

ing their duty, and throwing upon others the burdens which they themselves ought to bear. It is to be hoped that the daily papers which report with fidelity the small stealings by obscure persons will give due attention to this suit which involves \$235,000,000 withheld from assessment by well-known corporations.

Solomon Simon seems to have been the only member of the Board of Equalization who tried to protect the plain every-day citizens.

Long life and health to Judge Thompson and Solomon Simon!

ROOSEVELT ON DUTY.

The Vice-President delivered a speech a few nights ago before the Home Market Club of Boston. A perusal of his remarks convinces one that he shares with the President the tendency to apply the term "duty" to those things which he desires. He says:

For good or for evil we now find ourselves with new DUTIES in the West Indies and new DUTIES beyond the Pacific. We cannot escape the performance of these DUTIES. All we can decide for ourselves is whether we shall do them well or ill.

The fact that these "duties" were self-imposed and are clung to in spite of the fact that they involve a violation of American principles, cuts no figure. It is all in the definition of duty. According to republican logic it is very wrong to steal unless you find something which is very valuable—then larceny becomes a duty. The fact that you may be compelled to take human life in order to get the thing desired is immaterial—call it duty and sin becomes a virtue.

A little later on in his speech the real secret of the Philippine policy leaks out. Mr. Roosevelt says:

In developing these islands it is well to keep steadily in mind that business is one of the great levers of civilization. It is immensely to the interest of the people of the islands that their resources should be developed, and therefore it is to their interest even more than to ours that our citizens should develop their industries. The further fact that it is our duty to see that the development takes place under conditions so carefully guarded that no wrong may come to the islanders, must not blind us to the first great fact, which is the need of development.

The reasoning is complete. Business is a civilizer; the Filipinos need civilizing, and we are nothing if not business-like. Therefore, it is to the interest of the Filipinos that we should develop them for their good. This is strenuous life, and lest some might be restrained by conscientious scruples, the Vice-President felt it necessary to impress upon his hearers that "the first great fact" is the "need of development." The "duty to see that the development takes place under conditions so carefully guarded that no wrong may come to the islanders" is simply a "further fact"—not "the first great fact"—and, "must not bind us" to the principal thing—"the need of development."

Nowhere does Mr. Roosevelt discuss the effect of the new policy upon our theory of government; nowhere does he attempt to explain why a colonial system was wrong in 1776 and right now. His whole argument can be summed up as follows: We are in the Philippine Islands—no matter how we got there, we are there; whether there for good or evil, we cannot get away; it looks as if it were providential for them—and, besides, there is money in it for us.

WATTERSON'S DEFINITION.

Mr. Watterson, in a lengthy editorial in the *Courier-Journal* entitled "The Dream of the Dreamer," fixes, so far as he has power to do so, the status of the editor of THE COMMONER.

Quoting from THE COMMONER's editorial of three weeks ago he says:

In these extracts Mr. Bryan shows himself not as a party leader, but as a moral philosopher. They in turn disclose the difference which exists, and has always existed, between fact and theory as illustrated by the conduct of men and the movement of the world. To lay down principles is easy enough. Any man can sit in his watch-tower by the margin of the sea and descant upon the rules of navigation. The mariner tossed by the raging billows applies himself to the needs of the moment, the state of his steering gear, the leaks in his hold, the character of his cargo, the condition of his crew, the weather and the points both of the compass and his destination. Yet navigation is said to be an exact science, whilst government, if a science at all, is least exact of all others; a bundle of quiddities, referable to the passions of some, the interests of others, the ignorance of all; intensely, ex-