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FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1907.

The Moral of an Executive Act.

President Roosevelt, in his address before the commerce convention, neatly turned the tables on his critics by showing how, in the matter of consular appointments, he had imposed a limitation on his own power of appointment—a limitation which was considered by the opponents of the consular reform bill to be unconstitutional. There is, of course, an essential difference between a limitation of the Executive by Congressional action and a self-imposed limitation; the first being beyond the power of the legislative branch, and the second within Executive discretion. But in the matter of appointments Congress may provide machinery to guide and assist the appointing power, as has been done by the civil service act, without limiting that power in an unconstitutional way. We see no reason why a non-partisan method of appointing and promoting consular officers could not be authorized by Congress without infringing upon the Executive prerogative, especially when, as in this case, the Executive desires and recommends it.

The failure of Congress to enact the consular reform bill was repaired by Executive action, and the reform has been put in force by Executive order. We are assured by the President that there has been a marked improvement in the consular service in consequence. Congress, however, deserves no credit for the betterment of that service. It has been brought about wholly by Executive action. This circumstance points a moral which at this time, we think, needs particular emphasis. We are hearing much criticism of Mr. Roosevelt for his freedom of the Executive power. Here is an instance where he was compelled by what he conceived to be the exigencies of the public service to put in force regulations for which he had asked the consent of Congress and had failed to obtain it. Should his subsequent course have been one of inaction? He believed himself to have the power to effect a wholesome reform; should he and the pleasure of a Congress displaying only a half-hearted interest in that reform and disposed to raise technical objections to it? The President, as is his wont, took the reins into his own hands and accomplished what he wanted done, with the entire approval of all those who have any real interest in the subject.

Now this is the way Executive power normally grows when we have a President bent on carrying forward policies of his own. It is better that Congress will not occupy the whole sphere of its duties, nor take upon itself the responsibility that naturally belongs to it, inaction on the part of the legislative branch imposes activity upon the executive branch, unless the government is to stand still. And so the best way to check the increase of Executive power is to expand the energies of Congress.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat calls Senator Tillman "an intrinsigant." For the sake of our esteemed contemporary, we trust that isn't as bad as it sounds.

A Word for the Editors.

A mighty controversy rages in New York—a controversy out of which much good may come. Fierce, furious, and emphatic are the words; high-sounding and impressive is the rhetoric employed. The qualifications of the editors are under discussion. New York seeks to know whether they understand their business of judging the merits of manuscript submitted or are simply a conglomerate horde of intellectual nonentities who do not know enough to get in when it rains. The topic is one to be approached with infinite circumspection and care. The editor of a magazine is an awe-inspiring individual—as of course are some other editors, to an extent—and discussion of them must be kept strictly within the rules of parliamentary debate. Unfavorable criticism—did one venture to express such a thing—is especially dangerous, for should it arouse the entire host of magazine editors into action, the famous army of Xerxes would seem as nothing more than a corporal's guard in comparison. We shudder to think of the frightful consequences should the concerted magazines of the land explode simultaneously beneath one offending soul.

For ourselves, we have nothing but kind words for the magazine editor. He has a dark, rough, and rugged road to travel, but he manages, all in all, to scramble along quite worthily. Out of the tangled mass of manuscript submitted he must find, if he can, something new and novel for the jaded tastes of his readers. There is much "fair to middling" stuff sent him; just as the world is packed and jammed with "fair to middling" people. That is not what he is looking for, though, with all his effort, it seems that the only thing he manages to find. He realizes that he has a reputation for uncommon astuteness at stake, and he does his best to maintain it. Angels, no matter how happily or enthusiastically disposed, could do no better.

We can think of no more unhappy fate that could befall a man in this world below than to be a magazine editor, unless, indeed, it were possible to be two magazine editors. Judging the beauty of infant America at a baby show is not one whit more strenuous than passing judgment upon the children of an aspiring genius' imagination and fancy. His is a hard lot; as hard a lot, we fancy, as the hard lot of a newspaper editor who sets out to print the truth. That the magazine editor makes so many mistakes is not the magazine editor's fault; it is the result of his tactful consideration and

his infinite kindness and mercy. His apparent shortcomings are really exemplifications of his commanding virtue. There is no doubt that he knows it all, but he has a heart and a soul that are filled to the brim—may, are slopping over—with the milk of human kindness.

