

who control the Republican party have finally placed Washington's farewell address upon their index expurgatorious. When a motion was made in the lower House of Congress on the 22d to recognize the birthday of the Father of his Country, by reading his farewell address, these recreant Republicans, these imperialistic Americans, voted the motion down.

In his address at the Union League Club's Washington birthday celebration on the 22d Elihu Root undertook to give the history of what will be described hereafter as the Panama episode. That this address was intended as a campaign document in justification of the attitude of the party was quite evident from the internal evidence. But what shall be thought of the moral status of a people who can solemnly approve theft when only thinly disguised by the doctrine of "qualified sovereignty." This would justify every act of aggression which may be committed by one interest upon the rights of any other. Such a principle denies natural rights and erects a rule of conduct based upon power animated by desire. It conceives of right and wrong as merely conventional. It is another expression of the doctrine that any act which is legalized, thereby becomes moralized. When imperious desire is supported by power it has always been the practice to legalize spoliation and then despoil. It has sometimes happened that the necessities of the situation demand immediate spoliation without waiting to be pre-legalized; but this difficulty is overcome by retroactive decrees legalizing whatever has been done. Mr. Root's doctrine of the "world's easement" is new, but it also affords considerable scope for thought. It is the doctrine of the "decadent nation" theory of Lord Salisbury. The "rights" of which Mr. Root spoke as being "necessary to make this easement effective" is a feeble imitation of the "implied powers" of constitutional interpretation. If one were able to extirpate that unconscious exercise of the reasoning faculty

which links separate and distinct incidents by the fiber of their principle, it might be a simple matter to silence the questioning raised by Mr. Root's address. But that is unfortunately impossible. One unconsciously strives to distinguish between "qualified sovereignty" of a nation over territory and the "qualified sovereignty" of individuals over personal property upon which porch climbers and sandbaggers cast an envious eye. Under this theory the fact that the owner of a gold watch was a small man and the sandbagger a very large and burly individual (and one who "needed the money" besides), would seem to make it highly improper to question the sandbagger's "easement" or his "right" to make use of any means necessary to make this "easement" effective. "Qualified sovereignty" is the euphemistic phrase under which international petit larceny is justified and our Republic transformed into a "fence."

In describing last week the petition for the repeal of the opinion-penalizing act of Congress under which John Turner, the English labor organizer, is held at Ellis Island for deportation (p. 723), we accidentally omitted the name of Philip Stein, a judicial associate of Judges Tuley, Dunne, Windes and Brown, who were among the signers of the petition. Judge Stein also had signed it.

Without shame, how is it possible for any loyal American to read the reports from Porto Rico, that the Federal party there is vainly demanding either Statehood or independence? Porto Rico welcomed the American army as her deliverer from Spanish bondage. But now she learns that America has placed her in a bondage more humiliating. Under Spain she sent six members to the Spanish parliament. But under the United States she has no representation in the American Congress, her one solitary delegate to Congress having no vote on any question and no right to speak even on Porto Rican affairs save by courtesy of

the House. Under Spain her natives were natural born citizens of Spain, and therefore capable of becoming naturalized citizens of any other country, including the United States. But under the United States they are not natural born citizens of any country, and are therefore incapable of becoming naturalized citizens anywhere—even of the United States. Truly the Porto Ricans have achieved humiliating distinction as wards of our Republic.

In his funeral oration over Senator Hanna's body, the chaplain of the Senate (the venerable Edward Everett Hale), referred to labor arbitration as mediation "between the men who provide the tools and the workmen who handle them." As a quotation from a Senate chaplain this superficiality might pass for an example in rhetoric. But Mr. Hale is something besides a chaplain. He is an economic thinker. One might like to know, therefore, who Mr. Hale's men are that furnish tools to workmen, if they are not workmen themselves. All artificial tools must be made by workmen. Does Mr. Hale allude, however, to natural tools—to such things, for example, as mineral deposits? Truly no human workmen provide these. But what makes it necessary for any men to provide such tools? Nature provides them abundantly.

Gov. La Follette, of Wisconsin, has demanded of the Wisconsin railroad companies that they furnish a list of all the public officials they are bribing with annual passes. It is to be hoped that Mr. La Follette will be able under the laws of his State to enforce his demand. Giving passes is one of the insidious modes of corruptly influencing legislation, administration and adjudication. No man who holds a public office—be he legislator, executive or judge—can be trusted to deal honestly between railroad interests and the public interests if he holds railroad passes. Not that corrupt officials can be so cheaply bribed, but that this petty bribery breaks