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ATTACKING ROOSEVELT.

The recent and apparently concerted attack of the democratic press of the country on President Roosevelt, has called forth from the Cedar Rapids Republican a denouncement of such methods and a prediction that such cowardly attacks will utterly fail in the accomplishment of their purpose, namely, his defeat for President at the polls next fall. As the Republican points out no real fault can be found with the manner in which President Roosevelt has conducted the affairs of the nation since his accession to the executive chair. In view of this condition the attacks already made have been of a personal nature. His critics have sought to vilify him, charging that he is distrusted by almost every substantial interest in the country. No list of specifications is given, as it is manifestly impossible to point out where the President has lost his hold with the people of the country.

The Republican's statement is filled with interesting facts and is presented to the readers of the Courier in another column. Anyone who has watched the trend of affairs during the past year cannot but admit that President Roosevelt has strengthened himself with the great mass of the people in many instances. He has done what he believed to be right. He has administered the laws of our nation with an impartiality and justice that has met with general approvel. Neither fear nor favor has deterred him from doing what he believed to be his duty and in all his actions there has been no thought of political gain.

President Roosevelt has endeared himselft to the people in such a menner that his nomination for the presidency is assured and his election to that office is practically certain. This is the will of the people and in this republic their will is supreme.

COMMERCE ON THE GREAT LAKE LAKES.

One of the best thermometers of the business prosperity of the great west central portion of the United States is to be found in the coastwise commerce of the great lakes. Freight movements on the great lakes between domestic points during the month of September have show little tendency to decline except in special lines of traffic. For September 1903 the freight receipts were 7,177,865 tons as compared with 7,399,281 tons for September 1902. According to the last bulletin of the department of commerce and labor the receipts for the nine months ending with September 1903 were 42,482,322 tons as compared with 40,102,870 tons for the same period in 1902 and 31,857,832 tons for the first nine months of 1901.

Of the total freight movement for the current season flour contributed the largest tonnage, with grain and flaxseed second and coal, iron ore, lumber and logs following in order. These products were moved in the following amounts:

Flour, (tons)	1,009,136
Grain and flaxseed, (bu.)	98,155,439
Coal, (net tons)	1,402,501
Iron ore and minerals gross tons	19,287,645
Lumber and logs (M feet)	1,592,140
Unclassified freight (net tons)	3,597,365

The cause for the reduction of the total tonnage for the month appears to have been the withdrawal of the ore-carrying vessels from the lake trade. Compared with the ore tonnage for the month of August of 4,040,733 gross tons, there was a decrease in the tonnage for September of over one million tons.

During the month of September 1903, the arrivals of registered tonnage were 9,914 vessels of 9,661,875 tons. This made for the nine months ending with September, 60,470 arrivals with a registered tonnage of 56,255,791 tons.

The showing made during the first nine months of the present year is exceedingly gratifying and indicates the magnitude of our domestic commerce in the lake region.

GOOD AGE TO LIVE IN.

No epoch in the history of the human race has been so replete with opportunities or advantages to mankind as the present era. Never has there been a time when there has been opened to the young man just coming into manhood so many or so renumerative avenues of activity. A young man in health, mind and limb has his own indolence and inactivity to blame for the poverty he suffers, if he allows himself to continue therein. The speed and cheapness of travel has made the whole world the workshop of the enterprising to be taken by daring industry and perserverance. The harshness of existence has been ameliorated by the development of the science of surgery and medicine, resulting in protection and prolongation of life. Generally speaking there is now an increase in the population of the globe thus resulting in an enlarged demand for the products of toil.

