

bonds which the people wished to repudiate"? The instance cannot be named where a people have tried to repudiate an honestly contracted debt; and if there were any such danger, the argument would apply as well to the recall of an administrative officer to prevent his making payment, or of a legislator who refused to vote for repudiation, as to the recall of a judge. And if the people in any political subdivision decided to repudiate obligations, they would be too earnest to begin with recalling petty judges. Would the recall be "a menace to the independence of the judiciary"? On the contrary, it would relieve judges of the worse menace that perpetually faces them now. The menace of a majority of all the people of a community is a friendly aid, in contrast with the menace of the Beast. Consider Judge Lindsey's case (vol. xiii, p. 914) and be wise.

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The wail that comes from the Beast lest "an angry community" oust a judge from office "because he had made a just but unpopular decision," may be safely disregarded until somebody produces at least one instance in which a just judicial decision has ever been unpopular. The danger this American republic faces today is not popular assaults upon judges for just decisions; it is corporate coddling of judges for unjust decisions. Arizona guards against this danger by means of the Recall. President Taft is to determine whether or not to thrust their guard aside.

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Reciprocity with Canada.

Republicans who learned their protectionism from its masters, may be pardoned for their confusion over the Canadian reciprocity agreement, which their own President good and true is urging upon Congress as a party measure for cheapening the cost of living. Since they believed President Harrison when he told them that "a cheap coat makes a cheap man inside of the coat," wouldn't they be less than logical now if they didn't think of cheap food as making a cheap man outside of the food? And the farmers, may their innocence be ever blessed by the Protection god—those farmers who voted for dear food by keeping the pauper food of Canada out of the American farmers' God-given home market,—why shouldn't they find their mental adjustment painfully disarranged upon being now assured, in the name of Protection, that it is good for the farming business at home to be "deluged" with Canadian products? It surely is to laugh. But it is better for Ameri-

cans and Canadians alike to laugh at this back-sliding protectionism, than to suffer with the wretched policy protectionism has thrust so long upon both.

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It isn't much that Mr. Taft's reciprocity agreement offers, but it is better than nothing; and all of us should be glad that the progressive Democrats and the progressive Republicans in Congress are backing him up. Senator Cummins gives this free-trade-ward agreement its right place when he says: "The objection I have to the arrangement is not that it is too free, but that it is not free enough."

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On this subject the Henry George Association of Detroit, of which Alex S. Diack (512 Washington Arcade) is secretary, has adopted the following excellent statement and forwarded copies to President Taft, Speaker Cannon, Champ Clark, and Senator Bourne:

The Henry George Association, of Detroit, Mich., having a membership affiliated with all political parties—Republican, Democrat, Socialist, Prohibition—at its last regular meeting, without a dissenting voice, ordered that public expression be made of its approval of the reciprocity program between Canada and the United States, now before Congress. This approval is based on the belief that artificial barriers between nations separated only by an imaginary line and so closely bound by blood ties and natural conditions of climate and territory as is Canada and the United States, can have—and do have—only the effect of making it harder for all to live, and that though some particular industry or a few privileged persons may benefit by tariff restrictions between the two countries, the great mass of wealth producers and wealth consumers on both sides of the border—farmers as well as manufacturers—are very much worse off than if there were unrestricted freedom to barter.

The Michigan Central railroad has just built a tunnel under the Detroit river, in order to cheapen transportation between the two countries, and to overcome natural obstacles to commerce; yet, immediately, the two countries place customs officers at each outlet of this tunnel, their chief duty being to penalize, by an ad valorem or specific fine, those who attempt to take advantage of the improved transportation. Natural trade is always the most profitable trade. The people of the United States cannot buy of the people of Canada unless the people living in Canada buy of the United States, either directly or indirectly, goods and products of equal value. For all trade is barter—the exchange of products for products.

