

ordered the cement, "the U. S. Government practically worked for the British companies, and the cost today, taking equal prices into consideration, is higher for American flour."

This is a startling reminder of the action of our own trans-continental railroads, which, when the California fruit growers had secured higher Protection in the Aldrich tariff, advanced their freight rates to absorb it.

It is also an illustration of the power of transportation companies over the production and distribution of wealth. Ships of all nations compete for our trade with Europe. It is there that our four steamships ply—the sole remnant of our once great trans-Atlantic fleet. But between this country and South America, where the service is so largely in the hands of the British companies, it is not surprising that there should be discrimination. It is to meet this condition of affairs that the Pan-American Mail was formed this year to operate ships between New Orleans and Brazil and Argentina.



The condition of American over-sea shipping would be amusing, were it not so pathetic. Our exports to Brazil for the year ending June 30, 1911, amounted to \$26,431,857,¹ of which English ships carried \$19,473,855, and American ships, \$136—one hundred and thirty-six dollars. We did better with Argentina, where \$577,954 was carried in American bottoms, and \$39,120,509 in British. Of our imports from Brazil for that year \$93,191,117² came to us in British ships, and \$620—six hundred and twenty dollars—came in American. How the British ship owners must smile when they see us raving over the Monroe doctrine!

Whoever it was that said Americans had lost their sense of humour spoke without regard for the fact. We have humour in abundance; but it has been commercialized, and our Artemus Wards have taken to writing Protective tariff schedules and shipping laws.

STOUGHTON COOLEY.

CONDENSED EDITORIALS

SCHOOLS FOR FOLK CENTERS.

Louis F. Post in the Chicago Daily Press of September 6.

Two Presidential candidates urge the use of school houses for political meetings. Good. There

¹Table No. 6, page 771, of the Annual report on Commerce & Navigation for 1911, U. S. Dept. Com. & Labor.

²Table No. 3, page 361, of the Annual Report on Commerce & Navigation for 1911, U. S. Dept. Com. & Labor.

is no reason for shutting out political education. It is the most important kind, and the best place for it is at neighborhood meetings in schoolhouses.

Objections to such meetings were well enough in a way, when politics were in the "dirty pool." Perhaps, though, the "dirty pool" wouldn't have lasted so long if such meetings had been common; political education earlier might have ended political skulduggery sooner. But, anyhow, those objections don't hold now. People are more democratic in the fundamental sense.

Didn't the election in Ohio prove it? Those "Buckeyes" were undemocratic enough to vote down woman suffrage. But they adopted the Initiative and Referendum. They made Ohio the first old and big State east of the Rockies to welcome this advance agent of fundamental democracy. We ought to install that mechanism of people's power in Illinois before we permit any other Constitutional reform. The people of Illinois could then get anything they want, and head off anything they don't want. But it will be installed in Illinois. It is coming in every State. Parasites of politics may delay it, but nothing can stop it. How to use their power for the common good is now the question for the people throughout the Union.

What better way of learning could there be than at folk centers in school houses? Of course the rooms would have to be cared for specially. They must be made as orderly and clean for school children the morning after a folk-center meeting as the morning before. But this is only a matter of money, and not much money, either. And it would be the most profitable kind of investment for everybody.

Folk centers in schoolhouses would dry up the local ginmills and saloons, almost the only hospitable folk centers we have now. They would center attention upon the public affairs of neighborhood, city, county, State and Republic. The folks about home would grow familiar with common interests and turn from heedless citizens into intelligent and eager voters. We should have politics for political principle instead of graft. Under the Initiative and Referendum, the people would rule; and at their schoolhouse centers they would learn to rule wisely and fairly.

The schools themselves would progressively improve, in accommodations for children and in educational service to children, if the advice of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Roosevelt to open the schoolhouses for political folk centers were adopted.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, September 24, 1912.

Presidential Campaigning.

