

terests in which are involved a considerable degree of wealth, leisure and influence, are quite clearly expounded by accepted authorities. These are the adjustments of competitive trading. The textbooks declare, and most well-informed people understand, that with trade set free from artificial restrictions, legal as well as illegal, its profits would be automatically fixed by competition at a point yielding merely a fair return for the labor employed therein.

There remains to be patiently and persistently demonstrated the equally vital truth that with production set free from artificial restrictions, mainly legal, competition would with like certainty maintain wages in all classes of labor, mental, moral, manual and mixed, at a rate approximately a just return for the actual contribution, in goods or other satisfactions, which each laborer makes to the aggregate of current production.



With the social pyramid thus righted up, its broad base of human units firmly established on the earth—their nourishing mother—the eternal forces that govern the activities of men would operate but to the perpetuation of its serene and blest security.

ELIZABETH P. ROUNSEVELL.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

THE ROOSEVELT SEIZURE.

Duluth.

Rampant inconsistency is the humor of this Roosevelt seizure. Because they want tariff reduction, the multitude is clamoring for Roosevelt, who never bent a finger for tariff reduction. Because they want progressive policies, thousands are shouting for Roosevelt, who jumped to the head of the procession by stepping on the face of the man who gave form to progressive tendencies. Because they demand that the people shall rule, State after State is turning to Roosevelt the unconditioned and the absolute, who but four years ago had only a guffaw for the great Commoner's appeal, Shall the people rule?

In which rampant inconsistency, the multitude is showing itself superbly consistent. La Follette, who led the forlorn hope, does not represent the people. Roosevelt, who was dandling Aldrich and Cannon when that standard was raised, represents the multitude exactly. Taft, who blindly prosecutes the trusts to an inconsequential finish, does not represent the people. Roosevelt, who rails against bad trusts but who would not hurt business, is their proper spokesman. Bryan, a majestic voice crying in the wilderness, does not represent the populace nearly so well as Roosevelt bawling from the house-tops.

The people are disgusted with that which is rep-

resented in politics by Lorimer and Penrose and Smoot. Nobody is assailing that crew quite so vociferously as Roosevelt. Not La Follette, who advocates physical valuation of railroads and certain other measures. Not Bryan, who declared himself upon the subject of train robbers some eight years ago and has since then other matters to attend to. Both of them are able men but neither has Roosevelt's genius for seizing the mood of the moment—being seized by it. Men of their type would drive out darkness by letting in sunlight. It may be good philosophy but Roosevelt's is the more acute psychology. He contrasts black and white. Sunlight does not contrast darkness but conflicts with it. Nevertheless black contra-suggests white and not sunshine. And in certain phases of vision more is to be accomplished by pointing to black than by proposing more light. In cleaving to Roosevelt the multitude is strictly logical.

The Minnesota Republican convention is an exact illustration of the seizure and its logic. Roosevelt as usual carried the day, La Follette had a handful, Taft was nowhere. The Roosevelt platform consisted of the plank, We want Roosevelt, first, last and all the time. The La Follette minority, obtaining representation on the resolutions committee, proposed several planks, of which the majority accepted one for preferential primaries and another for a corrupt practices act, but rejected that for the referendum and recall and that other for physical valuation of railroads. Of the rejected planks one is fundamentally democratic, the other tends to constructive legislation.

That is logical and consistent. The people have not reached conclusions on fundamental democracy except where campaigns of education have been carried on for years, as in Oregon. They have not agreed upon a constructive policy except where a campaign has been carried on for years, as in Wisconsin.

The multitudes who are pressing to Roosevelt's standards are not ready to assemble about a program; they rally to an outcry.

Programs presuppose patience. The Roosevelt seizure is the incarnation of impatience.

J. S. P.



THE OLD HEBREW JUSTICE.

St. Louis.

Even with most sincere efforts to reach the high plane of true justice, and, as far as possible, to aid in applying the ideal in practice, we often find the best intentions of worthy moralists beset by errors and unconscious harmful slips.

Is it because we are too prone to feel secure as to the unassailability of our judgments on which we base our further reasoning? This may be the case, though we be aware that inaccuracies must invalidate our argument.

The rate of progress in the constant changing of social systems must needs be slow, so slow that most of the stages of the gradual evolution towards better things are unheeded and, therefore, remain unknown. It is then easily possible that much that is actually given to our view is subject to misconception and misinterpretation. It is imperatively