Be gentle with the magazine editor, Knoch him not. You may be seized with the desire to control the fate of the nation all agog some day. Then you will be glad to reflect that you spoke of him with due respect.

A few more speeches like unto his last, and the country will decline to believe that Senator Spooner is anything less than a steam-shoveler.

Vitality of the Democratic Party.

"The most amazing fact in all the amazing history of the United States," asserts Representative Sheppard, of Texas, "is the vitality of the Democratic party." Mr. Sheppard adorns this bare assertion with the frills of his redundant rhetoric. The Democratic party, according to him, "is as eternal as justice, with which it is synonymous, and 'as indestructible as truth, for which it stands.'"

Now does he control himself with these similes. "The first fear that quivered in compassion for human we and want," he exclaims, "was the first Democratic platform." This poetic expression falls pleasantly upon the ear and certainly ought to evoke a warm response from every Democratic heart. Leaving out Mr. Sheppard's hyperbole, however, there is still much to be said in eulogy of Democratic vitality. One recalls, for instance, that for a quarter of a century after the civil war the Democratic party wandered in the political wilderness without even so much as a drop of manna to feed upon. It really had no excuse for existence, and yet, during all these long and discouraging years, it preserved its organization intact, it went through the hopeless formality of nominating candidates, and it never yielded without a struggle. Finally, it elected Grover Cleveland to the Presidency, and after four years' interregnum again returned him to the White House. He retired to private life, leaving his party demoralized and wrecked; but none the less did hope spring eternal in the Democratic breast. It has been a decade since a Democratic President resided in the White House, and yet there is no apparent evidence that the party is dead, or even discouraged. With delightful optimism its leaders are planning for the campaign of 1908, and, like Representative Sheppard, are predicting the overthrow of the Republican party.

It is too early for prejudiced and non-partisan newspapers like The Washington Herald to accept these Democratic prophecies as gospel truth. In fact, there have been so many similar predictions which have failed of realization that this latest outburst must be regarded with caution. At the same time, we agree with Mr. Sheppard that the vitality of the Democratic party is something amazing. The loyalty and devotion of the average Democrat to his party almost passes human understanding. The greater the stress and storm, the closer he clings to his organization. The further he is driven from the flesh pot, the more he seems to thrive. He takes recurrent defeat with equanimity, and enters upon each struggle with undaunted courage.

It may be that the time is coming when the Democratic hope of success will be realized. In the meantime, however, and while the Democratic horizon is still shrouded in gloom, we cannot help expressing our admiration for those cheerful and optimistic Democrats who always see the silver lining of the cloud.

Hancock County, Ohio, has returned 553 indicts against the Standard Oil.

An adding machine will be required soon to keep track of these things.

A Report of Dangerous Friction.

The well-informed Washington correspondent of the New York Herald has discovered that there is friction in the Interstate Commerce Commission. He is finding the work of that highly important board. The fact, if it is a fact, is extremely regrettable. Great things are expected of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The eyes of the whole nation are upon it. Not since the creation of the commission have the people looked so hopefully to it for relief from intolerable abuses that have grown up in railroad administration. Great power has been intrusted to it. On the recommendation of President Roosevelt the Congress has increased not only the powers and functions of the commission, but also its membership. As at present constituted, five members of the commission are selections of Mr. Roosevelt. They are Messrs. Cockrell, Lane, Clark, Harlan, and Clements. The other two commissioners—Messrs. Knapp and Prouty—were not appointed by President Roosevelt, though that he is satisfied with the service they have rendered there is no cause to doubt, so far as we are informed. There has been no complaint of their record in the past.