The Progressive Party's candidate for President, Mr. Roosevelt, is on a continental speaking tour. At Tucson, Arizona, on the 17th, he made

this specific declaration, as reported by the Chicago Tribune, a Progressive Party paper, in its issue of the 18th:

In the nation we have the chance to set an example for all the States. We have the city of Washington. We can make it a model city. And we have Alaska as a Territory in which the government can build railroads and operate them, and can keep possession of the coal and water power, leasing for development both the coal and water power on terms favorable to the people as a whole and not parting with the fee. If I am elected President, and I have in Congress anything like a party that will support me, I shall call an extra session, to be devoted exclusively to putting into Federal law every provision recommended in the plank dealing with social and industrial justice. The action of the government should be along three lines. In the first place, the government itself should be made a model employer. We should have the workmen's compensation act, the act providing for the living wage, and the minimum wage for women. We should have the proper safeguarding of machinery. We should have all these acts applied to the government service—the postal service, the military service, the Panama canal, everywhere. So far as we have power over interstate commerce the laws should be applied thereto—that is, to the workmen engaged in interstate commerce. Then the city of Washington should be made a model city

Mr. Roosevelt's campaigning had turned southward on the 24th.

The Democratic candidate for President, Mr. Wilson, is making a western speaking trip, in the course of which, in a speech at Sioux City on the 17th, he declared against government by experts. "I want to warn the people of this country," he said, as reported by the Associated Press, "to beware of commissions of experts. I have lived with experts all my life and I know that experts don't see anything except what is under their microscope—under their eye. They don't even perceive what is under their nose, and an expert feels in honor bound to confine himself to the particular question which you have asked." In illustration of the last clause of his statement, Mr. Wilson said:

I suppose that most of you know that a great controversy arose because Dr. Wiley, who was in charge of the pure food administration, objected to the use of benzoate of soda in certain things that were sold to you, particular in cans, for food. Now a nice thing occurred. The gentlemen who wanted to use benzoate of soda persuaded the President, Mr. Roosevelt, that this was a scientific question and therefore he ought to have a board of chemistry to determine it. Mr. Roosevelt picked out some of the most eminent and honest chemists in this country, headed by a personal friend of mine, the president of Johns Hopkins University, and submitted to them this question: "Is benzoate of soda hurtful to the human stomach or to the human digestion when taken internally?" Observe that that was the only question

submitted to them, and that was exactly what the people who wanted to use benzoate of soda for wrong purposes wanted to limit the inquiry to. Because these gentlemen had to say that benzoate of soda in itself was not harmful to the human system, as I believe it is not. But they were not asked this question: "Can benzoate of soda be used to conceal putrefaction—can it be used in things that have gone bad to conceal the fact that they have gone bad and to induce people to put them in their stomachs after they have gone bad?" They were not asked that question, because if they had been they would have said "Yes, it can be used in that way." Dr. Wiley knew that it was so used and in that way."

William J. Bryan began his speaking campaign for Mr. Wilson last week. At Salt Lake on the 18th, his first speech in Utah, he compared Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft as follows, as reported by the United Press:

Any man who opposes the Initiative and Referendum is not in sympathy with the people. Both Taft and Roosevelt worked openly against this measure. Taft has been standing still, and the people have marched right past him. He considers the people incapable of managing their own affairs, and has no confidence in them. I will give him credit and say he does not pretend to. Roosevelt, on the other hand, professes great confidence in the people, but this is a sham and he proposes to rule as a despot if he should have his own way.

Mr. Bryan was speaking in California on the 24th. At Los Angeles on the 23d, he said of Mr. Roosevelt and the trusts that—

Mr. Roosevelt says the trusts have come to stay, and he denounces the Democrats for wanting to make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist. Mr. Roosevelt says you must not try to prevent monopoly. Just regulate it. Let it grow and grow; let it merge and merge; let it consolidate and consolidate, but watch it. My friends, he watched it for seven and a half years and it merged and merged, and when it got to a doubtful point, when it did not know whether it could merge or not, it went to him and asked him and he said: "Yes, merge." I don't believe that we can long maintain political independence when we have lost industrial independence. Mr. Roosevelt's plan has brought corruption into every State government that has tried to control franchise-holding corporations.

As reported by the Chicago Tribune of the 20th, which supports his candidacy, Mr. Roosevelt advocated at Denver a recall for Presidents and "besides expressing in no uncertain language his opinion of Bryan" "charged the Democratic nominee with making 'inaccurate statements of facts.'" The same paper of the 22d, reporting Mr. Roosevelt's appearance at Topeka, said:

Here in Kansas, where the Progressives are militant and aggressive, Col. Theodore Roosevelt ceased his tender consideration of Gov. Woodrow Wilson

and went after him in hammer and tongs fashion. He charged him with "absolute misstatement," with "deliberate misrepresentation," and with "directly inverting the truth," in connection with the Progressive policy for the settlement of the trust question.



