

hostility of Samuel Gompers, Ernest H. Crosby, Daniel Harris, A. J. Boulton, Charles B. Spahr and Henry White, all representative men, who have issued a public letter denouncing Prof. Jenks's recommendations. They quote the recommendations, which propose empowering the Philippine Commission to legislate regarding the admission of Chinese labor under contract. The details have evidently been nicely adjusted with a view to creating and maintaining a system of coolie slavery in our Asiatic "possessions." Employers of "not less than, say, twenty-five laborers," would be allowed, under Prof. Jenks's system, to import "Chinese under contract for a period of not over three years," and the employers would be required to give bonds to secure proper treatment of their imported Chinese coolies, as well as for their security and employment at the work specified in the contract, and their return to China at its expiration, unless "the contract is renewed under the special permission of the government granted separately in each case." Over this system of coolie slavery an inspector or "protector of the Chinese," appointed by the governor of the Philippines, would preside, to rigidly enforce the law by, among others things, preventing the imported coolie from "absconding and going elsewhere in the islands as a regular inhabitant." In other words, what the delectable Prof. Jenks calmly proposes is that large employers in the Philippines shall be allowed to establish a system of term serfdom, the serfs to be bought for importation and reexported at the end of their terms, being meanwhile closely confined to their masters' domicile. Commenting upon this iniquitous proposal, the gentlemen named above justly define it as meaning "the establishment of the contract system of coolie labor in its most objectionable form, in many respects resembling slavery." Little by little the real purpose of the policy of imperialism discloses itself to those workingmen who voted for a "full dinner pail" in 1900, with no

thought or care for the "obsolete" rights of man they were thereby trampling upon in the Philippines. Prof. Jenks's proposals are abhorrent, but they are in the regular order of evolution under the duty and destiny policy.

A valuable contribution to the subject of figure cooking in the statistical kitchen at Washington has been made by the Baltimore News. One of the reports of the bureau of statistics of the treasury department had shown for 1901 a great increase in American exports to China—an increase of 350 per cent. in six years. This compared favorably, from the "favorable balance of trade" point of view, with British and Russian exports to China, the latter having increased only 60 per cent. and the former only 25. But the Baltimore News was skeptical and investigated—with impressive results. It learned that the period from 1895 to 1901 had been selected because our exports to China were exceptionally low in 1895. They could consequently be compared with those of 1901 with an effect almost spectacular. If the figure-cooks had gone back four years and begun with 1891 instead of 1895, the increase would have been much smaller, for the exports to China in 1891 were two and a half times as great as in 1895. Or, if they had begun in 1897, they would have been obliged to record, instead of an increase of 350 per cent., an actual decrease of 12½ per cent. This exposure shows much delicate skill on the part of the figure cooks, but of what public use are figures so cooked?

Down in Delaware there is a Republican of the name of Addicks, who has all over the country a bad name as a political corruptionist. The bad name is doubtless well deserved. But in condemning Addicks and his offenses one should be careful to avoid creating the impression that the conditions Addicks is fighting are altogether pure. In a recent interview Addicks is reported as saying:

In 1893 there were five or six thou-

sand disfranchised Republicans in the State. The law required each voter to pay a poll tax of \$1.20, and if on election day he was eighteen months in arrears he found himself on the delinquent list and unable to vote. Those five or six thousand Republicans were kept from exercising the franchise by every conceivable device. The State was wholly Democratic. The courts and the boards of tax levy and the sheriffs were Democratic. Even the privilege of serving on juries was used as a Democratic prerogative. There never was a more absolute despotism in this country. Not only were the Republican Negroes and poor whites strictly held to their poll-tax responsibilities, not only were they falsely charged with dog taxes, but when they wanted to pay and qualify themselves for voting the tax receivers would evade them, sometimes even leaving the State to prevent payment in time for voting. On the other hand, it was not uncommon to find Democratic officials giving Democrats receipts for taxes they had not paid, in order that they might vote, and afterward declaring the receipts to be errors.

Whatever may be said about Addicks, his indictment of the Delaware oligarchy is true. The difference between him on the one side and the highly respectable gangs with which he has come in collision in Delaware politics, is only that their rascalities are garbed in traditional respectability. Low type of public character as Addicks is, it is questionable if he is not doing good work in breaking up the gangs of respectable rascals. As for democracy, the Delaware Democrats don't know what it means. Look at Judge Gray, for instance, and consider the game which that Delaware Democrat played for a judicial appointment at the hands of a Republican President. If the press were to make as much of those circumstances as they do of Addicks's political performances, Addicks would begin to look white by contrast.

Secretary Shaw is reported as advocating the abolition of customs houses at points where business is greatly disproportionate to the expense of keeping up the establishment. One custom house, for instance, costs the government about \$250 for every dollar of duties it collects; and there are others which resemble it, though the ratio of receipts