

left the West last year for Canada, where a farm can be bought for little more than must be paid here in yearly rent. The price of land is steadily increasing, while the amount of public lands, suitable for settlers and which once seemed so inexhaustible, has decreased at a rate few realize. American land companies, however, fully understand it and are endeavoring to secure large tracts, not only in the Dakotas, but in Canada, evidently believing that emigration from the United States will continue. Even of the lands given by Congress to the Territories and States for the support of schools, much has passed and is passing into the possession of "rings." *

With all the enormous wealth in the country, with fortunes greater than any in the world, with all our boasted excess of exports over imports, with all our prosperity, living expenses have greatly increased, a fact plainly recognized in the proposal to increase the salary of the President, a fact recognized by railroad corporations in raising the pay of their employes. But, as the superintendent of the Chicago Bureau of Charity expresses it, "Prosperity raises prices, but does not raise the wages of wash-women, scrub-women and day laborers." What of them, and of the thousands of men and women with small salaries or incomes, which are not increased, yet who must meet the increased expenses of living?

The handwriting is on the wall! It is for us to read it aright.

It has been said that a people never move until only one course of action is open to them. If this is true, as history seems to prove, we have not yet arrived at that point, for three ways lie before us.

There are those among thoughtful men who, watching the signs of the times, predict revolution. This is a possibility not to be ignored.

"For though to-day the world has fixed its seat
On pillars of society and hills
Of custom, founded on the forceful wills
Of master men, in many a toil bent form

* See same pamphlet.

And low-browed visage on the crowded street,
Quiet but for a moment sleeps the storm."

Another, broad, easy, the downward way, is to drift, as we are doing; to "stand pat," as Senator Hanna advises; to let the net wind itself more and more closely about us—and, sooner or later, the republic is dead! Its forms may remain, but the life—the spirit of them—will be gone; and we shall have either the "strong man," indeed, or an oligarchy of the worst kind—that of money.

The third, the upward way, is steep and straight, and strewn with boulders of the largest size; for it means waking from what President Lincoln, of the Boston Board of Trade, lately called "our appalling apathy" as to our duties as citizens. It means putting aside our national vice of toleration. It means freeing ourselves from the rule of convention and bosses, taking our civil service once for all out of politics and insisting that our representatives in city, State and nation shall be men of character and ability. It means being great enough to acknowledge our national sin, and making what amends we can to the Filipinos. It means taking the railroads under government control. It means the restoration of the land to the people.

We can fight. The world needs no further proof that there are no braver men than ours in battle. But that which is before us now needs a different and a higher kind of courage, for it means the conquest of ourselves. Whether we possess the faith, the steadfast purpose and courage, the true patriotism needed for such a struggle, we have yet to prove.

If we have this noble courage and stand fast for the liberty wherewith our fathers made us free, the republic will once more rest on the broad and eternal foundations of eternal principles which they laid for it. We shall once more take up the work God gave this nation to do; and in the days to come, our people, looking back to the problems that now perplex, the dangers that now menace, can say, "Yes, these things used to be so, but we have changed all that."

LOUISE W. RICE.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Sept. 17.

The reports from Beirut, Syria, (p. 361), agree that the Turkish government has restored order there, and these reports are confirmed by Rear Admiral Cotton, who reported on the 12th to the American navy department that— he had exchanged very satisfactory visits with the governor general. The governor general has personal charge of the vice consul case. The late chief of police has been deposed. Twenty-eight persons, including the principals in the disturbances of last Sunday, have been arrested. Beirut quiet. Administration of new governor general inspires confidence. The former governor general left on the 12th inst. for Constantinople.

Admiral Cotton's mention of the new governor general is an allusion to the fact that on the 10th the Turkish government formally appointed Nazim Pasha as vali (governor) of Beirut, in the place of Reshid Pasha, who was removed for incompetency. Nazim Pasha was vali of Damascus at the time of his appointment to Beirut.

In Macedonia the terrible conditions are unchanged (p. 361), except that the circumstances are more than ever prophetic of war between Turkey and Bulgaria. For such an outbreak both countries are evidently preparing. Turkey is said to have 300,000 soldiers in the field, and Bulgaria has ordered out reserves. On the 14th the Bulgarian ministry, through a diplomatic note warned the European governments that unless they intervene for the protection of Bulgarian Christians in Macedonia, and restrain Turkey from advancing upon Bulgaria, Bulgaria herself will be obliged to act. The note in question refers to a previous note (p. 312), and declares that what was therein predicted has been more than verified. It charges the Turkish government with systematically annihilating the Bulgarian people, and complains that the mobilization and concentration of great forces in European Turkey under the pretext of suppressing the revolution, give Bulgaria reason to suppose that at an opportune

moment she will be attacked by Turkey. In the presence of such a situation, which it looks upon as calculated to bring about a collision between Turkey and Bulgaria, the Bulgarian government asserts its inability longer to remain indifferent. It therefore declares that—

If the great Powers do not take measures to give the Sublime Porte counsels of wisdom and of moderation, the Bulgarian government will be obliged to take the necessary steps to be ready for every eventuality and not be taken by surprise.