While the United States holds a place unique among the nations of the world, there are many other progressive countries in which rare opportunities are to be found. The mineral fields of Mexico are now being exploited and are yielding fortunes. In South America is stored much treasure that simply awaits the touch of the enterprising hand to be transformed into wealth. A writer thus speaks of the possibilities of that country:

"The wildernesses of Central America and upper South America are inconceivably rich in gold and silver, the commercial metals and substances and in tropical productions. Inexhaustible forests of valuable timber are within easy reach and the clearings give place to plantations for the growth of coffee, copra and the fruits and supplies now demanded by the omnivorous appetite of civilization. The lower part of South America is also feeling the touch of new life. Immigration is swarming there to grasp the opportunities similar to those offered by our western prairies in former days."

In the continents of Asia and Africa this process is being repeated. No longer is British Columbia a forbidding and ice bound region. Even the cold and once desolate regions of Alaska are being transformed into centers of activity and producers of wealth. But while these places are all far away it is remembered that the energetic American youth need not turn away from his native land to better his material condition. The swamps of the lower Mississippi and gulf country are being reclaimed for use as rice fields. The lands of Indian Territory are being opened up. And again millions upon millions of now useless acres of desert lands will soon be available for tilling through the western and southwestern states by means of government irrigation.

Wherever the young American turns he is confronted by opportunities for his betterment. All that is required is that he go into his work with determination bringing thereto the talent of perseverance.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Roosevelt's message to congress regarding the Cuban reciprocity treaty is of great interest to the American people. It is safe to say that it has been generally read by them. It sets forth the opinions of the chief executive upon the subject of our relations with Cuba in a brief and forceful manner. He shows that the adoption of the treaty will do no harm to any industry of the United States and follows by urging the passage of the measure on the high plain of a national duty.

This duty came to us when in the interest of humanity we gave to the Cuban people their independence. Since that time Cuba has acted in good faith with us. President Roosevelt points out that while the treaty will be to the economic advantage of Cuba it will also act to our economic advantage. The market of Cuba, under the administration of self government, is destined to become important in the markets of the world and it seems now the duty of the American people to save that market to themselves while there is an opportunity. It is now time for prompt and decisive action.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

The concern with which certain alarmists viewed the large immigration of the spring and summer months is recalled by recent developments. Thousands of these immigrants are now thronging the offices of the steamship companies in New York seeking passage on the outgoing vessels, especially those going to Mediterranean ports, are carrying their fullest complements and it is expected by steamship officials that the crush will continue until the first of the year. This movement of foreigners to their homes has already attained proportions never before equalled.

As nearly as can be ascertained, aside from the many who wish again to see their native lands, business retrenchments and industrial strikes are believed to be the chief causes for this outgo. It is pointed out that with the exception of the annual outflow that go to their first homes for the holidays there is little skilled labor in the ranks. These persons are mostly Italians and many of the others come from the Polish, Slovak and Hungarian nationalities.

The return of these people to their native lands is not a matter of regret as it will considerably simplify the question of the assimilation of those remaining with American ideas and modes of life. The question of immigration laws is one of the most important with which the American people have to deal. It is the American idea that no one should be excluded who comes to this country honestly seeking to better his condition and expecting to become a part of the American people. That American life and citizenship may maintain its present high standard it is necessary that those who do not wish to identify themselves with its progress should be sifted out and in honesty to themselves Americans should deny the right of such to enter this country.

BIG ARMY OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Americans take a just pride in the public school system of the United States. It is shown in the report of the national commissioner of education for the year ending June 30 last, there were 15,925,887 enrolled in the public schools of the United States. Added to this number, those who were in attendance in other schools and colleges in the country brought the total up to 18,080,340. In no other nation on the face of the globe has this been equalled. Other countries take a pride in their standing armies and depend on them for the preservation of the government, but in this mighty host of seekers after knowledge is to be found a safeguard of the American republic that outshines them all.

In the vast empire of England with more than 300,000,000 people there is probably not so many children in school. Germany, the land of students and scholars cannot show such a large proportion of its inhabitants seeking after knowledge. The United States stands out pre-eminent among the nations of the world in this matter of public education and in the large number of its inhabitants enrolled in these institutions of learning.

