

stripe will go down into history as having taken the same part in settling the so-called struggle between labor and capital as the would-be compromiser did in settling the slavery question.

Henry Clay said in making his great speech on his famous compromise when he was willing that the fugitive slave act should be part of his work, that he "would rather be right than be president." The trouble with him was that he was neither right nor president. It was impossible for him to be either. He was a slave holder. A good and kind one, no doubt, but he believed in the system. Hanna can never settle the labor question or contribute towards its settlement. He may say that he would rather settle it than be president, but the trouble with him is that he believes the present wage system of slavery is right, and he is trying to build something on that foundation.—George A. Robertson, in Cleveland Recorder, of December 17.

#### THE MESSAGE AND THE FARMER.

In his message to congress and the people, President Roosevelt cannot be accused of wasting time or space on the department of agriculture. From the eight-line consideration given, one might be led to believe that farming as an industry was almost a lost art. Yet it is an industry that is the foundation of all governments.

Any policy, I care not under what form of government, that tends to increase the hardships of the working farmer, means the downfall of other arts and institutions outside of "the independent farmer." This is as true as that force takes the line of least resistance.

To discuss with eight lines an industrial department so important to our needs as are the working farmers and agricultural laborers, who are nearly 40 per cent. of our population, does not speak well for "the mudsills of society."

Of course, it may not be necessary to tell us that over half of our working farmers are tenants at will. More of them this year than last, hundreds of thousands more to-day than ten years ago.

A presidential message may not be the proper place to state that we have some 3,500,000 farm laborers, whose average wage during the year 1899 was \$14.07 per month, including board. While in the great state of Ohio, farm laborers received on an average of \$15.27 per month; and Pennsylvania

paid her laboring men on farms the magnificent sum of \$14.32 per month, right under the smoking chimneys of protected industries.

True, this might not sound well in a message from the president, yet these facts alone would have demonstrated beyond the possibility of a doubt the degree of prosperity that overshadows the tillers of the soil and, according to press reports, and the message, brightens the homes of all toilers in the industrial arts.

Speaking of the agricultural interests of Hawaii, the message goes much further than it does of the same interest here at home. The president states: "We do not wish a region of large estates tilled by cheap labor; we wish a healthy American community of men who themselves till the farms they own. All our legislation for the islands should be shaped with this end in view; the well-being of the average home-maker must afford the true test of the healthy development of the islands."

Would not that line of action be a pretty good one for our own country? Look the message over carefully and see if you can find that we are to pursue a course that will make every man the owner of the soil he tills. We admit that after five years prating of prosperity for the average man, it would have been a strong point in confirming the same, to have been able to have stated in the message that: "We have so many hundred thousand less farm tenants than we had ten years ago." "To-day it is easier for farm laborers getting \$15 per month to get a farm of their own than ever in the history of our nation." "To-day with our great material advancement in the production of all forms of wealth, and in the distribution of that wealth, it has been so near on the natural order of things, that we have but little use for poor houses, soup houses, provident associations, insane asylums—or trusts and privileged classes that make such institutions necessary."

If the message could have stated that "on account of the high protective tariff it enabled the farmer to get one cent per bushel more for his wheat and corn sold at home than for the bushel he sold on the free trade market of the world; that he received for his beef and pork a fraction of a cent more a pound for what he sold at home than he received for the pounds he exported to foreign countries; that the farmer exchanged his products, the prices of which are fixed by the markets of the world, for American manu-

factured goods at the same prices foreign people paid; that the farmer did not pay a tribute to trusts and monopoly made possible by a high tariff;" if such good things had been in the message and warranted by the facts, the message would have been stronger.

But as the facts would not allow such a statement, it may be well that the millions of farmers, tenant-farmers and farm laborers were dismissed with eight lines of commendation.—R. T. Snediker, in Kansas City World.

#### RAMABAI AND HER WORK.

For The Public.

Ramabai is a familiar name to American ears. Most of us remember how, 11 years ago, a little Hindu woman appeared in our midst, telling with impassioned earnestness of the terrible lives of the child-widows of high-caste in India, how they were the property of their husbands' families, how they were hated by them because they were supposed to have committed some horrible crime in a previous state of existence for which their widowhood was a punishment, and how they were subjected to hardship, drudgery, cruelty, and sometimes, if they had no relatives of their own, were driven out into the streets to starve, or to fall into the hands of persons more cruel than those they had left.

The Pandita (woman teacher) Ramabai, educated from childhood, because of the wisdom of an unusually intelligent father, who, let it be said in passing, did not escape an opposition to his determination to educate Ramabai's mother, so great that it drove him to seek a home for them in the forest, far from human habitation and in the midst of the lairs of wild beasts—Ramabai, when widowhood came to her in the nineteenth month of a happy marriage, and when her little daughter was only a few months old, resolved to devote her life to the education of her unfortunate sisters; and, both to prepare herself intelligently for such a work and also to ask for the aid in civilized countries which she could not command in her own, she visited England and America, spending six years in studying and lecturing. In England, at the ladies' college at Cheltenham, she took the position of professor of Sanscrit, at the same time that she was pursuing, herself, a course of mathematics, natural science and English literature, and while in that country she embraced Christianity. Then she came to America, studied our public educa-