another surpluses at the expense of certain se- line is planned to connect Portland with lected producers of competitive arti- the Lower Nehalem and the long-negcles. They are excluded even by the lected Tillamook country. Coos Bay is fere with American export sales, espelimitation on "things we do not pro- the objective point of a railroad move-The only way to reform the ment which proposes to connect the tariff is to reform it squarely as between | Coast with the general rail systems of all nations colling to us, and not to the country. Another movement hav- the last ten months Cuba imported invite confusion and retaliation by dis- ing its initiative in Portland is prepar- \$1,915,457 worth of wheat flour, of which

progress look to extending electric lines into Washington County on the west and the remoter parts of Clackamas

County at the east. And what is scarcely less gratifying than these developments is the fact that they rest very largely upon Portland enterprise, Portland capital and Portland's faith in the country. We have reached, it appears, a point where we do not have to look for everything from without, where we are able-to borrow a fine phrase-to fly with our own Foreign capital comes to us wings. naturally, but it is chiefly upon our own initiative that the movements above noted are being put in motion. The general awakening to which we have alluded happily includes home capital and home energy as well as other manifestations of progressive spirit.

LA FOLLETTE AND SPOONER.

It is easy to make too much of the differences between Senator Spooner and Governor La Follette in Wisconsin. an attempt to discredit the Governor, in the hope of preventing his renomination coming in larger numbers than ever be- Democratic ascendency, organized its among other things, to create a wide impression that La Follette was hostile New industries in ways both large and | to Spooner. Both men have been so sitsmall are rapidly changing both the uated that they could not, without some country. Wheat for export, which until that unscrupulous politicians had imlittle truth in the allegations. Now that under the stock-keeping practice that make nothing from magnifying further the slight inharmony between them, the news is sent abroad that peace has been the exporter. This change alone is cal- established, but at the expense of the it was at the expense of nobody but the scheming breeders of political trouble.

The soul of the opposition to Governor agers, who wish to perpetuate the conform in the method of nominating men for public office they do not want, and they will go to any extremity to pretation for reform, carried the moveme twice into the very jaws of state Republican conventions and was defeated, but the third time he was successful the state platform declared unequivo-Legislature elected on that platform was so manipulated by the old bosses pledges. After haggling over the question through the session, it passed a bill so artfully designed to bring real primary reform into disrepute and so palpably out of sympathy with the platform pledge that the Governor ve-Then they set about confusing issues so

again a tenet of the party. People of Wisconsin are for both them, in the hope that the Governor into effect his plan for primary reform. That mesns the death of the machine, its poor life. Senator Spooner is not a politician. He was elected at a time when primary reform was not an issue before the people, and he has not gone out of his way either to indorse or to condemn the issue in specific terms. In general terms he has expressed sympaexerted to prevent passage of the bill that would have carried out the pledge of the Wisconsin Republican platform, but it is not believed that Senator vate and magnify trifling friction in order that they might retain their nefarious occupation of thwarting the will of the people. It is pretty clear that the people will not be thus thwarted, and the success of both Governor La Follette and Senator Spooner in Wisconsin will greatly advance the cause of de-

cent government. CUBA'S TARIFF BILL.

Receipt of the new Cuban tariff bill at Washington serves to emphasize the impression of the lamentable character of this contemplated move on the part are even higher than was originally feared. Accompanying the copy of the bill transmitted by him, Minister Squiers sends a report explaining that the increases in the duties now prevailing will run all the way from 25 per cent to 333 per cent. For instance, the duty on coal goes up 25 cents per 1000 pounds pine lumber must pay 40 per cent more than formerly; poultry, 100 per cent; fresh beef, 50 per cent; lard, cheese and condensed milk, 100 per cent; fresh mutbutter, 70 per cent; codfish, 100 per cent soap, 150 per cent-note the legislative discouragement of cleanliness; corn. 333 per cent; hats, 100 per cent, and other articles in varying proportion.