From this great army of students our public schools and colleges send forth every year large numbers of recruits into the active life of citizenship. By the discipline of the schools they have been trained for the new duties that come to them in everyday life. New life is infused into American citizenship. These citizens are armed with intelligence that proves a safeguard against those enemies who would attempt to persuade them that because certain things are wrong their country is going to the bad. This public educational system is raising up a citizenship that believes in the United States as the best country and the best government on the globe. Armed with this belief the aim of America's citizenship will be to maintain our institutions and to perpetuate the government of the people, by the people and for the people, as its most sacred heritage.

THE KAISER'S SERMON.

Emperor William of Germany is a rugged type of manhood and a forceful ruler that commands the attention of the entire world. The idea that he was flighty and uncertain of sane action that prevailed in the early days of his reign, has long since been given its quietus. He is known as a man of decided opinions and one who carries out his ideas to their logical and effective conclusion. When he sets out on a certain course he knows where he is going and has developed the faculty of getting there.

An honest and fearless ruler he also possesses a character on which there is no stain of imperial immoralities. He is possessed of high ideals and when he gives utterance to views on religious subjects he commands the attention and endorsement of religious men and women in all Christian lands. An instance of this was noticed recently when two of his sons were confirmed in church relations. On that occasion this father-emperor, addressed to them words that bespeak a sincere belief in the good and noble of life and especially in the efficacy of the Christian religion. Among other things he said:

"Today, you have, so to speak, come of age in your beliefs. I speak intentionally in the military sense because I assume that you know the beautiful allegory in which the Christian is to be compared to the warrior. You will, of course, carry out what you have today so beautifully promised in your vows to your spiritual master. With justice you have emphasized the fact that you intend to be personages which, in my opinion is the point which most concerns the Christian in his daily life, for undoubtedly we can say with comfort of the Savior, that He was the most personal personage who ever walked the earth among men."

In this utterance there is embodied a great sermon that would do credit to any pulpit orator. The emperor holds up Christ as the ideal "personage," and advocates it to be the highest and noblest endeavorer of evey individual to strive to be like Him. He believes that no one who thus lives, can be a small, mean or selfish man.

Colombia puts one in mind of the "dog and bone" fable. Through its eyes of avarice it saw an opportunity of securing a larger bone and let go the one within its grasp. Now even the shadow is gone.

In referring to the statement of Tom Johnson that the result in Ohio was due to several causes the Des Moines Capital aptly remarks: "Yes, as much as 115,000 of them."

If the Roosevelt administration does or does not in the Panama affair the democratic party will attempt to make campaign thunder out of it for next year.

The whole thing in Mississippi but only a minority leader in the house—that is the situation in which Congressman Williams finds himself.

It now seems probable that there will be a revival of the Panama hat industry next season.

It is safe to say that the republicans will not run away from Arthur Pue Gorman as a presidential candidate.

Germany has responded to the call of Colombia with a "not at home" announcement.

Iowa will back up President Roosevelt in the Panama affair.

IOWA PRESS COMMENT.

On the proposal to establish another normal school the Boyden Reporter votes "no." The Reporter thinks "the state would do well to give what institutions she has liberal support rather than to establish more."

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The Glidden Graphic is wondering what will be the next issue of the democracy. The Glidden paper enumerates "free trade, imperialism, free silver and railway taxation" as "issues which have served their turn, and have failed to produce enough votes to win."

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Here is the winning program as the Cedar Rapids Republican outlines it: "All that the republican party has to do is to stand by its own convictions and its own historical policies and all will be well in the elections next year. The only thing that could affect the party unfavorably now is cowardice. Courage to go ahead and to stand up for its own beliefs, courage to stand pat, is all that is necessary."

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The Marion Register is inclined to credit to standpatism the magnificent off-year majority won by the Iowa republicans "in spite of the united democracy under the leadership of a fearless, able, eloquent, inspiring candidate, the finest orator that party has had in the field since the days of Ben M. Samuels and John P. Irish." The Register asserts "standpatters are loyal and nine-tenths of the party in the state are proud of the name the fault-finding tariff rippers have given them."