At Hoboken, N. J., on the 21st Mr. Wilson, in warning the people against electing James Smith, Jr., to the United States Senate, said:

I have never been aware of any personal feeling on my part in any political contest against any individual. There is no man in New Jersey that I care to fight or to oppose because of his personal quality. The United States is not choosing men now by their private characters merely; it is not choosing them for their likability; it is not choosing them because they are fine fellows, but it is choosing them because they understand the interests of America at this present moment. And many a man bred in the old school of politics is being rejected now, not because he does not hold his convictions honestly, but because he holds convictions from which the country has turned away. We are at a critical juncture in the history of America and at a critical juncture in the history of the Democratic Party. There is only one condition upon which the Democratic Party can gain the confidence of the nation, and that condition is that it should have itself through and through absolutely committed to progressive policy. Just so certainly as it turns back, just so certainly as it makes any other choice, it will be rejected now and need have no hope whatever of being chosen again for our generation. The amazing thing to me is that men do not everywhere see this; the amazing thing to me is that men do not see that those who are put, not only at the head of a ticket, but in every place on every ticket, must represent this new impulse of Democracy or else Democracy will be discredited. We are not speaking our own individual opinions. We are the spokesmen of a great progressive force in this nation. Why is it that some men who would naturally ally themselves with the third party in this nation are now refusing to do so? Because they say there was no excuse for the formation of that party after the profession of principles and the nominations of the Baltimore convention. Before the campaign began the very leaders of that party admitted that I stood by the very thing that they profess to stand for; and the contest now as between parties is to gain the permanent confidence of the people of the United States who have made up their minds that we must move forward with the change of circumstances and the altered necessities of politics. Therefore, any man who stands in the way of this great movement of humanity must stand aside. He cannot walk with the triumphant hosts of the great democracy.

At Scranton, Pa., on the 23d, Mr. Wilson said of "regulated monopoly"—

Mr. Roosevelt himself has spoken of the profits the corporations get as prize money, and his objection is that not enough of the prize money gets into the pay envelopes. I agree with him. But I want to know how he proposes to get it there. I searched his programme from top to bottom and the only pro-

posal I can find is that there shall be an industrial commission charged with the supervision of the great monopolistic combinations and that the government shall see to it that these gentlemen who have conquered labor shall be kind to labor.



Wisconsin Republicans.

In the platform adopted on the 18th by the Wisconsin Republican convention, no reference is made either to Mr. Taft or Mr. Roosevelt; but Senator La Follette is mentioned as the leader in "the onward movement in which Wisconsin has been the pioneer," "the principles for which he contended and established there," having "now become the fundamental guaranty of representative government in all progressive States of the Union." Home rule, and the Initiative, Referendum and Recall are demanded, as are a minimum wage for women, and the La Follette plan for a "gateway amendment" to the Federal Constitution.



New York Politics.

An anti-Tammany movement under the name of the "Empire State Democracy," named a State ticket on the 19th with Frederick W. Hinrichs as the candidate for Governor, but announced that if the Democratic State convention nominates a ticket not dictated by Tammany Hall, and acceptable to the Empire State Democracy, the latter's candidates will be withdrawn.



High Prices.

A special report upon the cost of living in the United States for the past ten years was given out on the 22d by the Bureau of Labor at Washington. The supplies under investigation were fifteen food staples and coal. The places of investigation were the important industrial centers of 32 States. The object of the inquiry was to ascertain the relative cost of living in the Labor class. Following from the report is a tabulation showing increases in the cost of the specified food staples as compared with the average prices of the same foods during the ten years ending June 15, 1912:

	Per cent.		Per cent.
Granulated sugar....	8.5	Smoked hams	61.3
Strictly fresh eggs...	26.1	Cornmeal	63.7
Fresh milk	32.9	Rib roast	63.8
Creamery butter	33.3	Round steak	84.0
Wheat flour	39.3	Pork chops	86.0
Pure lard	55.3	Smoked bacon	96.7
Hens	58.1	Irish potatoes	111.9
Sirloin steak	59.5		

Prices for Pennsylvania anthracite coal, stove size, were higher on the 15th of April, 1912, than the year before, in 25 out of 29 cities investigated, and unaltered in the other 4; chestnut size had ad-