

A Maryland young man who rocked a boat and caused the death of two or three of his companions, was arrested on the charge of murder and brought to trial. The jury failed to agree and a new trial must be had, pending which the young man has been released on bail. This doubtless means that no further attempt will be made to prosecute him, but it is to be hoped that he has learned a lesson that will last him through life. The fool who rocks a boat and the fool who points a gun at a friend are constant menaces to society.

The Christmas tree season is close at hand, and it behooves the people to exercise care in the use of Christmas decorations. Every Christmas brings a long list of fatalities and property lost by reason of fire caused by the too liberal use of inflammable decorations and carelessness in the handling of candles. A single spark coming in contact with the usual decorations of cotton and tinsel is sufficient to start a blaze that may end in a panic and an appalling loss of life and property. The inflammable Christmas tree and the unloaded gun have contributed materially to mortality statistics.

The difference between "shackling cunning" and expressing due regard for the "great captains of industry" is marked by the time between Labor day, September 2, and the opening of congress on December 2. During that time momentous events have transpired, and the orator on Labor day has become president of the United States. It is another proof that it all depends upon the point of view. The Labor day speech received the approval of those who are the victims of the trusts. The message will receive the approbation of those who victimize the people through the medium of the trusts.

There is a marked difference between Blaine reciprocity and Roosevelt reciprocity. Blaine's idea of reciprocity was explained in brief by the definition of the word itself. Roosevelt's notion is that reciprocity should be "the handmaiden of protection." Blaine's idea was that reciprocity treaties should be arranged with the sole view of establishing a condition that would be alike advantageous to both the contracting nations, having in view nothing but public interest. Roosevelt's idea is that the high protection theory should be kept uppermost in mind, and that reciprocity, instead of being a serious and important policy in itself, should be merely incidental.

According to the Washington correspondent of the New York World, republican leaders have adopted a plan whereby a tariff commission will be appointed. This commission will be authorized to investigate the subject of customs and reciprocity and report to congress. It is expected that this commission will require so much time for its investigations that it will not be able to report at the next session of congress, and that the question of tariff revision and reciprocity will be postponed, as the trust magnates desire. It is becoming more and more evident that the republican party is preparing to formally repudiate Mr. McKinley's last speech.

General Botha has issued a statement calculated to carry dismay to the British. He says the Boers are capable of carrying on their resistance against British invasion for five years if necessary. Judging by events in England this length of resistance will not be necessary. Already the British taxpayer is aroused and beginning to understand that he is being burdened with tax-

tion for the purpose of furthering the interests of a few would-be exploiters who take no note of human life when gold mines and diamond fields are under consideration. Evidences are multiplying to show that Great Britain is seeking a way out of the troubles into which the kingdom was precipitated by the cupidity of a few adventurers. Every day sees the Boer cause strengthened and the British cause weakened.

There are many evidences of a revival of the old-fashioned methods of studying spelling. Modern school methods are in most respects a great improvement over the days when "Webster's Elementary" was the chief text-book in the public schools, but it must be confessed that with improved methods came a growing disregard of the "spelling lesson." As a result young men and women who have acquired a fair knowledge of astronomy, chemistry, stenography, botany, mental philosophy and kindred branches of knowledge have often failed to learn that sugar is not spelled with an "h" nor diphtheria without it. It was Josh Billings who remarked that he "wouldn't give a cent for a man that couldn't spell a word more than one way," but the humor of the remark should not cause us to lose sight of the fact that there is usually but one way to spell a word.

In the conclusion of his message Mr. Roosevelt refers to the "deep and heartfelt sorrow" occasioned in the United States by the death of Queen Victoria and of the "genuine sympathy" of the American people because of the death of the empress dowager of Germany. Mr. Roosevelt might have added, without doing the least violence to the truth, that the grief of the American people because of the death of the wife of President Kruger, and the American people's sympathy with the bereaved president of the South African republic, were no less sincere than the grief and sympathy felt because of the death of either Queen Victoria or the empress dowager of Germany. Such an expression from the president would have been entirely appropriate, because the empress dowager was the widow of a dead emperor, while Mrs. Kruger was the beloved wife of a living president.