High tariffs are not an unmixed blessing to the levying country, as we are finding out in the bitter school of experience. Cuba must herself suffer in the end for such drastic penalties on her foreign trade. Yet there is no denying that these duties will tend to inter cially stuff grown by our farmers. Eighty per cent of all Cuban imports come from the United States. During tention is not properly exporting cor- I tat country morth of the Columbia | Cuba doubles the duty on wheat flour. I filtration is perfect,

In the ten months ending in April last Cuba bought from us \$770,000 worth of corn. Cuba raises the tax on corn 333 per cent. And so it goes all along the line. It is true however, that if Cuba does not take our wheat and corn, somebody else will-a solace which is of obviously limited bearing. What is certain is that dear food will not be a more popular achievement in Cuba than in Germany today, or in England years

ago, One of the most depressing of the new developments in the new Cuban tariff situation is the announcement that these high rates are enacted for the express purpose of providing a foundation for a reciprocity treaty. They are to be put high so as to form the basis of a sharp bargain with the United States. It is a pitiful piece of charlstanry, though a similar course for this country was advocated only a few months ago by no less pretentious a statesman than Senator Allison. How such devices work out in practice is seen in the history of the Dingley law. The rates were put high, to afford a basis for the reciprocity sections' provisions for free trade and lower duties through Presidential proclamation and through treaty. But there they are, high as ever. The infant industries got the high rates and now as giants they defeat laws to carry out the contemplated reductions. Congress will have to enact lower duties. The reciprocity apparatus is ineffective as it is roundabout. Indirect methods are as bungling in practice as they are discreditable in theory.

A peculiar feature of the new issue of \$31,000,000 Oregon Short Line bonds is that they will carry a possible equity in the earnings of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railroads. They are secured by \$31,000,000 of Northern Securities stock, which is now paying 4 per cent dividends. The bonds also bear 4 per cent interest. Any default on the bonds would turn the stock to the Short Line bondholders, and that stock is based on assets represented by Northern Pacific and Great Northern shares. And if those properties should strike a streak of adversity and fail to pay Northern Securities dividends, there would be immediate trouble for the Short Line. The prosperity of the Burlington also bears upon the earning power of Northern Securities stock, for if the two Northern lines should have to go into their pockets to make good the guaranty on \$220,000,000 of Burlington bonds, it would reduce their ability to make Northern Securities profitable This interiacing of railroad interests is growing extensive and confusing, and what fat picking it will make for the lawyers when the time shall come for ombing them all out again

China and Mexico are not alone in exhibits of the evil of fluctuating currency, for Manila Itself offers a striking refutation of the Senate's theory of perpetuating the silver basis there. An American business man who has just returned from that city gives an illus tration of the way the thing works. American dollars are worth at present in trade \$2 40, but if one wishes to buy American currency with Mexican, he must pay the bank \$2 45 or \$2 50. Besides this the commission which represents the United States has determined that the price of American money should rival her unspeakable perfection. "We be \$2.27 in Mexican. The commission think of all this, and of more than all toed it in a message that gave the old changes its valuation from time to guard of politicians much discomfort. time, but it cannot change as often as the price of silver changes. An Amer-Then they set about confusing issues so the price of silver changes. An Amer-that the reform movement and the ican merchant in Manila sells a bill of lived to make the life of other men more courageous Governor could both be laid goods for \$1000 American. When the on the shelf. In this they failed. The goods are delivered the buyer pays the apple, is taking on a volume and Governor was renominated overwhelm- \$2270, because that is the official valuaan importance hardly to be appreciated ingly and primary election reform is tion of \$1000 in gold. But when the merchant tries to turn his \$2270 back into United States money the banks charge forms of activity in the country, and Spooner and La Follette. It is the selftheir development goes to supplement soeking machine politicians who create or more, and the merchants lose \$130 or in grasp of character and grip of situation From first to last "David Copperover on this transaction in exchange.

