

ernment, putting their own favorites in power.

"Plainly, it would be unsafe, even dangerous, to have any such cases as a precedent by which this government must be bound later. And the president and the state department, if I am informed correctly, will insist most emphatically that this case must be regarded as exceptional, both as relates to the past and the future."

"Then the case is merely one of expediency?" Mr. Adams was asked.

"Not even that admission can be made safely to future administration interests. The only thing that can be said to the world at large is that the whole case is exceptional; exceptional in violation of international law, exceptional in violating every tradition of the past in this republic."

"What would a parallel have been in the past?"

"To go back 40 years, it would have been just as if Great Britain had recognized South Carolina after the stars and stripes had been hauled down from Fort Sumter. I can remember the time when such action would have been regarded—certainly in this part of the nation—as a violation of right, fair and honor between nations. It would have been unpardonable, of course."

"Is there not some rule of international law to-day that would justify it?"

"Nobody makes such a claim—President Roosevelt least of all. No, it is without any precedent, against all rules. It is avowedly 'exceptional'—that is, something that this nation will not justify by any of the rules of law, of international usage. If any nation had attempted to recognize any of the seceding States in 1861 the recognition would have amounted almost to an act of war against the United States, it would have been so utterly wrong.

"I do not believe President Roosevelt would allow any nation of Europe to do the same thing in any other case. Admittedly what has been done has been a succession of high-handed measures, outside any warrant in international law. No rules apply. No precedent exists. And no similar action would be tolerated in any other power.

"In this case the whole contention is that the United States is doing something that it will not allow other nations to imitate and that it has never allowed other nations to do in its own case, and that it will not allow to be taken as a precedent by anybody, anywhere, hereafter.

"I cannot but regard it as unprecedented. It is truly 'exceptional' in all history. It is high-handed. How the

United States can do anything and then refuse to be bound by its own record thereafter I do not profess to explain. It is so 'exceptional' that it is unique. Whither it leads the people must decide."

NEW ZEALAND NOT STAGNANT. THE ONLY COMPLAINT IS THAT WORKINGMEN ARE TOO PROSPEROUS.

From the Chicago Saturday Blade, of November 14.

After a six years' absence from my native country, New Zealand, I returned there last year for a nine months' stay. I expected to see the industrial situation in a bad way, accrediting the reports of the colony's depression which I had read both in the States and England. But, on the contrary, both money and employment seemed plentiful. I did not investigate the government's financing and the meaning of its huge debt. But the taxes levied in consequence thereof did not seem to be as high proportionately as the wages paid.

Nothing struck me more wherever I went in New Zealand than the prosperity and independence of the so-called "working classes," the plentifulness of employment of all kinds, and the high wages. I heard of much good work literally going begging, and on all hands, in a variety of different ways, my attention was called to the scarcity—I think I might almost say the extreme scarcity—of labor. Most, not all, of my informants were not government supporters.

LABORERS SCARCE.

I jot down, as they occur to me, a few instances for which I can personally vouch. One of the wealthiest flax millers in the North Island complained to me that his garden fence had been unpainted for months; he was willing to pay good wages (at least \$2.50 a day, and probably three dollars, or more) to have it done, and yet could get no one to do it. Whenever he wanted an odd job done it was the same trouble. I heard exactly similar complaints from many others in quite different parts.

In the small town where I lived the milkmen recently sent round to all their customers to say that the scarcity of labor was such that they did not see how they could manage to deliver more than once a day. In the same town a large jam manufacturer did not know where to get labor, even girl labor. Where the girls went to no one knew; certainly not as servants, for the domestic servant problem, acute here, is immensely more acute there.

GOOD PAY FOR WORKERS.

Unskilled laborers were generally getting \$2.50 a day in Wellington, where, however, wages are higher than in some parts. Laborers, such as flax millers' hands and skilled workers, were getting \$3.75 and \$5 a day. The harvest before the last one out there I heard of almost incredible wages being paid for harvesters in the North Island, up to five dollars a day in some cases. The total cost of living may be slightly higher for artisans there than here, but this I doubt; for the professional classes I consider it, on the whole, much the same now.

The only people I heard of as asking unsuccessfully for work were obvious tramps, who preferred to beg rather than earn a meal and some money by half a day's work. Let it be clearly understood that I am speaking of New Zealand only, and of artisans, and not clerical labor of any kind. At present it seems to me there is too much work in New Zealand; they are too prosperous, and a little more struggling for life would in some ways be salutary. As for emigrating, I do not hear anything of it. New Zealand is preeminently a workingman's country, perhaps too much so. That the workingman and his interests predominate must strike any observer.

C. A. BARNICOAT.

Chicago, Oct. 27, 1903.

[Wellington collects its taxes from land values only, thus discouraging speculation in land, and giving all a chance to build a home. The taxes for the general government are also raised in part by this method.—Editor of the Saturday Blade.]

THE IRON MONSTER.

From a lecture delivered in Cincinnati Sunday evening, November 15, by Herbert S. Bigelow.

"The Octopus" is the title of a novel by Mr. Frank Norris. The scene of the story is in the California wheat-belt. It tells of the desperate and losing battle which the California wheat growers waged against the railroad and its ruinous rates. Read this story of the havoc wrought and the hearts broken and the hopes crushed by this monstrous monopoly, and see if the metaphor in the book of Daniel does not fit the case.

"A beast, dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly: devouring its victims with great iron teeth; and stamping them to pieces with hoofs of steel—" such is the railroad monopoly.

This book takes us out on the great ranches, which extend as far as the eye