We are to infer, then, that the personnel of the commission is entirely to the President's liking. If there are discordant elements in the board, President Roosevelt would soon discern that fact, and it goes without saying that he would exercise his great influence to establish harmony. But the New York Herald's Washington correspondent backs up his assertion of friction with considerable detail. For our part, we hope he is mistaken. It is possible that he has been misled upon by designing persons with sinister motives. An immense mass of evidence recently has been collected by a part of the commission bearing on the methods employed by E. H. Harriman to combine under one ownership and management the great transcontinental railroads and their feeders. It is well understood that this arduous work was inspired by the President himself. But it is not understood that the President indicated a desire as to who his commissioners should be. The personal equation is so important an element in all affairs that its influence, even in matters involving the operations of the Interstate Commerce Commission, cannot be blinked out of existence.

Probably, therefore, if friction is now threatening to impede the work of the commission in the Harriman investigation, it is due to the personal element, not to the selections made by Chairman Knapp of the members to conduct this inquiry. It is this improbable phase of the case which should and doubtless will arouse the interest of the Executive. The President undoubtedly will want to be kept closely informed as to the progress of the investigation. By this means, and this alone, can he be enabled to judge of the efficiency of the commission in which he has reposed special confidence and trust.

Meanwhile, we assume that the commission is preparing to exercise its increased powers in the matter of making rates. Nearly five months have elapsed since the new rate-making law went into effect, but we have not heard of a decree issued by the commission affecting rates. The investigation being conducted by a part of the commission into the Harriman methods

is all right, of course, and is fraught with much good to the country. But it is possible that this work may lead to results with which the commission cannot deal. Its findings may reveal violations of the anti-trust law and not the interstate commerce law—two statutes that are widely apart in their application. But the commission can deal with rate-making, and probably in so doing no friction due to the personal equation will be engendered to the hurt of the whole country.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch is authority for the statement that the tomb of "Queen Hti, late lamented consort of King Amen Hotep III, has been discovered." We are glad to hear this. The tomb of Amen Hotep in allowing his wife's tomb to get lost in the shuffle, as he did, has been a matter of deep and bitter resentment for a long time.

The Speaker and the House.

In common, doubtless, with a large number of patriotic citizens, The Washington Herald has been waiting for an enthusiastic response to the suggestion of Representative Burleson that the rules of the House of Representatives be changed. Apparently there is a tendency to stand pat in this matter, as in a number of others. This is not a partisan question, however, and there is no good or valid reason for not taking it up on its merits.

The rules vesting almost unlimited power in the Speaker originated when the Republicans dominated the House. It is true; but after that the Democrats had a majority once, and they promptly forgot all the anathemas they had hurled at Czar Reed and his system, and put the old rules into effect. The several evanescent attempts to bring about changes in the last few years certainly have not been directed against the present Speaker per se. In the hands of a less honest and conscientious man than Mr. Cannon the enormous power conferred by the rules might be used in a most unwholesome way.

Developments in connection with the so-called Philippine tariff bill and the Statehood bill in the last Congress showed that opposition to the existing rules is not confined to the minority. Republicans fought against the rules then, as well as Democrats. England and the British colonies generally, to say nothing of various other countries, find it quite convenient to transact legislative business through legislative bodies. The speakers of the British House of Commons and of the houses of the Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand parliaments are presiding officers merely. They are not clothed with power to dominate. Yet all Britishers pay allegiance to a monarch. This is a republic—a government of, for, and by the people, if we remember correctly.

Representative Burleson suggests that the Committee on Rules be elected, instead of appointed by the Speaker, and that it control all committee appointments. That may not be the way to make the House a representative body, in reality, as it is in name, but certainly it is one way. Possibly it is not well to make the House a representative body in reality. Possibly as at present constituted it is the better equipped for legislative work. It is a mooted question. Republicans are at odds; many of them want to see the rules changed. Why not take up the Burleson suggestion, therefore, and thresh it out on its merits?

The Western Senators threaten to Carterize the rivers and harbors bill, if they do not get what they want. In other words, they only want to dry them up to liquidate their claims.

A Detroit man shot himself to death because one of his neighbors persistently played the accordion. It seems there ought to have been some other and better way to escape such misery.

The way the Senate threw the gaff into that pestiferous young statesman, Robert M. La Follette, is very refreshing. It passed his bill limiting the hours of labor on railroads by a practically unanimous vote.