Not discouraged by the lamentable fallures of prune trusts, hop trusts, etc., some farmers have recently, organized a co-operative company, with \$50,000,000 capital, in South Dakota; whereupon the Minor Optic is moved to call attention to the time-in 1882-"when the farmers living along the Northern Pacific, from Fargo to Bismarck, organized an elevator company, and the outcome. After a few months of trial the farmers were glad to turn over their flat houses and elevators to a company which knew how to handle the grain. Whenever a farmer thinks he can run an elevator business against millions of capital the best course for him to pursue is to start an elevator company. It may cost him something, but he will learn the difference between raising wheat and handling it." Doubtless some such abortive result awaits the recently formed trust of apple-growers.

for disfranchisement of colored voters in Alabama. The registration under the new constitution of the state, just completed, shows that out of a total of about 180,000 registered voters not more than 2500 were negroes. In some counties no negroes whatever were registered, while in Montgomery County, the largest negro county in the state, only forty-seven colored voters were registered. As there were over 180,000 negroes of voting age in Alabama in 1900, it can readily be seen how effective the new disfranchisement scheme is. Now, since the fear of negro domination is completely removed, let us see if the whites will cheat each other in elections, ties no negroes whatever were regiswhites will cheat each other in elections, then fall out over the results and divide into parties against each other.

One is fain to sympathize with the saloon-keeper who seeks upon the witness-stand to dispel what odium attaches to his place for having been the scene of poor Peter Beauchene's intoxication preceding his tragic death. These awkward things must be taken into account by every man, however honest crime, but verily it's a mighty mean

Now very soon the real test of the strike in the anthracite coal mines will come. The miners believe that exhaustion of the coal supply will force the masters to yield. It is for this crisis that they have been holding out.

Typhoid fever is so prevalent in Chicago that the Post newspaper of that supplying the children with boiled

Philadelphia is constructing a filtration plant at a cost of \$34,000,000. Think of our Bull Run, of which Nature's

SWINBURNE ON DICKENS.

Chicago Evening Post In the Summer number of the Quarterly Review Algernon Charles Swinburne en-ters the lists to charge in honor of Charles Dickens. No hot-headed knight of medieval prowess rushed to the on-elaught with greater vigor. Rash thrusts are made to right and to left, friends are downed, foes bite the dust while Swin-burne sings the praises of one whom he calls the greatest creative spirit of his time. No need for the Quarterly to let it be known that this was the first time in its long history that a signed article had appeared in its pages. The eccentricities of Swinburne appear in every line and had the screed been without signature any one at all familiar with the poet would have recognized his peculiari-ties. Here are the same torrents of adjectives, avalanches of phrases and laby-rinthine sentences we have seen before. It is only when such names as Shakespeare or Hugo rise and remain as the supreme wit-nesses of what was highest in any particular country at any perticular time that there can be no question among any but irrational and impudent men as to the supremacy of their greatest. England under the reign of Dickens had other great names to boast of, which may well be allowed to challenge the sovereignty of his genius. But as there certainly was no als genius. But as there certainly was an Shakespeare and no Hugo to rival and eclipse his glory, he will probably and naturally be accepted and acclaimed as the greatest Englishman of his generation. No one could have foreseen what all may now foresee in the "Sketches by Bog," a great creative genius. Nor could any one have foreseen it in the early chapters of "Pickwick Papers," which at their

best do better the sort of thing which had been done fairly well before. Sam Weller and Charles Dickens came to life together, immor-tal and twin born. In "Oliver Twist" Swinburne discovers that the quality of a great tragic and comic poet or dramatist in prose fiction was for the first time combined with already famous qualities of a great humor ist and a born master in the arts of narration and dialogue. "Nicholas Nickleby" is as admirable as it is full of life, sap and savor.