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"Iowa democrats have dropped the discussion of comparative majorities," remarks the Sioux City Journal, adding: "There is reason to fear they are sorry they ever started it."

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Sioux City Journal.—It is probable the Panama hat will be more popular in the United States of America than in the United States of Colombia next summer.

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The Newton Record observes that woman is crowding her "supposedly superior and stronger brother" out of many avenues of commercial life. The Record believes this is a result of the woman's efforts, through clubs and otherwise, "to cultivate and improve their mental qualities and broaden the horizon of their existence." The Record concludes that "if men expect to hold their own in the race for bread they will have to spend more of their leisure hours in mental development and less for their personal amusement."

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The Cedar Rapids Gazette has figured out that "as a general thing no politician believes in scratching a ticket in a county where his party has the majority, and no politician believes in voting it straight in any county where his party is in the minority."

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The Des Moines Capital finds some intimation that "the American shoe is pinching the German foot."

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Burlington Hawk-Eye. — Congress began its grind without a jar. There will probably be some hot journals, however, before the machine stops again.

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"How does the result in Iowa satisfy William Randolph Hearst, Esq." queries the Manchester Register.

"Will it be Bryan and McClellan in 1904?" inquires the Des Moines Capital.

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Council Bluffs Nonpareil.—General Nelson A. Miles is spoken of for police commissioner of New York under the new Tammany administration. This would never do. Miles doesn't know what compromise is. He is distinctly a fighter and would be like a cat in a strange garret in the midst of the Tammany system of graft and blackmail.

THE PRESIDENT AND PANAMA.

Cedar Rapids Republicans.—Studious efforts have been made to misrepresent the position of the President toward the new republic of Panama, embracing the neck of land between the two continents and a population of about 250,000.

As to the provocations to secession on the part of the people of Panama, these have to be admitted by all. The government of Colombia, which originally did not have jurisdiction over Panama, has been admittedly corrupt in rejecting the treaty for the construction of the canal at Panama. It was a game of extortion, or attempted extortion. To the people of Panama it meant the loss of the canal, with all the accruing advantages. They had cause to secede and they are justified on general principles.

So far as the President is concerned his recognition of the new republic was such only as grew out of the American treaty obligations. These obligations, originally accepted in a treaty with Granada to whose authority the Colombian government succeeded, implied the maintenance of peace on the isthmus and keeping it open for traffic. That obligation the United States has fulfilled, not only in the present but in other revolutions. The recognition of the new republic has been incidental.

But there is no doubt that the new republic will be recognized by the nations of the world generally. Public policy and international welfare would seem to demand such recognition. Colombia has proved itself unworthy to have authority over the isthmus.

NEW YORK SAFE FOR 1904.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.—Senator Platt of New York is not much impressed by that Tammany victory in the big city. He points out something which everybody knows who is acquainted with the politics of the Empire state, and that is, that more than once when New York City has gone democratic by a larger majority than it did in the recent election the republicans have carried the state. That 63,000 plurality for McClellan is very small beside the lead of 122,000 won in the city by Coler for governor in 1902, and yet Odell carried the state, though by little less than 9,000.

In the election just held the republicans made gains in the contests for members of the lower branch of the legislature, which was rechosen. They made gains, too in the contests for members of the upper branch who were chosen to fill vacancies. The republicans made gains even in New York City in the legislative contests. These afford an absolutely safe gauge of the sentiment of the state at large at the present time. If a president had been elected in the contest held a few days ago the republicans would have carried the state of New York.