Senator Carmack says that Senator Tillman marshals "his premises upon one side of the earth and his conclusions upon the other, with no bridge between." Perhaps this accounts for the South Carolinian's marked disposition to jump at conclusions.

If you have a poem on "Beautiful Snow" to write, write it now, or forever and hereafter hold your peace.

The czar's minister of police congratulates his majesty upon the improved order throughout the empire. Undoubtedly, if the terrorists keep it up, Russia in time will be as orderly as a graveyard.

It was certainly very careless in the W. C. T. U. officially to say that there are seventy-three different and distinct kinds of cocktails. This is sure to start unfunny, but not respectful, remarks that, while plenty of fun comes out of the real aviators of literature may look down on the calling, it yet presents an attractive field for literary art. No doubt about that. The merchants who have goods to sell appreciate that fact, and some of them pay more for this sort of strictly literary deal for their work. Instances of newspaper advertisement writers who have been able to command all the way from \$10.00 to \$25.00 a year for their services are not altogether infrequent, and are respectful of these handsome salaries earn their compensation.

Japan's labor problem. Japan has an enormous new territory, and in the development of this new land she will find employment for all of the labor that can be obtained for many years. The existence of such conditions makes it quite reasonable to suppose that the labor proposition, which is the base of the present trouble, can be solved without much difficulty.

A prolific archipelago. The total number of islands in the Philippine group belonging to the United States, so far as found and enumerated, is 3,241, and 1,668 of them have been listed by name and size and population as known, without names. Islands are still arising from the seas about.

Duty of civilization. From the Boston Transcript. The poor shall grow so much better off that they will in the future catch up to that comfortable condition which will relieve them of anxiety. This will be the work of advancing civilization.

Has Worked That Way. From the Chicago Record-Herald. Again it is announced that there will be no tariff legislation prior to the next Presidential campaign. If it is put off that long there is a possibility that the tariff will not be revised by its friends.

New luxury for the poor. From the Boston Post. The Washington Herald announces that the price of appendicitis operations has greatly reduced in that vicinity. Thus gradually luxury gets within the reach of the poor.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A PLUTOCRAT'S PROGRESS. When he began 'Twas not his plan (With confidence I say I) To dodge the law, For then he saw No way but to obey it.

His friendships grew; His money, too. He learned how others made it. The law he found, They got around, And so he must evade it.

He soon waxed great; Had much estate, Or coin with which to buy it, And had no need The law to heed, Since he could well defy it.

He has wealth now And people bow— Abuse themselves before it. And law to him Is vague and dim, For he can quite ignore it.

A Female Philosopher. "Oh, Grace! The girls are saying that you permitted George to kiss you last night."

"In that case I am getting off easy. I thought probably they were saying that I asked him to."

Poxy Mac. "Lars Porsena, of Clantium," wrote Macaulay, "sat in his ivory car."

I won't mention the make, he murmured. "No use in stirring up trouble."

Conditions Had Changed. The hind thought of a sylvan glen. Where billes used to bud, It went to wander there again, And got stuck in the mud.

Composite. "What would you call a girl whose hair was yellow, with about an inch of black at its roots?"

"I should call it a blonde."

The Victim Explains. "Walking through this hotel reminds me of measuring a vulture."

"How so?"

"It's about four feet from tip to tip."

The Brute. "Jack, your smoke will spoil the curtains."

"Well, let's get down to business. Is my smoke to spoil the curtains, or are the curtains to spoil my smoke?"

FACTS AND FANCIES.

Justifiable. From the Philadelphia Ledger. "I will consent to race prejudice."

"That's narrow-mindedness."

"Think so? Well, you bet on as many sure tips as I have and see how you feel about it."

Rule. Pittsburgh has decided that the slapping of ladies on the backs at a social function comes under the head of rudeness.

Crazy. "Yes," said the multimillionaire, "I have one ambition."

"What is that?" asked the reporter.

"I want to stand at the head of the list of taxpayers," responded the capitalist.

Then they knew that the long struggle for wealth had turned his mind awry.

