

wages have gone down while the cost of living has gone up. His examination of the census reports on manufactures, covering 33 states and territories, shows that the fall in wages from 1890 to 1900 was from an average of \$1.39 to \$1.29 a day, about 6 per cent.; while his examination of Dun's Review's figures shows that the rise in the prices of the necessities of life during the same period was 31 per cent. Yet workmen are gravely assured that these are "piping times" of prosperity.

President Roosevelt is very pointedly advised by the organ of Wall street plutocracy that if he knows when he is safe he will call off his dogs. This is apropos of the proceedings, authorized by the President, against the Northwestern railroad merger as a trust. The plutocratic organ to which we allude is the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. In its issue of the 1st, while defending the merger as an innocent and useful device for promoting American prosperity, it declares its extreme sorrow that—

the government should have put itself in this false position. It is prosecuting men whose acts and works have made them prominent the world over as having accomplished most marvelous results for the commerce and industrial development of the United States at home and abroad. They are men, too, that have given to our railroads the prosperity which they are to-day enjoying—which is the chief source of our present progress—and are enjoying with lower average rates of freight than have ever ruled before. Moreover, the very idea which has given birth to the Northern Securities company is a working basis which conserves the best interests of the farmer, of the distributing merchant, of the railroad and the investor; and anyone who is willing to study its character and application cannot fail to reach that conclusion. Why is it, then, antagonized in the West? Simply because the farmer always feels that lower rates for the carriage of his products are desirable—never mind how low they are now—and he easily believes what his neighbors tell him will contribute to that end. Such being the situation, politicians of both parties vie with one another in trying to make the farmer believe his own party and self are helping him most. It is just

like the old battle about a silver currency. Error will prevail for a time. But the man who seeks permanent reputation cannot dally with error.

It may be needless to explain that President Roosevelt is the man who must not "dally with error." This notice is authoritative and means business.

When Senator Lodge's committee, which is now investigating Philippine affairs, finishes with the official witnesses, and comes to the point of inquiring into the truth of the many charges of American brutality—which are anonymous for obvious reasons but are circumstantial nevertheless—it might use the following quotation as the entering wedge for an inquiry into the savage "water cure" practice of which American army officers are accused. The quotation is from the Manila Times of August 18, 1901, a paper published at Manila under censorship, but prior to the discovery there of the fact that the American people do not approve such barbarities. Writing from Samar, a correspondent of the Times told of some successful spying which the Filipinos had done and then proceeded:

Finally, on June 21, Lieut. Downes and one man were killed and three wounded near Pambahan, in a fight from ambush which evidently had been prepared pursuant to information sent out from Guianan as to Lieut. Downes' movements. Several prominent Filipinos gave some valuable information as to the instigators of this spy system, and as they had before given information which proved true, the commanding officer thought best to act upon this information. Maj. John J. O'Connell, First infantry, of Gussie expedition fame, who arrived on the scene about this time as commanding officer, said that a good shaking up all around would be good. That "he wanted no traitors around him." Therefore all the suspected were given a "dose" of the "water cure," which proved effectual in bringing to light the guilty. These were locked up in prison. The prime mover in the affair was discovered to be the presidente of the Pueblo San Esteban Austria.

There is nothing anonymous about that. The Manila Times prints the item, and it gives the name of the principal participant in the cruelty.

Will Senator Lodge produce him as a witness before his committee, or does he regard "water cure" barbarities with indifference?

#### THE DIGNITY OF THE SENATE.

No American citizen should be indifferent to the disgrace of a fist-fight on the floor of the Senate. All of us wish to see the deliberations of our highest legislative body conducted with dignity, and none of us can view a serious breach of decorum there without some indignation and much regret. But this just feeling need not and ought not to lead us on either to assigning to mere external decorum a higher place than belongs to it, or to making partisan misrepresentations of the facts.

Because Senator Tillman struck the first physical blow, in the encounter in the Senate last month, there is a manifest disposition among Republican partisans and their Democratic allies, to throw the whole responsibility for the affair upon him. The mildest form which this disposition has exhibited was a proposal to suspend his senatorial functions for 25 days while suspending Senator McLaurin's for only ten. Among the more severe discriminations against Tillman is the suggestion that he should have been expelled while McLaurin should have been regarded as having already suffered enough. Even some of the committee on privileges and elections described Tillman as the greater offender, though they shrank from the logic of their position for they consented to equal punishment. But the facts as they appear in the official report of the Senate proceedings warrant no such discrimination.

Senator Tillman was speaking on the Philippine tariff bill, which had come up from the House and was then before the Senate. His speech was in part a reply to Senator Spooner, who had spoken the day before, and at one point it was interrupted by Senator Spooner with a question that produced a colloquy between Tillman and Spooner which led on to the fracas between Tillman and McLaurin.

Spooner having, in his speech of the day before, held Mr. Bryan responsible for the ratification of the Philip-