Proof of Vital Qualities. The vital quality of the novelist's work is proved by the fact that a "reader of that age, who had earned honor and respect in public life, affection and veneration in private" reveled with "insuppressible delight in a first reading of the chapters which enroll all worthy readers in the company of Vincent Crum-mies." Sidney Smith, who had held ou against Samuel Weller, was conquered by Miss Squeers. Her letter, perhaps the most "obviously imitative and suggestive of its model, converted so great an elder humorist to appreciation of a greater than himself." "No mortal man or woman, no human boy or girl, can resist fascination of Mr. and Mrs. of Mr. and Mrs. Brass, of Mr. Swiveller and his marchioness." He is not en-thusiastic about "the child"—"she has never a touch of childhood about her.' Outside the class which excludes all but the bighest masterpleces of poetry, it is difficult to find or imagine a faultiess work of creation-in other words, a faultiess work of fiction; but the story of "Barnaby Budge" can hardly in common justice be said to fall short of this crowning praise. And in this book an appreciative reader must recognize a quality of hu-mor which will remind him of Shakespeare, and perhaps Aristophanes. To have made

malignity as delightful for an instant as sim-plicity and Miss Miggs as enchanting as Mrs. Quickly or Mrs. Gamp, is an unsurpassable triumph of dramatic humor. Swinburne agrees with Dickens that "David Copperfield" was his greatest masterpiece. Contracting merits of "Martin Chuggiewit" and "David Copperfield" he says: "But no reader above the level of intelligence which prefers to Shakespeare the Parisian Ibsen and the Norwe gian Sardou can dispute the fact that Mrs. Gamp has once and again risen even to that unimaginable supremacy of -nothing in later comedy can this, and acknowledge with infinite thanksgivings of inexhaustible laughter and of rapturous admiration the

In terms of praise he continues to analyze characters and situations. In "Chuzzlewit" is noted an advance in power of tragic invention, an increased strength tion. From first to last "David Copper-field" is "unmistakably by any eye above the level and beyond the insight of a beetle's as one of the masterpleces to which time can only add a new charm and an unimaginable value. The narrative is as coherent and harmonious as Tom Jones'—and to say this is to try it by the very highest and apparently most unat-

A Fling at Old Enemies.

In the midst of his exalted laudations Swinburne digresses to take a fling at old-time enemies. "A single passage from the last scene of the fourth act of Love's Labor Lost' is more than suffi-cient to outweigh, outshine, to eclipse and efface forever the dramatic lucubra-tions of prescriptions of Dr. Ibsen-Fra-castoro of the drama and his volubly grateful patients." "Love's Labor's Lost" is one of the least significant of Shakespeare's plays, and among the least satisfactory of Thackeray's and Dickens are "The Virginians" and "Little Dorrit," "yet no one above the intellectual level of an Ibensite or a Zolaist will doubt or will deny that there is enough merit in either of these books for the stable foun dation of enduring fame." again to "Little Dorrit."

again to "Little Dorrit."

The day after the death of Mr. Merdle is one of the most memorable in all the record of creative history—or, to use one word in place of two—in all the record of fiction. The fusion of humor and horror in the marvelous chapter which describes it is comparable only with the kindred work of such creators as the authors of "Lea Miserables" and "King Lear," and nothing in the work of Balanc is never and truer and more terrible than the relentcomic and everlasting truth in the works of Sardou or Ibsen, of the bi-sexual George Eliot or the Masculine Miss Masvie Mannish. M. Zola, had he imagined it, as undoubtedly his potent and indisputable genius might have done, must have added a flavor of blood or ordure which would hardly have gratified or tickled the nostrils or palate of Dickens, but it is possible that his insular delicacy or prudery of relish may not be a pitiable infiri desirable defect.

In other asides he cuts at Andrew Lang and Matthew Arnold, then having done he concludes, "and how much more might be said—would the gods annihilate and respectable, before choosing as a but time and space for a worthier purvocation to "put the bottle to his neigh-bor's lips." Liquor-seiling is not a crime, but verily it's a mighty mean the least successful book or books of this great and inexhaustible writer,"

Shaw's Inadequate Presentation. Kansas City Star. Mr. Shaw is vague and general where

it was hoped that he might be positive and specific. He has missed the sentiment of the time. He has not struck the "keynote" that was struck by Arthur, Blaine, McKinley and Roosevelt, all of whom have been ardent, earnest and conscientious advocates of reciprocity. It city urges that the public schools be is inconceivable that Mr. Shaw's policy closed till preparation can be made for is satisfactory to the President. It is definite. The Republican position is not lyet defined.