The Snappagoat. After the accident there was necessity, of course, for fixing the blame.

"It's a delicate matter," said the manager. "Was anybody killed?"

"Yes, the engineer."

"Poor fellow! Well, a little blame won't hurt him anyhow."

Precedent. The colored soldier was discharged; Your indignation still, Till it happen until he Discharged his rifle.

Accommodation. "I was asked to find out when you would pay this little account," said the collector, pleasantly.

"Really," answered the debtor, "I am unable to enlighten you. However, there is a snappagoat in the next block who throws a bit and reveals the future at fifty cents a throw."

"I've no money to waste," growled the collector.

"Just add the fifty cents to my account," continued the other, "for I have a curiosity on the point myself."

Wasted Energy. Grand juries with fine zeal will To bring the true bills 'gainst Standard Oil. But, judged by what comes out of it, The juries might all be contented.

Advertising Literature. From the Boston Herald. Speaking of the great art of writing attractive advertisements for the newspapers, Bobbitt and C. J. Soden remarks that, while plenty of fun comes out of the real aviators of literature may look down on the calling, it yet presents an attractive field for literary art. No doubt about that. The merchants who have goods to sell appreciate that fact, and some of them pay more for this sort of strictly literary deal for their work. Instances of newspaper advertisement writers who have been able to command all the way from \$10.00 to \$25.00 a year for their services are not altogether infrequent, and are respectful of these handsome salaries earn their compensation.

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CAPITOL GOSSIP.

Foraker After Taft. The battle of Brownsville raged ferociously again nearly all afternoon in the Senate yesterday. Maj. Gen. Joseph Benson Foraker trained his guns on the defenses of Maj. Gen. William Howard Taft, and the Buckeye cohorts of Foraker declared that his shots battered yawning gaps in the ramparts of the enemy. It was a field day for Ohio Presidential politics.

Senator Foraker closed his argument on the Twenty-sixth Infantry incident. He addressed himself more to Secretary Taft than to the President. He produced documentary evidence in support of his charge that the War Department pertaining to the record of the Twenty-sixth Infantry were not complete, and intimated broadly that somebody, somewhere along the line, had deliberately suppressed facts for the purpose of deception. No such insinuation as this has ever before been made against Secretary Taft, and Ohioans interpret Senator Foraker's attack as the opening gun against Taft in their State. Presumably the Secretary will either say something in his own defense, or some member of the Senate will take up the Foraker charges when next the Brownsville affair comes up for discussion and resent the insinuations of Mr. Foraker.

During the progress of Mr. Foraker's speech yesterday Senators Knox, Spooner, Blackburn, and Lodge left the chamber for a conference.

Carmack on McMillin. Senator Carmack's rattling speech in the Senate Wednesday was being discussed in the press gallery yesterday. A Memphis newspaper man, apropos of the claim that the Tennessee Senator was now the greatest maker of sharp phrases in public life, quoted an unpublished observation of Mr. Carmack recently passed on by former Gov. McMillin, who is thus expected to contend with the Senator the seat now held by Mr. Frazier, whose term will not expire until 1911. Gov. McMillin had said in an interview that he was getting himself in physical condition for his race against Carmack, who he had declared, "I may be able completely to exterminate even the name of Carmack from Tennessee politics." The governor stated that among other things he was doing was the taking of a cold every morning.

When Senator Carmack read the interview, his only reply was: "Great God! A hatred that would drive a man like McMillin to the bath-tub is as cruel as death, and as remorseless as the grave!"

Grosvener for the Bench? Gen. Charles H. Grosvener, the most distinguished member of the Amalgamated Society of Lane Ducks, may serve his country in a different capacity after his career as a lawmaker is closed with the expiration of the present Congress. Gen. Grosvener is the author of a bill providing for the appointment of an additional judge for the Southern district of Ohio. It is represented that the business of the Federal court for that district has increased so much that it is a virtual impossibility for Judge Thompson to keep up with the work, and that, therefore, the cause of justice is threatened with a serious handicap in that particular part of the country. A curious feature of the bill is that it provides that when either of the judges of the district vacates his office, by death or otherwise, the district thereafter shall have only one judge. The bill will probably pass at this session, and it is conceived that Grosvener could get the appointment to the bench provided for by the measure, as his standing is high at the White House, but some of his friends declare that he has assured them he has no desire whatever to begin a judicial career at his time of life. Nevertheless, there is a good deal of talk in the House end of the Capitol favorable to the gallant Ohioan's appointment.

