

Incipient Presidential Booms.

It is one of the misfortunes of men who by their merit capture the public imagination that politicians eager to rehabilitate themselves seize upon them as standard bearers in campaigns for which they are not at all fitted. Colonel Goethals, Colonel Gaillard, and Colonel Gorgas rendered themselves conspicuous for merit on a commission distinguished for a high degree of excellence. When the military government, headed by Colonel Goethals, was replaced by a civil government, the question arose as to whether a Democratic President could rise to the point of appointing a Republican of exceptional merit to a high place. President Wilson did appoint Colonel Goethals as Civil Governor of the Canal Zone. Later, a Democratic Mayor of New York invited Colonel Goethals to become police commissioner of that city. Now the rumor is current that all this has been done to prevent the distinguished engineer from becoming the Republican presidential candidate in 1916.



Colonel Goethals has from all accounts proven himself to be a remarkably efficient engineer. He may or may not be a fit man for the presidency. It does not necessarily follow, however, that a man who can calculate with great nicety the cost and manner of constructing a canal has a true vision of the political and economic ideals that should inspire this country. Or that an officer who could handle several thousand workingmen, under an absolute military regime, could necessarily control and work with that number of politicians in Washington. It is the right of any native-born citizen of the male sex to aspire to the office of the presidency—and that office is not beneath the dignity of the greatest—but it may be questioned if a man who has served his country as well as Colonel Goethals has is required to place himself in the hands of the leaders of such a political organization as the Republican party. If merit is ever to receive any reward beyond that of blind chance, it would seem that the next four years of the presidency is in the keeping of the present incumbent.

S. O.



No Evasion of Nature's Penalties.

There would be no problem of unemployment in the United States today had the government kept true to the principle that all men have equal and inalienable rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. We can not escape the consequences of our infidelity to this principle by more infidel-

ity. We allow a few privileged ones to appropriate what has been communally produced. We only make matters worse when we try to remedy it through public appropriation of what individuals produce. We create poverty, ignorance and crime through allowing a few to monopolize natural resources. Then we clamor for exclusion of the poor, ignorant and criminal of other countries. Such methods are vain. We must cease to violate the natural rights of men or must suffer the consequences.

S. D.



Michigan's Competent Wage Commission.

A refreshing exception to the kind of reports usually made by official investigators of industrial conditions is that of the Minimum Wage Commission of Michigan. In its report on labor conditions it does not differ much, if at all, from the ordinary report of that kind. But in presentation of remedies it goes deeper into the matter than such commissions, as a rule, have seen fit to go. After discussing the usual superficial suggestions it shows that reform must not stop with such palliatives. It calls attention to the fact that wages are what labor produces, but that existing laws prevent labor from getting its product. It puts the blame on laws that lay taxes on labor and its product, and help monopolization of natural resources. It shows that but for such laws labor would be able to help itself, and superficial palliatives would not be needed. With that report before them the Michigan legislators will have no excuse for neglect to deal with social problems in a fundamental manner.

S. D.



Condemning Enforcement of a Bad Law.

In condemning the indictment of Julius Rosenwald for alleged violation of the iniquitous tax laws of Illinois, the Chicago Singletax Club may have shocked those who cling to the notion that strict enforcement of an unjust law is the way to bring about its repeal. But the club has good cause to hold that notion to be a fallacy. If any examples can be cited at all of repeal of bad laws secured by that method, they are certainly not numerous enough to be encouraging. The doctrine is more rational that laws were made for men and not men for laws. A law which does nothing but evil should be repealed, but if those who have power to repeal it refuse to do so, it does not follow that other methods should be neglected to put an end to the wrong.

S. D.