In explanation of this Bulgarian note, the Premier of the Bulgarian ministry made the following statement on the 15th:

It has been from the first plainly evident that the policy of Turkey is to hinder the development of the Bulgarian race in Macedonia, the strongest national element there. With this end in view the Turks proceeded to devastate the country and kill the Bulgarian Christians, driving the survivors into the mountains and forests, where they would either perish of hunger or else cross the Bulgarian frontier and become a burden to the Bulgarian nation. The Bulgarian government is now compelled to protect not only Bulgaria itself but also the Bulgarian element in Macedonia. Turkey has concentrated 300,000 troops in Macedonia, only about 25,000 of whom are engaged in the suppression of the revolt. There is no attempt to fight the insurgents, but the troops attack innocent women and children. The Bulgarian government is forced to perceive in this excessive mobilization a clear sign of Turkey's desire, after she succeeds in suppressing the outbreak in Macedonia, to attack Bulgaria and exterminate the Bulgarian race. All our latest information from Macedonia and Constantinople confirms this view. Confronted by such conditions, Bulgaria is forced to the conviction that Turkey intends to attack her, and the Sofia government has taken this last step of asking the Powers to intervene. Otherwise Bulgaria must take measures for her own protection.

Although there is as yet no authentic news of action by any of the Powers in response to the Bulgarian note, it was reported from Sofia on the 16th that three of them (none of them named), had that day notified Bulgaria that if she goes to war with Turkey she will receive no aid from the Powers.

The sessions of the Socialist congress at Dresden, Germany, which began on the 13th, are at-

tracting general attention on account both of the number of voters represented and of the questions under debate. There are 3,000,000 voters of Germany represented at the congress, being more than 25 per cent of all the voters of the Empire. The first business meeting of the congress began on the 14th, and the question which has distracted the party—whether it shall claim representation among the three vice presidents of the German reichstag (p. 328)—was the principal subject of debate.

This question gives concreteness to the issue between the opportunist socialists, whose leader is Bernstein, and the programme socialists, whose leader is Bebel. By virtue of their large representation in the Reichstag—over 80—the Socialists are entitled to a vice-president of that body. Bernstein advocates claiming the first-vice-presidency, because the party is second in party strength in the Reichstag. In support of this position he argues that the Socialists should assume government responsibilities as fast as opportunity offers. Bebel objects to any Socialist's taking such an office as vice-president of the Reichstag under the existing capitalistic regime. Out of this contest has grown a bitterness of feeling among programme Socialists toward opportunists who make their living by writing for capitalistic publications; and one of the resolutions debated at Dresden proposed that members of the Socialist party be prohibited from writing for papers that are not socialistic. A vote was taken on the 16th upon resolutions condemning the proposition that the Socialists accept a vice presidency in the Reichstag, and the resolutions were adopted, thus giving the victory to Bebel.

Further hostility to the Socialist party of Germany was shown on the 16th by the German government. The minister of war issued a decree forbidding non-commissioned officers and privates from having in their possession or distributing any Socialistic writings without the permission of higher authority, or singing songs, uttering cries, giving expression to any Socialistic senti-

ments, and from attending any meeting, contributing money to or belonging to any society, without the permission of their officers.

The British outlook in politics is still undefined, although a meeting of the ministry, understood to have been called to consider the ministerial policy with especial reference to Mr. Chamberlain's protection programme (pp. 129, 147, 163, 200, 313, 338, 347, 360), came off on the 14th. No disclosure has yet been made of the proceedings at that meeting. It is surmised, however, that an irreconcilable difference of opinion developed, and that a reorganization of the cabinet is probable.

Immediately after the meeting the Premier issued a pamphlet in advocacy of a moderation of the free trade policy of Great Britain. Its title is "Insular Free Trade," and in it the Premier describes himself as—

a free trader, but not of the pattern which holds that the doctrine of free trade is so universal in its application and so capable of an exact expression that every conclusion to which it logically leads must be accepted without hesitation and without reserve.

American political interests are kept alive by the Democratic campaign in Ohio (p. 359), which Mayor Johnson is leading. The Akron meeting of the 9th in the Republican county of Summit, of which we had no trustworthy details last week, proves to have numbered fully 7,000. The only speakers were Johnson and Clarke. The chairman, Judge C. R. Grant, dispensed entirely with an opening speech. On the 10th both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Clarke spoke in the county court house at Wadsworth, a town of 2,000 inhabitants in the Republican county of Medina. Owing to a heavy storm two meetings on the way from Akron to Wadsworth were abandoned and only 1,000 people attended the Wadsworth meeting. The meeting on the 11th also was small—only 800 attending—the explanation being that it had not been advertised in advance of the arrival of the speakers. It was at Ravenna, in the Republican county of Portage, a town of 4,000. At Youngstown on the 12th, the audi-