Mr. Bacon's Politeness. Than the Hon. Augustus Octavius Bacon, of Georgia, the Senate has no more polite member. Mr. Bacon is, in fact, grandiose in speech and deportment at all times, but especially so when he is addressing the Senate. He seldom refers to a colleague in the conventional lingo of the Senate as simply "the Senator from South-South," but of the Georgia Senator, "the honorable Senator," "the distinguished Senator," "my highly esteemed colleague, the Senator from New England," etc. In a speech that occupies less than a half hour in length, Mr. Bacon will employ different adjectives every time he refers to a Senator. There is nothing stilted about his address, either. It is only a habit he has fallen into, due, no doubt, to his great respect for the Senate as a whole.

Ging Into Washington. John Sharp Williams, the Democratic leader of the House, and Senator Daniel, of Virginia, were discussing the fortifications bill while riding in a street car to the Capitol. The Mississippian favored heavy appropriations for increased fortifications along the Virginia Capes.

"Those caps command the entrance to the Potomac," he pointed out, "and we should have them so powerfully fortified that an enemy could not get his ships inside Chesapeake Bay, for if he got that far we might have to let him in the way to Washington. In other words, we should make it impossible for an enemy to get into Washington at all."

That's so, assented Senator Daniel, musingly. "That's so. But why ever think that it would be almost impossible for an enemy to get into Washington whether or not we had any sort of fortifications on the Capes? I know something about this. For four years I was in sight of Washington, but I didn't get in here until '884."

In that year Maj. Daniel was elected a member of the House.

Tillman and His Colleagues. Strangely enough, a good deal of surprised comment is being made on the fact that Senator Tillman has aroused the opposition of nearly the entire Democratic side of the Senate by his course in the Brownsville affair. Nearly every Democrat who has spoken on that subject has taken a whack at the South Carolinian, and particularly severe have been the strictures of Southern Senators. It does not seem to have affected Mr. Tillman in the least, largely because of his new experience for him. He usually arouses the ire of his own side of the Senate before he does that of the Republican side. In point of fact, the fiery South Carolinian is decidedly more popular among the Republicans than the Democrats. Senator Tillman's associates for the most part are Republicans. In this regard he is in about the same fix that Senator La Follette is in. The Wisconsin Senator has no intimates among his Republican colleagues, but he is on terms of great cordiality with several Democratic Senators.

True Progress. From the Canton. The demagogue is always a danger, but the menace of the demagogue is increased tenfold by indifference to actual grievances. Yet true progress must be based not upon blind fear of the demagogue and his dupes, but upon active human sympathy, upon a sense of honor, upon a profound devotion to the principles of justice, and upon the conviction that those who are temporarily entrusted with the correction of abuses must have some higher object in view than keeping a party in power or "pandering to the better element" for purely selfish purposes.

DELAWARE'S NEW SENATORS.

Downfall of the Addicks Machine is Now Complete. From the Philadelphia Ledger.

The election of Harry A. Richardson, of Dover, to be United States Senator from Delaware, is the final scene in the elimination of Addicks and of those benches and hangers-on of Addicks whose methods and character constituted the baleful system known as Addicksism. For more than sixteen years a Commonwealth has been thrown into political chaos, which not only nullified the State as a participant in its constitutional rights and responsibilities in the government of the nation, but degraded public opinion in Delaware, tended to sap the morals of the people, and furnished so evil an example of inefficiency and corrodng corruption to the country at large as to throw discredit upon popular government.

Addicks and his machine have gone down in a splendid and sordid manner. Not the least gratifying result of the long contest is the overthrow and complete political annihilation of Senator Allee, whom Richardson displaced.

