

goes while I am President nobody shall interfere with them. . . . Have not the European nations taken as long as they wanted, and spilled as much blood as they pleased in settling their affairs? And shall we deny that to Mexico because she is weak?



That is the utterance of a statesman. Those are the words of a democrat. Mr. Roosevelt, and other men of the autocratic type of mind, would give to Mexico such freedom as they think Mexico should have. Mr. Wilson, and all real democrats, would see that Mexico has such freedom as Mexicans want. The one set of men look upon Mexico as a field for exploitation; they dread the war and the confusion because it interrupts the operations of their mines, plantations, railroads, and other big-dividend-paying enterprises. Whereas, the other class looks upon Mexico as a country where a part of the human race is struggling for liberty, and a place in the sun. Does not this square with President Wilson's policy from first to last? And can any one, looking over the events of the past two years, say that the President has no Mexican policy? Mistaken it may be, but it cannot be said to be non-existent. But that policy has not been mistaken. The right of the people of a country to choose the kind of government they shall have has not been a mistake in this country; it will not be a mistake in Mexico; nor will it be a mistake in the Philippines.



The President shows his appreciation of the lack of democracy in the courts, when he says they have a very antiquated way of doing business. And that their method of procedure is many decades behind that of other civilized governments. He declares there is an immediate and imperative call to rectify this fault. The speediness of justice, the inexpensiveness and accessibility of justice is the greater part of justice itself. If you have to be rich to get justice, he says, because of the cost of the very process itself, then there is no justice at all. To the Republicans who clamor for a scientific tariff, he declared that if there was "any science in their tariff it has been the science of selfishness, it has been the science of privilege." It is evident that the President has drawn inspiration from the people; and it is to be hoped that he will avail himself of every opportunity to get in touch with them; for there is reason to believe that democracy is to-day farther advanced among the people than it is among the leaders. We are on the eve of great events, and the chief political agent in the United States enjoys a rare opportunity. If President Wilson will keep his ear to

the ground and will faithfully interpret the wishes of the people he will perform a great service to humanity.

S. C.



The Proposed Embargo and Peace.

The Congressmen backing the proposed embargo act deny that they are working in the interest of any of the foreign belligerents. Their only object, they say, is to hasten peace. They can easily prove their good faith beyond peradventure. Let them so amend their proposal that the embargo shall not go into effect unless the nation injured by such shipments shall agree at once to accept mediation, in which case it shall remain in effect if prolongation of the war shall mediate. Unless some provision of this kind should be included, the opponents of an embargo act will not find it hard to convince impartial people that the bill is pushed in the interest of only that kind of peace which will follow an overwhelming victory of the nation favored by its backers.

S. D.



Bread Is Mightier than Cannon.

Those mediaeval-minded persons who think the only way to maintain peace is for every man to carry arms, and every country to surround itself with forts and ships of war, might well ponder the words of the Burgomaster of Louvain, Alfred Nerinex. Speaking of America's aid to his stricken countrymen, he said:

We cannot buy food, even if we have the money, when the doors are closed to imports. Feed us now, and we will pay you back in industry when the war is over. We are paying back now in gratitude for the lives America has saved, gratitude which will endure as proof that human affection is stronger than any treaty alliance. The most powerful army in the world cannot Teutonize Belgium, but America, armed with bread, is Americanizing Belgium.



Swords may rust, rifles and cannon may be superseded, but the effect of a kindly act goes on forever. We boast of our large and ever-increasing foreign trade, but of all the items that make up our exports nothing is so much to our credit, and nothing will redound so much to the permanent good of the country, as the food stuffs sent to prostrate Belgium. And when this war is finally brought to an end, and the fighting men return to their homes to shoulder again the burdens of life—made doubly heavy by this war—there will be still other opportunities for Amer-

icans to aid the victims, not alone in Belgium, but in the other countries that have fought to the point of exhaustion. And the price of every cannon, and of every ship of war, and of every fort that is put into food and clothing to be sent to those people will fortify this country a hundred-fold more than if expended for physical armament. The price of a battleship, sent to each warring nation at the dawn of peace, not as craven tribute, but as fraternal aid, will furnish more enduring protection than did the Great Wall of China.

s. c.



Senator Burton and Privilege.

On the ground that it "will create a privileged class" Senator Burton of Ohio denounced on January 7 the government ship purchase bill. It is a pity that Senator Burton did not earlier in his political career acquire such antipathy to a privileged class. He would not have voted so often in favor of protective tariffs. He would, in fact, have never seen his way clear to oppose the election, either as Congressman or as Mayor of Cleveland, of so staunch an enemy of privilege as Tom L. Johnson. But, if Burton has at this eleventh hour actually reformed, which is very doubtful, he should be welcomed nevertheless. Better late than never.

s. d.



An Old Poem's Modern Moral.

Many years ago somebody described in poetry the experience of a farmer with a lightning rod salesman. The salesman portrayed so vividly the danger of destruction from lightning that the farmer signed, without thinking, an ironclad agreement for enough lightning rods to make him thoroughly prepared for that emergency. Later when he realized the cost of these preparations he protested to the salesman, asking if he thought "that to protect my buildings from some uncertain harm, that I'll deed over to you the balance of my farm?" But the protest came too late. The farmer was legally bound. That lightning rod salesman has a successor, who improves upon his methods, in the advocate of military preparedness. One of these is thus quoted sympathetically by a correspondent of the Chicago Tribune in the issue of January 11, as follows:

What is it makes an army? Discipline, and more discipline, and then more until a man has ceased to think of himself, until a man never considers "I should rather do this—I should rather do that," but goes and does it. And can that be gained in three months? It takes years to do it—and those years should preferably be in youth.

So here is a military estimate of the cost of preparedness in addition to the money spent upon it. To guard against the very uncertain danger of political domination by a foreign power we must train our young men to become brainless automatons who will unthinkingly submit to the will of a few military martinets. Compared with this proposal the lightning rod salesman of the poem was marvelously moderate in drawing up his contract with the farmer. And the farmer displayed marvelous businesslike shrewdness in comparison with the American people should they hearken to the voice of the militarist.

s. d.



Repealing the Law of Supply and Demand.

The men who persist in urging their cotton valorization scheme to relieve the planters, little realize the ultimate effect of their action. A little reflection should show them the futility of such an undertaking. America does not produce all the cotton. Other countries now raise considerable quantities, and they are putting more and more land under that staple. Whatever influence affects the price of cotton in this country will have a corresponding effect upon prices in other countries. The present depression is felt in Egypt, in India, and in Russia, just as in the Southern States of this country. And if our Government should arbitrarily raise the price above the market rate, it means raising the price of cotton throughout the world, and putting foreign growers also on their feet. So that if it be granted that this Government is strong enough to carry all the cotton this country can raise, it must be seen that it cannot carry all the cotton the world can raise. And sooner or later it must break down, with general hardship to the whole country.



If reason and logic fail of conviction, the valorizationists may profit by the experience of Brazil in valorizing coffee. The Brazilian government, by taking from the market a certain quantity of coffee, was able to raise the price from 6.75 in New York in 1903 to 15.69 in 1912. But these high prices stimulated the cultivation of coffee, not only in Brazil but in all other coffee-growing countries, to such an extent that the Brazilian government was unable to market its own holdings, and was finally compelled to abandon the scheme. Last year the price ranged from 6.32 to 7.81, which, considering the general advance in prices, is less than it was before the Brazilian government began meddling with the market. Our