THIS IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT.

Springfield Republican. That the American farmer during the past half dozen years has enjoyed a period of unusual prosperity for him admits of no question. Whether he has obtained the lion's share in the general prosperity of the country, or has profited from it to anything like the degree which some other ndustrial classes have, is another question more open to doubt. It is not open to doubt, however, on the part of the Se-attle (Wash.) Post-Intelligencer, and what that journal has to say on the subject is being given circulation by Eastern metro-politan papers which ought to know better. This is what they go to the Pacific Coast to learn:

While unable to dispute the fact that the United States has been enjoying most remarkable prosperity, the opponents of the Republican party insist that such prosperity is con fined to a considerable exismi, if not entirely, to the manufacturing classes. This is another of the little fictions which the census completely explodes. According to census figure the farmers of the country have reaped the largest returns of any industrial class, and have consequently shared more generally in the prosperity than have even the manufac-turers. Here are some figures. There are \$20,000,000,000 of capital invested in farms and farm equipment, and during the census year that invested capital earned on an average 18.3 per cept. The \$1,000,000,000 steel trust during the past year earned 10 per cent on its invested capital, and that fact has been made the text of innumerable Democratic editorials on the extertionate profits which it has wrung out of the people. Tet the steel trust earned on its invested capital but little over one-half as much proportionate interest as did the average chapters of "Pickwick Papers," which at their American farmer.

If the farmers can be made to believe such a story as this, it will be very comforting to the trust organizers and speculators who are making millions out of the boom, where the average man is figuring whether any increase in income is not more than offset by the increase in prices and cost of existence. Witness the \$50. 000,000 or more which a few men composing the steel trust underwriting syndicate are clearing up as profit out of a brief investment of £25,000,000. Take all of the rest fortunes made out of these trust flotations and manipulations during the past half-dozen years; the aggregate would eat deeply into the sum representing the entire net increase in the wealth of the

for that time, But the furmer-he has been doing ever better. The trouble with the above story is that it is founded upon an utterly false comparison-so false that it could not possibly have escaped the notice of even a hasty reading of the census bulletin in question. The 10 per cent which the steel trust is said to be earning just now is net profit on a highly inflated capital-income above all expenses of operation and allowances for depreciation; and it amounts to more than double that rate on the to be loyal to the platforms of 1896 and actual investment. On the other hand, the 18.3 per cent of return on the total value of farm property in the census year is gross income. It is expressly stated in the bulletin that "as no reports of ex-penditures for taxes, interest, insurance, feed for stock and similar items have been obtained by any census, no statement of net farm income can be given." Nevertheless this Western editor proceeds to compare the 18.3 per cent as net income.

The census in like manner shows that on an investment of \$3,874,864,067 in manufacturing throughout the United States in 1900, a gross product of \$13,040,013,638 was turned out. This is over 130 per cent on the invested capital, as compared with 18.3 per cent on the invested capital in farms. The Western paper invites a comparison, and here it is, stripped of some of its falaities. Nothing, of course, is hereby proved as to the relative net profit of the two industries. Heavy ded must be made for wages and cost of ma terial in manufacturing, and comparacount in farming. But while nothing can be certainly affirmed, from the census figures as given, respecting the average net profit of manufacturing, something can be guessed respecting net farm profits. If gross income is only 18.3 per cent of total farm property, what must have been the rate of income after deducting wage material, taxes, insurance, interest and so on? What is left for capital after the farmer has been allowed a fair wage or salary for his work of superintendence? It must obviously be a very small sum, constituting a percentage of the total investment almost too small to be visible It is extremely doubtful if the average farmer makes more from his investment and labor combined than what would be called a moderate wage in other industries. The fact is not to be dedged that agriculture pays poorly as compared with most other industries and occupations. You could not drag this Western editor on to a farm with a yoke of oxen. But the whole population of Seattle would be moving out on to the soil in short order if, as the editor would have there believe, the average farm was paying 18.3 per cept net profits. The great fortunes of the time do not come from farming and hardly any of the small ones directly. The drift and it is not going to be improved in the long run by the rise of monopolittic com-binations to control what the farm must buy, while the farm must work on under

the rule of sharp competition.

