

the inspiration of the Declaration of Independence. He implies, moreover, that our Philippine policy derives its inspiration from the same source and will culminate in the same way. But he was careful,—oh so careful!—not to say so. It would seem to be true that Mr. Roosevelt is a good deal of a poser.

That characteristic was further exhibited in what he said about trusts. All through this part of his speech he implied that Attorney General Knox, in whose city he was speaking and whom he extolled in fulsome terms, is vigorously prosecuting trusts. But what is the fact? The principal one of these combinations to be proceeded against, that of the meat packers, has been prosecuted to the extent of getting an injunction by consent of the trust. The case has been laid before no grand jury, and the packers are "stepping out from under" the injunction by organizing in the regular way in New Jersey. It is an excellent instance of what the irreverent call a "grand stand play." But with reference to the anthracite coal trust, which is admitted to be clearly within the Federal anti-trust law, Mr. Knox finds one excuse after another for inaction. Yet Mr. Roosevelt praises his official character and services with all the earnestness and not a little of the gush of an old-time swain writing sentimental verses to his ladylove's eyebrow. This is a case of words not backed up by deeds, and Mr. Roosevelt himself admits that such words are not good.

It is an astounding acknowledgment that the President makes in his proclamation of amnesty to the Filipinos who became "rebels" by the peculiar process of fighting for their own country against an alien invader. The very first clause of the preamble of this resolution reads:

Whereas, Many of the inhabitants of the Philippine archipelago were in insurrection against the authority and sovereignty of the kingdom of Spain at divers times from August, 1896, until the cession of the archipelago by that kingdom to the United States

of America, and since such cession many of the persons so engaged in insurrection have until recently resisted the authority and sovereignty of the United States. . . .

So it is now officially conceded that the American soldiers in the Philippines have been engaged in putting down an insurrection which we bought of Spain. It is the same old rebellion against Spanish law and power, beginning in 1896, two years before Dewey sailed into Manila bay, and continuing at first against Spain, and then against the United States as Spain's assignee, down to the present time. Isn't that a dainty dish of American democracy and republicanism to lay before the kings of the earth?

The irrigation law, passed at the recent session of Congress, seems to be headed in the right direction. This law provides that the money received from the sale of public lands in the 16 arid states and territories, shall be set aside as a special fund, to be known as the arid land reclamation fund and to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, in investigations, surveys and construction of reservoirs, canals, etc., for the irrigation of arid and semi-arid lands. The lands reclaimed, if public lands, are to be sold in tracts of not more than 160 acres, to actual settlers, with water rights, at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the works. If the lands reclaimed are already in private ownership, the water rights are to be sold at a price estimated to cover the cost of construction, but water for 160 acres is to be the maximum amount sold to one individual. Payments for land or water may be distributed over not more than ten years, and they are to be turned back into the reclamation fund, which thus becomes perpetual, except for the expenditures on surveys and on maintenance of the works while in national ownership.

This law further provides that when the payments required by this act are made for the major portion of the lands irrigated from the waters of

any of the works provided for, then the management and operation of such irrigation works shall pass in common to the owners of the lands irrigated thereby, to be maintained at their expense under such form of organization and under such regulations as may be acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior, provided that the title to and the management and operation of the reservoirs and the works necessary for their protection and operation shall remain in the government until otherwise provided by Congress.

The Secretary is directed, furthermore, to withdraw from the public domain the lands to be irrigated, and also those necessary for the construction of the works, such withdrawal to precede surveys; and in case it is decided that the projected works are not feasible, the lands are to be restored to the public domain. Power is granted to him, also, to purchase or condemn such property as may be necessary to carry out the act. Every effort was made in connection with the passage of the act to cause its benefits to accrue entirely to small home makers, and to eliminate all other profits; and it is gratifying to record that this feature was especially insisted upon by the President. No land will become available for settlement for several years, or until the time necessary for surveys and construction has elapsed. The rate of reclamation will then probably be about 200,000 to 300,000 acres per annum, slowly increasing with the growth of the fund, but having an indefinite limit of perhaps 20,000,000 acres.

It is an encouraging platform, that of the Minnesota Democracy, upon which they have nominated L. A. Rosing for governor and Frank D. Larrabee for attorney general—both of them democratic Democrats, and the latter a pronounced advocate of the Henry George system of taxation. On those subjects of local government which are now attracting attention all over the country this platform