Addicks is gone, Allee's day is done. Delaware faces the favor of a bright future. Instead of two vacancies in the Senate and a condition of constitutional anarchy, or instead of a deadlock and one vacancy, with the other occupied by an Addicks puppets, Delaware is creditably represented by Henry A. Du Pont and Harry A. Richardson, both men of excellent character and of high standing in their respective communities. It would be idle to pretend that they are of the Senatorial calibre of Bayard and Gray, who formerly made Delaware one of the leaders in the national councils, but they are estimable men; patriots both; honorable, steadfast, and true.

ARE WE GOING TOO FAR? President Called Upon to Check Radicalism in State Legislatures. From the New York Sun.

President Roosevelt is in no degree responsible for the undue and onerous prodding of the South, but he is responsible for the general assault on the subject of the railroads which all sorts of communities betray everywhere throughout the country. He has too lightly esteemed his own influence, and especially the contagion of his example. Indeed, there can be no manner of doubt that he must feel that the people are now overdoing it, that they are going much further than he ever intended that they should go. If he will stand himself to a few moments reflection, he will see that the results are bound to be infinitely worse for the South than for the Southern railroads. A misled and infatuated people can bankrupt a railroad corporation without any great difficulty, but how are they going to indemnify themselves for the infinitely greater damage that they inflict on themselves?

A wise and timely word of advice from President Roosevelt would do more good at this juncture than anything else that can be imagined. The popular belief is that he would like to wreck all the railroads, and there is a very general determination that he shall not lack help. Mr. Roosevelt, of course, entertains no such intention. He is a man of sound judgment, and he certainly has no desire to wreck any railroad. He wants to chasten them, correct their evil practices, and properly sterilize them to the public use. In that direction he has certainly made tremendous progress, and the public at large wishes him well. He ought not, however, to let a lot of crazy but too capable imitators in the several States usurp and pervert his own functions, when by a single friendly countenance he could so easily restore them to sanity and common sense.

JAPAN'S NEW STRUGGLE. Her Extraordinary Efforts to Meet Burdens of the Late War. From the Chicago Post.

Although comparatively few in this country are aware of it, Japan to-day is engaged in a struggle in many ways as momentous as was the war with Russia. The new foe is debt, and it is being met in the same methodical way that marked the conduct of the victorious campaign in Manchuria.

The national debt of the empire is one-sixth the total value of all Japan, and the annual interest alone amounts to \$2,000,000. For years the excess of imports over exports has averaged \$2,000,000 in round numbers, and the efforts of the Japanese government are to increase their exports so as to change the trade balance from a deficit to a credit. Mills and factories are being added and every effort is being made to facilitate the export of Japanese products. The government has borrowed money abroad at from 5 to 8 per cent and is lending it to the cotton mills at 4-1/2 per cent. It is also encouraging fair for the exhibition of home-made goods and machinery. Under the protective help of the encouragement laws the Japanese shipping interests have increased rapidly, and in many other ways every effort is being made to decrease the country's trade deficit.

Some sharp plans are being made to burden of debt the country is staggering under. For selling goods, warehousing, manufacturing, etc., there are special business taxes, ranging from 2 to 25 per cent. The government is also increasing the rental value of buildings, and 50 cents for each person employed. There is a graduated income tax laid on all incomes over \$10. The land tax has been increased from 10 to 15 per cent of the value of the land. At the last session of the Diet all existing taxes were increased, most of them doubled, and also some special taxes levied. There is now a tax levied on the consumption of alcohol of from one to 50 sen per cask, according to class and mileage. Also, the new textile consumption tax imposed on the retailer, who, of course, passes it on to the consumer, a tax of 15 per cent of their value on woven textiles and of 10 per cent on cotton textiles.

Great as these are, these taxes are not enough to meet the country's needs, and the Diet is confronted with the problem of again adding to the burdens of the people. How the country will pass through this new crisis is the problem in which financiers all the world over are interested.

Underpaid Teachers. From the Milwaukee Sentinel. The vital importance of the function and the grade of ability it is desirable to attract considered, it is perfectly obvious that the teaching profession should not be underpaid in some communities so absurdly as to constitute a social scandal. Collier's cites