

The Company He Keeps.

In criticizing Mr. Roosevelt for the New York Republican platform, it is but fair to recognize the plea of his friends. No Republican leader could be expected to take so pronounced a stand in New York for progressive measures as in a progressive State. But due allowance being made for those circumstances, what is to be said of Mr. Roosevelt's letter of September 30, written from The Outlook office, in which he congratulates Congressman William E. Humphrey of Seattle upon his renomination, and says: "For the sake of the people of Washington, as well as for the sake of the country as a whole, I hope you will be returned." Naturally Congressman Humphrey is using that letter now to promote his re-election. And who is Congressman Humphrey? He is a defender of the Aldrich-Payne-Taft tariff bill, which Mr. Roosevelt professes to despise. He is a defender of Cannon, the "Iron Duke of American politics," as he called Cannon in a glowing tribute at the Washington State convention recently. He opposed the nomination for Senator of Miles Poin-dexter, the Republican progressive. He won his own renomination, for which Mr. Roosevelt is glad, by barely defeating a progressive Republican; and he can be returned, as Mr. Roosevelt hopes he will be, only by defeating a progressive Democrat. If Mr. Roosevelt is truly what he makes his confiding friends think him—a progressive Republican who uses the soft pedal for progress in the State of New York because local conditions make it advisable—why does he use so loud a pedal for the other tune in the State of Washington?

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Chicago Newspapers.

Assured of our error regarding the Chicago newspapers (p. 939), we should be glad to make complete amends were it not that these assurances, all from excellent sources, are almost as conflicting with one another as with our original hints. One thing seems certain, however, and that is that the Chicago Evening Post has not been bought by the Tribune, but is paddling its own canoe as the penny pioneer fighter, and satisfactorily, too. The fact appears also to be that the Tribune and the Record-Herald have adopted their penny price in order to force Hearst's Examiner to "go up"—to two cents or "the flue." So the penny fight is not a free-for-all between the Chicago papers, but a combination fight against Hearst. Rumor has it—but we mustn't be too tolerant of rumors—that The Tribune has cut deeply into the Hearst circulation, that the Hearst papers won't allow the newsdealers to cut down former orders, and that the

Record-Herald—really the best newspaper in Chicago—is playing in the role of the mouse that volunteered to help the cat fight the dog.

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"BACK TO THE LAND."

Since Bishop Nulty of Meath uttered this slogan, and Henry George gave it currency some twenty years ago, it has taken on different meanings.

"Back to the land" may mean "back to the soil," away from the cities and towns and back to the farms. Had it been current in Horace Greeley's time, that might have been its meaning to him; for "back to the soil," the free soil at the American frontier of his day, was what he intended by his once famous but now obsolete advice: "Go West, young man, go West!" Such, too, is its meaning to most of the popular speakers and writers of the present time from whose lips the phrase falls or from whose pens it flows.

It is part of its meaning also with those to whom the venerable Irish bishop's words are pregnant with a broader significance, a significance more comprehensive and modern, one better suited to the fact that the land is vitally necessary to all industry,—not alone to the primitive in woodcraft or agriculture, but also to the highly specialized and organized in manufactures and commerce.

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This comprehensive meaning of "back to the land" is clearly recognized in practice by your business man, by "capitalistic" classes of every grade. Though they know not the phrase itself in any other sense than popular speakers and writers do—as an allusion merely to agricultural soil—they understand and profit by what is involved in its broader meaning.

That Bishop Nulty meant more than soil when he urged men "back to the land," is plain enough from his memorable address; and it is certain that Henry George meant vastly more.

Henry George meant all that ordinary business men mean when they search for "good locations," that land speculators mean when they boast of their "confidence in the growth of localities," that great capitalists mean when they scheme with governments for grants of "undeveloped" natural resources. He meant all that they mean, and somewhat besides; for whereas their solicitude is for the augmentation of their own fortunes, his was for the individual rights of all the people, together with the conservation of their common wealth.

To Henry George, "back to the land" meant