There can be no doubt that republican influences in the state of New York as well as all over the country, will be stronger next year than they are now. Whenever there is anything like apathy, it is the republicans who suffer by it. There was not the enthusiasm in New York, in the state at large, as well as in the city, in the recent election that there will be in the presidential campaign. Moreover, the influences which elected the Tammany ticket a few days ago will have vanished before next November and be replaced by adverse factors. Tammany will begin to reveal its old character as a piratical organization long before the next election takes place. New York is reasonably sure for the republicans in 1904, but the republicans must understand from the outset that they cannot carry it by any such big majorities as they had in 1900 or 1896.

THE PANAMA ISSUE.

Des Moines Register and Leader.—The democratic senate committee is hesitating about attacking President Roosevelt on his recognition of Panama. Senator Morgan, who is opposed to the Panama canal, favors an aggressive policy, but the more cautious leaders fear that the people will be with the President and that an anti-Panama issue will prove as disastrous as the anti-Philippine issue did. Senator Gorman is the head and brains of the steering committee, and Senator Gorman is not looking for any more false leads.

It requires no detailed survey of national history to discover that no party has ever made any headway on anti issues in this country, especially when they were anti-national greatness issues. Even when the nation has acted unjustly, as it did in its aggrandizement at the expense of Mexico, the people have sustained it. If President Roosevelt had deliberately set about securing a secession of Panama from Colombia, and that fact could be proved, in view of Colombia's unreasonable and selfish course thus far, it is very doubtful if the democrats would find the people with them to the extent of voting a condemnation at the polls.

But President Roosevelt's hands are clean in the Panama matter, and the action that he has taken is one that is justified if not demanded by international law. If the nation proves to be the beneficiary of the secession, it is one of those logical outcomes that can not be avoided and that no one should wish to avoid. Colombia has been fairly dealt with—generously dealt with—but has chosen to assume the role of the sandbagger and hold-up man. If Panama, which is the real party in interest, does not choose to be sacrificed by such a policy, Panama has a right to resist and is entitled to the encouragement and aid of all right thinking people in offering an effective resistance.

Whatever the course the democratic senators decide upon, President Roosevelt will be sustained by popular sentiment. He has acted as an American ought to act.

A LIMIT IN WAGES.

Council Bluffs Nonpareil.—The announcement of the steel trust that it is to make a cut of from $2 to $4 a ton in certain classes of its product with the two fold purpose of stimulating consumption and of affording a reasonable basis for asking employes to accept lower wages is an evidence of a reaction that is setting in in the industrial world, with both labor and capital. Along with other building material steel has gone up in price to such an extent that building operations have been greatly curtailed. At the same time wages have advanced in nearly all lines, and the two factors together have brought about a condition that has thrown many men out of employment. Those who otherwise would have built during the past summer have postponed operation on account of the high prices of material and labor.

The announcement of the steel trust of a reduction of prices is the first step returning to the former conditions af activity, but the management of this corporation claims that in order to do this successfully and resume work at mills that have been closed down it must have the co-operation of the men and therefore holds out to them the prospect of more work than at present, but with reduced wages.

If as a matter of fact labor has forced wages up to a point where stagnation has set in as a result of the action of the final consumer in ceasing to be a consumer, the proposition of the steel trust would seem worthy of consideration by its employes. Labor is entitled to the highest wages equitable, but unless labor is to stand in its own light it must also be ready to consider the practicability of the wage. When wages reach that point in their upward trend where consumption is curtailed through the advanced prices of labor's product, one of two things must follow—either a less wage must be accepted or the working forces cut down. Up to the present time in the steel industry the reaction has taken form in the reduction of the working forces, but now it is proposed to again put the product on the market at prices that will stimulate consumption and give work to more men, but to do this it is claimed that the co-operation of employes in accepting a less wage will be necessary. It remains to be seen what labor will do with the proposition.

HOLES IN THE SKIMMER.