There is in all this a question to plague
society in a free government as time goes
society in a free government that the on. We are not to suppose that granger has been permanently eliminated from politics as a revolutionary factor by three or four years of comparative pros-

PERSONS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT.

Emile Zola did not learn to read till he was 8 years old, and is a self-educated man, his ther being indifferent as to whether or no he attended school.

Prince Henry of Prussta carries a \$900,000 policy of insurance against assassination. His heirs will get nothing, however, if he dies from natural causes.

John R. Drexel, the New York banker, made his wife a present of \$200,000 as a hirthday remembrance last week. The family is so-journing for the Summer at Newport. Nx-Governor Hogg, of Texas, refuses to be

saidered as a candidate for the executive

office again. He says he has made \$2,000,000 since his last term expired, and would not pass through the ordesi again for double that The Duke of Armyll, in the hope of locating minerals, is having the Inverary estates sur-veyed by a mining expert, who has unearthed umerous specimens of an ore

nickel, copper and lead. The late Duke of Argyll once "wrought" nickel silver mines without being out of pocket.

One of the youngest of the British officials in South Africa is Major Herbert Darling. Commissioner of Police at Bloemfontein, who is only 23 years old. At 18 he managed a mine in Western Australia. At 20 he was Captain of a West Australian contingent in South Africa. He looks younger than he really is, and in the early days of the war, before his coolness and bravery were recognized, he was known among his associates as "Baby Darling."

Dating."

At the reunion of the descendants of John and Priscilla Aldeh, held at Ross Park, near Binghamton, N. Y., last week, there was present a representative of the sixth generation from John Alden, who was born in the town of Windsor. Broome County, on March 25, 1815. The oldest living descendant is Timothy P. Alden, of Binghamton, and the youngest Florence Alden, 20 months old. Members of the family attended the reunion from all parts of the country. of the country.

The History of Exeter, who is a pronounced low churchman, said, when consecrating the church at Shaldon, the other day, that, "although he should continue to be the faithful is enconceivable that Mr. Shaw's policy is satisfactory to the President. It is capable of broad construction, but why aiways leave room for widely diverging interpretations? It may be expected that when the same policies are taken up by the President there will be something definite. The Republican position is not they were not illegal, and merely stood as works of art."

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Yes, indeed, we have known it to rain in Oregon.

The Portland team is unlucky-it wins only by hard work.

It takes as long for the oil tanks to go as for the fireboat to come.

Another automobile record has been

goon.

fense.

smashed-not the automobile. East Burnside is the only street in Portland that has ever been improved too

A theater trust is forming, J. P. Morgan is not in it, although all the world's a stage.

This is the time when the vacation we have just finished begins to look like a

vain show. No. the Boer Generals would not have received more honor if they had stopped

slaying Britishers sooner. Explorer Baldwin says, "Baffled, but not beaten." Candidate Bryan says,

"Beaten, but not baffled." You could now have a new board side-

walk if you hadn't been so cussed stub-

born about building it before. No man who secures money by false pretenses is liable to the law if he se-

cures a wife along with the money, No American officers in the Philippines has been court-martialed for some time and the Moros feel encouraged to try

barbarism all over again. The German Crown Prince is said to think more of an American girl than the Imperial throne. He is right for being

young, but foolish for the same reason. A young woman at Meriden, Conn., has caused the arrest of the young man to whom she was engaged for kissing her, Perhaps after he shall have been married to her a while he will not repeat the of-

Reports from Central America are to the effect that the navy officers down there are much chagrined because their methods have been acquired by the United States Navy for the maneuvers off New England.

A Democrat, to be loyal to his citizenship and his party honor, does not have 1909. Neither does his wife have to be loyal to hoop-skirts nor the birds to last year's nests.

