

The reverse will not deter our peculiarly Western movement toward democracy. The farmers are determined. Many young men in the cities are at one with them. We believe the tendency of the East toward dictation will accentuate Western radicalism. The movement for Freetrade, Singletax and Direct Legislation will go on with unabated vigor.

If the East is domineering, a few years will witness the growth of tremendous annexation sentiment in the West. Already I have heard expressions of it. The growth of a distinctively Western community supplemented by American immigration may in a few years reverse the complexion of affairs. This anti-annexation campaign with its momentary success may at last defeat its own purpose; it may drive those who scorned and laughed at the idea into advocating it.

ROBERT L. SCOTT.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

CANADIAN "RECIPROCITY."

New York, October 2, 1911.

In your editorial article on Canadian Reciprocity in the issue of *The Public* for September 29th, at pages 993 and 994 there is reference to an alleged increase of price for print-paper in consequence of the defeat of the Reciprocity arrangement. This is a mistake. The print-paper clauses of the Reciprocity scheme did not depend upon the acceptance of that agreement by Canada, but took effect as soon as the President signed the Reciprocity bill. Print paper from Canada now comes in free, except such paper as is manufactured from wood cut on the Crown lands of several Canadian Provinces.

The newspaper publishers who, as you state, were the chief influence behind the Reciprocity movement, working for their own pockets in order to escape payment of the very low tariff tax of 9½ per cent formerly imposed on print-paper, were not satisfied to have their particular interest depend on the action of Canada. They took good care to have the Reciprocity bill so worded that they would get free paper in any event.

So the net result of the great Reciprocity agitation is—free print-paper for the newspapers, and no relief in tariff burdens for the 90,000,000 American consumers.

WHIDDEN GRAHAM.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, October 3, 1911.

Italy's War of Aggression.

Italy's covetous intentions toward Tripoli, the ill-governed, barbarous dependency of Turkey on the north coast of Africa between Tunis and Egypt,

have suddenly taken expression in what may be called a national marauding expedition, as was reported last week, at which time Italian warships were arriving off the coast of Tripoli. On the 28th Italy presented to the Turkish government at Constantinople a final ultimatum, two previous ones having been sent on the 13th and the 25th. In the final document it was set forth that "during a long series of years the government of Italy never ceased to make representations to the Porte upon the absolute necessity of correcting the state of disorder to which the government of Turkey had abandoned Tripoli and Cyrene," and demanded that these regions should be admitted to the benefits of the progress realized by other parts of the Mediterranean and Africa. The ultimatum then proceeded to the declaration that—

The Italian government, having the intention henceforth to protect its interests and its dignity, has decided to proceed to the military occupation of Tripoli and Cyrene. This solution is the only one that will give Italy power to itself decide and itself attend to that which the Imperial government does not do. The royal embassy at Constantinople is ordered to demand a decisive response on this subject from the Ottoman government within twenty-four hours of the presentation to the Porte of the present document, in default of which the Italian government will consider itself as being obliged to proceed immediately with measures destined to assure the occupation.

Efforts at obtaining intervention of the Powers on the part of the Turkish government and conciliatory requests for delay, availed nothing, and at the expiration of the twenty-four hour limit on the 29th, Italy declared war. The Turkish cabinet resigned as soon as war was declared, and a new ministry was formed under Said Pasha, with Mahmoud Sheffet Pasha retained as minister of war. How much fighting has since taken place seems very uncertain as most contradictory reports have come over the wires. It seems probable that the Italian fleet has bombarded the forts of the city of Tripoli early this week. The Italian navy, which is greatly superior to the Turkish, is reported to have cleared the Mediterranean of Turkish ships. Naval fighting off the coast of European Turkey, at Prevesa, with an occupation by the Italians of the custom-house of Prevesa, has been reported and denied. Dispatches of the 4th stated that the Italian naval commander, the Duke of the Abruzzi, had sent an ultimatum to the authorities in command at Prevesa, threatening bombardment unless the Turkish warships which had taken refuge in the harbor, should be delivered up.

The Great Powers are declared to be greatly dissatisfied with a war for which there is so little pretense of excuse; and one, moreover, which threatens to upset both the peace and the balance