Marion Register.—The esteemed Marion Sentinel had to say something about the recent elections, and so it rejoices over the victory of Tammany, the most corrupt political organization on earth, the democratic victories in Kentucky and Maryland, and the election of a democratic governor in Rhode Island. It then bewails the election of a republican legislature in the state, "by the trusts, thus continuing Rhode Island's subserviency to the coal oil Johnnies." If that is true, does it not create the impression that the democratic governor elect is also "subservient to the trusts" for the reason that the same ballot which elected the governor elected the legislature? But it can hardly be true for the coal oil trust is a democratic trust, democratic men own its stock, and control the company, and coal oil is on the free list. Editor Shanklin frames a smooth paragraph and gives his readers well written editorials. Not one democratic editor in a hundred is an even match for him, but the holes he leaves in the skimmer! A blind man can see through them.

MR. PHILLIPS MIGHT RETORT.

Burlington Hawk-Eye.—Sometimes we wish we could hear Thomas J. Phillips' views upon the recent election for governor. He led the democratic hosts in 1901, when the party was divided and the state convention alienated the gold democrats by reaffirming the the Kansas City platform. Mr. Phillips was defeated under such a handicap by 83,080. This year the democrats got together and had the benefit of a vigorous speaking campaign. An old-time issue—the tariff—upon which the party used to be united was made the chief theme. And yet Mr. Sullivan was defeated by almost the same plurality, falling only two or three thousand short of the measure of Mr. Phillips' disaster. The latter has been made the target of considerable unpleasant comment by democrats, who were disposed to disparage him and laud Mr. Sullivan. In view of the election returns it would look as if Mr. Phillips has very good grounds for a personal retort.

ABUSING ROOSEVELT.

Cedar Rapids Republican.—It begins to look as though the democratic managers, despairing of finding any issue that promises "to work" next year have determined on a program of villification of the President, whose renomination is assured. During the last two weeks every democratic paper in the country has begun a series of anti-Roosevelt editorials which editorials are supplemented by the cartoonists attached to the papers. The line of attack is so similar in each case as to suggest that it is inspired from a single source.

It being impossible up to the present time to find a real fault with the administration, the line of attack is directed toward the President personally. It is alleged that the country has suddenly grown suspicious of the President, that his hold upon the people has been lessened and that he is today a very weak man, distrusted by almost every substantial interest in the country. The bill of specifications is, of course, omitted. None of these able democratic papers point out just where the President has lost his hold upon the people, or what evidence exists that such is the case, but go on and talk as though they had proved their proposition by a long line of argument.

We imagine that these tactics will fail as signally as have the efforts to emphasize this issue and that issue in the effort to find a "paramount" for next year's campaign. There is no evidence anywhere that the President has lost any of his popularity. He never was beloved by a certain clique in Wall street, which has made no effort to conceal its dislike for him either before or since his accession to the presidency. These same enemies were powerless to prevent him becoming governor of New York. Some of them no doubt conspired to shelve him by putting him in the vice presidency and thereby gave him his present vantage ground, which no force or combination of forces can take from him. President Roosevelt is as good as renominated today and no sensible man has any doubt of his complete triumph before the people next November. Democratic editors and cartoonists may employ their time abusing and lampooning the President but the chances are that this course will only serve to increase his popularity with the masses and increase his majority both at the polls and in the electoral college next year. Theodore Roosevelt has a way of confounding his enemies that is remarkable. Time and again they have congratulated themselves in secret that he was disposed of, or that he had ruined himself, but each time he has been pushed up a notch or two in public esteem. These gentlemen might just as well make up their minds that four years more of Roosevelt is inevitable, for the people have decreed that this shall be inevitable.

If Anyone Wants a Dirt Scraper

to scrape either dirt or snow—or both—this winter I have the scraper. Also extra heavy contractors, doubletrees, singletrees, neckyokes. Axle Grease.

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SECRETARY PAYNE'S GOOD WORK.