The retail grocers are now being given a demonstration of the ability of the trust magnates to make sport of the merchants of the country. For several weeks the price of sugar was put down to a low notch at the trust's order for the purpose of forcing the beet sugar manufacturers to terms. Without warning on November 20 the price was raised and the merchants as well as the consumers have nothing to do but to comply with the trust's requirements. The indications are that during the coming winter, the American people will be treated to the demonstration of the powers and the evils of the trust system such as they have never had before. The commodities upon which the people depend for existence are controlled by trusts and the people will be required to pay for these commodities whatever price may suit the fancy of the trust magnates.

President Roosevelt's failure to state his position on the South African war will be defended by the administration organs on the ground that a reference thereto in a presidential message would be an offense against good taste, and that such reference would be foreign to the interests of the Americans. Yet other presidents have not hesitated to state their positions under similar circumstances. President Monroe always been looked upon as a statesman of the first rank and he did not hesitate to express his sym-

pathy for Greece. President Taylor emphatically expressed his sentiments concerning the Austrian war upon Hungary. And until foreign complications made American expressions of sympathy for a people struggling for liberty "as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal" no one has accused Presidents Monroe and Taylor of violating good taste. Time was when any people struggling for liberty could look to the United States for sympathy, but that was before this country embarked upon a policy of conquest and imperialism.

Mr. Canon, president of the Chase National bank and a director of the Great Northern railroad, speaking of the consolidation of the trans-continental line, says: "There is absolutely no call for remedial legislation, as no law, anti-trust, state or national, has been violated. It resolves itself into the simple proposition that if a man owns a suit of clothes, a watch and a horse and wagon, there is no violation of law, moral or otherwise, if he should become the owner of another suit of clothes a watch and a horse and wagon." Mr. Canon makes it very simple. If the owner of one railroad wants to buy up all the railroads it is, according to this logic, nobody's business but his own. Possibly Mr. Canon is a believer in the republican doctrine of "let well enough alone." He is getting along well enough and wants to be let alone.

The republican platform of 1900, referring to trusts, said: "We condemn all conspiracies and combinations intended to restrict business, to create monopolies, to limit production, or to control prices; and favor such legislation as will effectively restrain and prevent all such abuses, protect and promote competition and secure the rights of producers, labor, and all who are engaged in industry and commerce." But now, according to the republican policy as defined by Mr. Roosevelt, these conspiracies are not to be condemned; they are to be regulated. And in justification of the plan of publicity towards trusts, Mr. Roosevelt says: "There would be no hardship in such supervision. Banks are subject to it and in their case, it is now accepted as a simple matter of course." The republican party, however, never found it necessary to say, "We condemn all banks." Prior to election day the republican party pretended to regard trusts as conspiracies, but now the conspiracies have suddenly been transformed into legitimate business interests in the regulation of which great care must be exercised lest injustice be done.

A reader of The Commoner reports the following instance of partisanship: A republican dropped into his office to read the daily paper, and by chance picked up a copy of The Commoner. After devoting fully an hour to its perusal he turned to the subscriber and commended the paper and asked him how he happened to subscribe for a Nebraska paper. The subscriber pointed to the line just under the title, giving the name of the editor. The partisan republican immediately threw the paper down and declared that he wouldn't read "such slush." The subscriber asks how it is possible to reach and convert such a person. It does seem a difficult task, and yet a great many republicans left their party in 1872, others left at intervals between '72 and '96, a large number left in '96, and still others left in 1900. It is necessary to continue the discussion of public questions, for in a free country argument is the only legitimate influence that one man can exert upon another. The republican party is not responsible for any good thing which the American people enjoy, and it is only a question of time when the evil principles which underlie their policies will be understood and repudiated.

**Boat Rockers and Gun Pointers.**

**Christmas Tree Accidents.**

**September 2 and December 2.**

**Reciprocity of Blaine and Roosevelt.**

**Repudiating Mr. McKinley's Speech.**

**Botha Startles Britain.**

**A Reform in Spelling.**

**Sympathised With Kruger, too.**

**Power of the Trust Magnate.**

**Our Humiliating Position.**

**Wants to be Let Alone.**

**Trusts Regulate the Conspiracies.**

**Partisanship Run Mad.**