

ON GUARD, UNCLE SAM!

C. S. Adelman.

There is dreadful cause for worry! Let's buy cannon in a hurry to make good our woeful weakness which in Congress now is aired. We must raise an army mighty, pass up talk of peace as flighty, for it's terribly apparent that we're wholly unprepared. We should dig into our jeans for a hundred submarines which in stopping foreign dreadnaughts are more useful than you'd think; and we ought to rob our grips for a score more battleships (to parade our helpless coast) for foreign submarines to sink! Uncle Sam is but a "bluff"—he's not spending half enough—just a quarter billion dollars every year's expense is his, on our army and our fleet which is still so incomplete that our patriotic statesmen ask in wrath just where it is? Let us hasten to prepare on the land and sea and air for our next great dreadful conflict which some day may be declared and expend with royal cheer half a billion more each year, so that if it comes (or don't) we will not have been unprepared. Don't the mental picture charm ye, of a mighty standing army, say a quarter million soldiers? What a "patriotic" thrill! Men from all our lesser stations taken from their occupations and made expert in the noble art of how to maim and kill. Don't the thrilling picture move you and our present state reprove you when you start to figure how much such an army would be worth? Why, with dough enough to feed 'em and with Teddy R. to lead 'em we could take a weaker nation and just wipe 'em off the earth! So then let's prepare for trouble. What if our expenses double? Though our billions are invested it's a thing that must be done, for should Villa's head expand and he cross the Rio Grande, he might keep right on agoing till he captured Washington! Then suppose some foreign state, say in 1998, took a notion to come over here and put us on the blink, just imagine the dismay from New York to Frisco bay—it's enough to drive our children's children's children all to drink! Also don't forget those Japs—they are enterprising chaps—and we'll surely have to bring them to their Japan knees some day—for you see there is no land which may suit them close to hand, so they'll plant their flag in Frisco and annex the U. S. A. Other problems of the State which are equally as great drive the agents of the powder and the steel trust to despair, so I add in strident tones let us spend a billion bones every year (if we can raise it)—just so long as we prepare!

BOOKS

SETTLING A QUESTION RIGHT

The Tariff: What it is. How it works. Whom it benefits, Protection, Revenue, Free Trade. By Lee Francis Lybarger, Member of the Philadelphia Bar, Lyceum and Chataqua Lecturer. Published by The Platform, The Lyceum and Chataqua Magazine, 601 Steinway Hall, Chicago. Price, \$1.50 net.

The need of a new book on the tariff may on

first thought appear doubtful. The subject has been discussed so long and argued again and again at every election within memory of the present generation—to say nothing of arguments between elections and at elections not remembered by living men—that one may be pardoned for believing that the last word on the subject has somewhere been spoken. But "no question is ever settled until it is settled right" and Mr. Lybarger makes clear that the question is still far from being settled that way. He has given us a work which aside from its convincing abstract arguments presents facts, and figures from official sources that are alone sufficient to show the fallacy of pro-tariff arguments.

Like Henry George, he shows protective tariffs and revenue tariffs to be equally wrong. In regard to protection he shows that it represents special privilege and class legislation, builds up trusts and monopolies, which are enabled to sell cheaper abroad than at home; robs people without their knowledge; employs public taxation for private gain; obtains the vote of labor by falsehood and fraud, while diminishing the purchasing power of wages as well as the protection of wealth, and enriches some by impoverishing others. The unscientific nature is also shown of the absurd cry for a "scientific" tariff.

In regard to a tariff for revenue he shows it to be contrary to all sound principles of taxation and quotes the argument of Henry George.

The space devoted to the "favorable balance of trade" idea contains all the facts needed to show the absurdity of the claim that we can grow rich by reducing our wealth. The Treasury figures of exports and imports are presented from 1885 to 1913, during which time the total excess of exports has aggregated \$9,178,090,147, and it would seem as though it were high time that we were getting some of that "shining gold," which President McKinley declared would come to us in return. But those who still cling to such expectations will find their rosy dreams shattered on noting what McKinley failed to realize, that so far from creating an obligation on the part of foreigners to send us gold, this "favorable" balance is for the most part tribute to foreign owners of American lands.

After showing these facts it is not surprising to note that Mr. Lybarger finds the solution of the tariff question in absolute free trade and direct taxation and that he finds a land value tax as the direct tax which should be adopted.

Among the valuable reference material is a history of tariff legislation which gives the schedules of every tariff law, beginning with the first one adopted during Washington's administration. In parallel columns are given tariff rates of every tariff law from that of 1883 to the Underwood act. The rates proposed in the Mills bill of 1888 are included in this comparison.