Indianapolis Journal.—The filing of the Bristow report on the investigation of the postoffice department calls for a word of praise for Postmaster General Payne. When he was appointed to that position the appointment was criticised in some quarters as an unfit one and Mr. Payne was declared to be a "spoilsman." This was because he was a member of the republican national committee, though he had also a fine record as a successful business man of unquestioned integrity. His large business interests made it a personal sacrifice for him to accept the office of postmaster general, and if he could have foreseen the sea of troubles into which he was plunging no doubt he would have declined the position. The crookedness and rottenness which have been uncovered in some branches of the postal service existed when Mr. Payne became head of the department, and had existed for some years, but he had no inkling of it. The mortification, embarrassment and worry incident to the disclosures were all to fall on him.

The investigation which is now practically ended has been one of the most prolonged and thorough ever made in any branch of the public service, and at almost every stage of it political enemies of the administration have tried to create the impression that Postmaster General Payne was trying to thwart the investigation, shield the wrongdoers and prevent disclosures that might be damaging to the administration. This was consistent with the charge originally made by the same class of critics, that Mr. Payne was a spoilsman, etc.

Through all this storm of misrepresentation and defamatory criticism, Mr. Payne has borne himself with courage and dignity, contributing by every means in his power to the work of investigation and waiting till it should end for his vindication. That has come in the shape of a voluminous report, which shows that during the entire course of the investigation the committee was instructed to "hew to the line," and that not the slightest effort was made to shield any person to whom wrongdoing was trade. It also appears in the promptness with which every person proven guilty of wrongdoing, or even brought under suspicion, was removed from office and their cases turned over to the legal authorities. The making of these removals was in some instances a painful duty for the postmaster general, but the record shows he did not shrink from it for a moment. He met courageously the responsibility inherited from previous administrations, and never stopped until he had completed the housecleaning which had been deferred all too long.

The outcome shows that a man can be an active politician without being a spoilsman, and that membership of the republican national committee does not prevent a person from having a high sense of public duty. Of course, the most importan result of the investigation as shown by the Bristow report, is the complete cleansing of the postoffice department and the demonstration that malfeasance in office inevitably brings its own punishment, but among its incidental results not the least is the vindication of Postmaster General Payne from charges and inuendoes made against him by political enemies for political purposes.

AS TO SALVAGE.

Minneapolis Tribune.—The laws of New Jersey are said to deal as severely with fraudulent corporations as they deal generously with corporations that want new charters. There would be a principle of compensation in this, and we hope it is true. There must be something in it, because the receiver for the wrecked shipbuilding trust recommends in his report extraordinarily drastic proceedings against Mr. Schwab, Mr. Morgan and the other wreckers. One proposal is that the stock they got for nothing be subjected to a cash assessment in order to compensate the persons whose property they got in the promotion for worthless securities, while they took first mortgage bonds. This is a roundabout way of getting at it; but perhaps the bonds could not be declared void and the property given back to its owners. The public will be pretty well satisfied with any rough treatment of the wreckers which brings substantial justice.

AN ACCEPTABLE CHALLENGE.

New York Evening Post.—Senator Gorman's idea that he can have the "race issue" all to himself is preposterous. He appears to imagine that he can openly affront and bitterly attack the sentiment of the north without provoking either retort or resistance. No one but a short-sighted politician ever fell into a more egregious blunder. We have the best of reasons for believing that a rapid awakening on this subject is now going on within the republican party. Before long we hope to publish the evidence. Senator Gorman's unscrupulous appeals to race prejudice are rousing men who will have much to do with shaping the course both of national policy and national legislation. If the Maryland senator issues a challenge to make injustice to the negro a leading issue in the next presidential election, it will be taken up quicker than he dreams. Already we have from President Roosevelt the emphatic assurance that he will not shun that contest. He is reported as saying that if he could be assured of re-election on the condition of turning his back on the principles of Abraham Lincoln, he would be incapable of making the bargain, and would be unfit to be president if he could think of doing such a thing. That he should take so unequivocal and manly a stand is only what we should have expected from so outspoken a champion of fair play and equal rights.

ARMY DESERTIONS.