Already it has taken nearly 100 years to choose a fair site. But this is but as a handbreadth. By the infinitude of things just as many years are ahead of us as behind us; therefore let us rejoice and be exceedingly glad that only 100 years are behind us.

The Salem Sentinel deales that it has seen an advocate of a special session of the Legislature, "except jokingly, in the interest of boarding-house keepers of Salem." But isn't the interest of the boarding-house keepers a reason of state at Salem? What else is the capital there for?

The remains of the late Mr. and Mrs. Fair will be examined further to ascertain the cause of death. Mr. and Mrs Fair were speeding 60 miles an hour. They were dashed into a tree. Their heads were crushed in. It is very important to learn whether it was the speed, the tree or the dashing out of their brains that caused their death. This point setnayments, cost of feed and seed and other thed, we shall know whether they died

for want of breath. Newport, R. L. Aug. 21.-Great con sternation reigns among the elite. Mrs. Vanderlip's butler eloped with Mrs. Gotrox's waiting maid, but not a word of it got into the newspapers. Each lady charges the other with trying to keep the matter quite until she herself could an nounce it first. The ladies had indeed sent for the reporters, but President Roosevelt and the big tennis tournament were here and not a single reporter could be found. To make bad matters worse, Mrs. Astorbilt gave a pink tea to her favorite chimpanzee, and even this function failed to get into print, although the chimpanzee behaved just too nice for anything and all the elite were present, Some of the ladies are in hysterics toof population from the farm to the city day over the outrageous treatment re-tells the true story about the situation, ceived from the President, the teunis players and the newspapers.

> Professor F. G. Young, of the University of Oregon, last week sounded a warning against permitting commercialism to overshadow the historical significance of the Lewis and Clark Fair. It is celebration, namely, the commemoration of Lewis and Clark's achievement. Pro fessor Young perhaps from his home in Eugene can perceive the drift away from the main purpose better that can Portland people. It is well for us in building our structure to keep in sight our foundations. The fair is for Lewis and Clark, not Lewis and Clark for the fair. Perhaps Professor Young's counsel is much like that which would come from other outside places when the celebration is looked upon, not as that of Portland, but as that of the entire Pacific North-

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

"Really, Louise, this bill is outrageous. You mustn't try to dress like these millionaires" wives!" "My dear Ned, control yourself. I'm only trying to appear as well dressed as the shop girls."-Life.

It was at a fashionable boarding-h they had calves' brains for lunch. She spoke to the gentleman next to her—"And do you like calves' brains, Mr. Domo?" "I always try to feel content with what I have, madam Tit-Bits.

Genius.—"I understand that he has written a sonnet on a katydid." "Yes, so I hear. It's aimost as great a piece of work as that of a man I heard of once who wrote the Declaration of Independence on the back of a postage stamp."—Chicago Record-Heraid.

In Disguise.—Mrs. Stubb.—This is strangs, John. I thought the people on this block were immensely wealthy, and now I find them sitting around in patched clothing. Mr. Stubb-That's nothing, Maria; they are expected the Tax Assessor.—Chicago Daily News.

Dead Broke.-Fred-Why don't you send her some roses? Ned-Gee, whis, man! Didn't I tell you I'm just back from my vacation? Fred-Can't raise the wind, ch? Ned-Well, if roses were 10 cents a hundred I couldn't raiso enough wind to stir one petal."—Philadelphia

Her Unintended Satire .- "Charley, dear?" exclaimed young Mrs. Torkins, "the paper has a sketch of you as a rising young reformer." "Yes. I thought that would surprise and please you. What did you think of the biography?" "Oh, Charley, dear, it is too good to be true!"-Washington Star.

His Point of View .- "The tendency in modern His Point of View.—"The tendency in modern journalism." asserts the man with the haunted look, "Is to concentration. It will not be long before the most successful newspapers will be but one column wide." Here the listening flat-dwellers broke into a chorus of approval. For they were a-weary of being compalled to all on the fire-escape in order to see what was on the next page.—Baltimore American.