The Henry George Association is aware that the policy of both the United States and of Canada has been to ignore this fundamental economic truth, and to place restrictions on trade between the two countries, in the foolish expectation that it would result in making it easier to obtain work and wages. Still,

as certain industries have been thus artificially nurtured, though at the expense of those not thus subsidized, it is not public policy to so suddenly change trade conditions as to seriously embarrass favored industries. It is the opinion of the Henry George Association that the proposed reciprocity agreement holds the balance fairly well as between what is right, possible and expedient; and that the agreement will personally injure very few, if any, while being of great value to all others.

The members of the Henry George Association feel personally bound to give public expression to these views, in the belief that it will strengthen the hands of those working for the adoption, by Congress, of the proposed reciprocity agreement, and in the hope that those Michigan Congressmen who are hesitating between the personal interests of a few and the general interests of the many, may conclude to take the economically sound and morally just stand that Reciprocity between Canada and the United States is necessary and right.

That statement is so well drawn, and while recognizing the practical obstructions that confront public servants, nevertheless states essential economic principles so unreservedly, that all kinds of patriotic organizations and all individuals who agree with it, might perform a useful service by adopting it as their own and giving their representatives in Congress a chance to look it over.

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Congress and the States.

Mr. Roosevelt's "buts" are usually of the weasel-word order, but not his latest. In advocating the election of United States Senators by popular vote, his "but" is against taking away from the Federal government its present control over elections of Senators. This is sound doctrine. Congress is not—at any rate it ought not to be—a gathering of State agents for State purposes. It should be a national parliament, dealing with national interests on national lines. Regarding Congress, the people of any part of the country are as much affected by elections in every other part as in their own. They are therefore entitled to have those elections conducted fairly. If, for instance, an oligarchy in any State divests citizens of the United States of Constitutional rights to vote for Senators and Representatives in Congress, this would concern the voting rights of all American citizens. It would not be a local question.

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City Nominations in Chicago.

All the nominations for Mayor of Chicago (pp. 97, 106) at the direct primary are now made. On the Republican side, Charles E. Merriam leads the list. Mayor Busse dared not run for re-election, and John R. Thompson is running in his

stead. Governor Deneen's personal necessities in politics are not cordially enough represented by Merriam, so the Governor thrusts forward John F. Smulski, a civic reformer who, like the Governor himself, did once put his hand to the plough, etc. Then there is a mysterious candidate about whom nothing generally is known except that he is a Negro: a retail merchant who never misses an opportunity for advertising his business and who regards this primary as such an opportunity; and a politician of the name of Scully. On the Democratic side we have ex-Mayor Carter H. Harrison, an *ex* for the city's good; Andrew J. Graham, a would-be Mayor for the city's ill; and Edward F. Dunne, the only Mayor of Chicago for many a year who, being neither a Big Business lackey nor a creature of slum bosses nor both, worked faithfully against unprecedented odds for the rights of all against privileges for a few. The Socialist and Prohibition parties have candidates, of course, but only one each—W. E. Rodriguez for the former and William A. Brubaker for the latter. It is easy, therefore, for Socialists and Prohibitionists to choose at the primary; and it ought to be as easy for Republicans and Democrats. The character of the leading candidates in each of the latter parties is such that discrimination seems as automatic as a separation of sheep from goats. Republican admirers of Busse and Lorimer will vote for Thompson as instinctively as ducks would vote for water; the Big Business element will turn as instinctively to Smulski, except as their "gentlemen's agreements" are already made; and progressive Republicans, democratic Republicans, these will vote for Merriam. It is somewhat the same in the Democratic party. Democrats of the Big Business order will vote for Graham; those of the mixed order—Big Business and peanut politics—will vote for Harrison; and those who realize the fidelity to public interests of Mayor Dunne in the face of untold temptations and destructive combines, will vote for Dunne. If the Democrats nominate any of their candidates but Dunne, or the Republicans any of theirs but Merriam, the public interests of Chicago will be wantonly endangered. Should neither of these men be nominated, those interests might as well be on an auction block.

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The Spirit of Dana in the Pen.

In contrast with the bare matter of fact statement in *The Public* regarding the old newspaper story of Horace Greeley and Whitelaw Reid (pp. 99, 129), observe the delicacy of the *New York Sun*:

We feel ourselves almost authorized to announce