Indianapolis Sentinel.—The statements of Gen. Fred Funston in regard to the present condition of the army are of such a nature as to make every thinking man pause to search for a solution of the problem suggested. Funston says, among other things, that the number of desertions is "phenomenal." During the last year out of every sixteen enlisted men one ran away from the army and didn't come back. Several thousand soldiers took this kind of French leave during the year just ended.

Various methods have been suggested for putting a stop to this condition of affairs. Most young men do not enlist in the army for the pay. It is merely that they are attracted by the glamour of adventure and glory and glitter of uniform and all the romance of the accoutrements of war. During time of war, even when there is no actual fighting, there is always the chance of excitement. And so there are few desertions during time of war. It is when peace reigns that the desertions begin. The young man of adventurous spirit is the very one whom the dreary round of drill and the monotony of barrack life become unbearable. You may raise his wages to $18 a month or to $20 a month, but that will not keep him. He chafes under the restraint, the sameness and the loss of his individuality. The problem has become imminent on account of the increase in the peace footing of the army. When we only maintained 20,000 we didn't notice it so much; now that we have 60,000 it becomes noticeable. It is probable that the United States will have to keep right on gathering recruits to take the place of the deserters.

THE DECLINE IN STEEL.

Des Moines Capital—Have the apostles of the tariff ripping propaganda taken note of the fact that the last few weeks have witnessed a marked decline in the price of steel? Have they observed that notwithstanding the continued compactness of that iniquitous tariff wall steel rails, steel bars and steel billets have all taken an average tumble of $4 per ton and are going still lower? Are they still of the opinion that until the battering ram of "progression" has effected huge holes throughout that wall that no relief from monopoly can ever come?

It has ever been the fate of the democratic party that it is only a question of time when its glittering theories are utterly demolished by the cold hard facts.

For months the Capital has contended that the question of high prices would solve itself in due time without reference to existing tariff schedules. It has declared that the most gigantic trust that was ever organized must eventually yield to certain economic laws; that competition in a commodity for which there is a general demand could not always be suppressed, and that it might not be so very long before the slump would come. That position has been fully vindicated. Steel stocks were deteriorating in value. The price of commodities is coming down. The wages of labor alone remain intact.

The condition of the steel market at the present time is one of the most significant object lessons in the industrial world.

IN THE END THEY DO RIGHT.

Chicago Inter Ocean.—"We gave her liberty," the President said of Cuba in his message Tuesday to congress. "We must help her onward and upward, and in helping her we shall help ourselves."

We gave Cuba liberty. Then lest she misuse it to our danger we restricted her liberty. To give her liberty was not enough unless we gave her prosperity also. And without prosperity our restriction upon her liberty is a danger to us instead of a safeguard.

These facts have stared us in the face ever since our self-respect compelled us to avenge the Maine and free Cuba. Special interests, thinking only of immediate gain, have tried to becloud these facts. For three years they have prevented congress from doing its plain duty to Cuba and the United States.

Justice to Cuba and the prosperity of Cuba would harm no American industry. They would greatly benefit American industry as a whole. Furthermore, they would put our political relations with Cuba upon the secure basis of a mutuality of material interests.

Many of our people have been slow to see that national honor and interest alike called us to establish prosperity for Cuba. Hence congress has been slow to act. But now congress will act, for the people have seen the facts and know the truth.

Really the most conservative of all great nations, the American people have moved toward Cuba inch by inch. But they have at last arrived at the truth, and their congress will now register their decree.

However slowly and cautiously they move the American people are always thinking. Starting with right desires they always think right in the final conclusion, and in the end they do right.

BY WIRELESS.

Wantage, November 4.
To C. F. Murphy, New York:
Congratulations. Look for me by January 1. There appears to be enough to go 'round. Richard Croker.

New York, November 4.
To Richard Croker, Wantage:
Thanks. We need no foreign assistance. Our motto is American loot for American looters.
Charles F. Murphy.
—New York Evening Post.