

personified, had entered into our consciousness.

Isn't this the experience of us all? And doesn't it repeat itself, in ever varying form, again and again through life?

One prized superstition after another—religious, political, social—fades away, leaving for a time a blank and possibly stimulating hypocritical instincts. But when it has served its uses (and all good superstitions serve good uses), we find upon fully relinquishing it, that the truth which it has only symbolized becomes more real to us than the symbol ever was.

Just as fatherly and motherly affection—a mere abstraction, if you please—looms up now above the accumulated memories of half a century, as infinitely more real and concrete than the Santa Claus myth by which that affection was expressed at Christmas time, so do even greater truths become the more real as with intelligence and good motive we abandon the superstitions that have supported them in the progressive stages of character building.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 19.—The speech delivered by Congressman Robert Baker in the House on December 14th fully justifies the efforts put forth by The Radical Democracy of Brooklyn for his election in the campaign of 1902 in the Sixth Congressional District of New York. Our speakers then promised the voters of that district that if he were elected, unlike so many who had been sent to Congress in the past from our city, he would be heard from upon the trust and other economic questions in a way that would command attention from Congress and the country. He has already redeemed that promise in the speech referred to, which is a notably vigorous arraignment of the protectionist superstition, of the Republican claim that universal prosperity exists in this country and that every man who so desires can obtain employment—in the language of Representative Hepburn, of Iowa—"at a compensating wage." The falsity of this claim is vividly shown by Mr. Baker in the many instances he cites of the miserable wages paid to the coal miners, the farm laborers, the factory operative and the shop-girl; while convincing evidence is also presented in the list of lock-outs and shut-downs and wage reductions, culled

from the recent newspaper press, that even the limited prosperity of the past few years is rapidly disappearing.

We are gratified to learn from the New York Times' report that "the speaker had the undivided attention of the House and evoked frequent applause from the Democratic side;" and still more pleased at the sustained interest in the speech shown by requests for a large number of copies for distribution in their own districts received from two leading Congressmen of the West. These requests clearly indicate that the speech is as well adapted for circulation in rural communities as in the crowded labor centers, and The Radical Democracy strongly urges democratic Democrats everywhere to write at once to their Congressmen for as many copies as they can profitably distribute. In this connection we recommend the plan The Radical Democracy itself has adopted, of sending the speech to registered voters.

Requests for copies should be addressed to one's own Congressman, as it would be impossible for Mr. Baker, who is a poor man, to respond to more than requests for individual copies, while the Congressional committee can and no doubt gladly will fill orders given by any Congressman for as many copies as can be profitably used in his district.

Real Democrats will be particularly pleased at Mr. Baker's review of the principles for which Tom L. Johnson, of Ohio, and Gov. L. F. C. Garvin, of Rhode Island, are making such sturdy fights in their native States.

PETER AITKEN.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Dec. 24.

The Panama question (p. 554) has become a subject of most serious controversy at the American capital.

Since our last report on this matter the Republic of Panama has been recognized by Russia, Germany, Austria, France and China; but no recognition has yet been made by any country on the American continents, except the United States.

Reports of military movements by Colombia against Panama have frequently appeared in the news dispatches. None have been confirmed, however, except a recent one, to the effect that a small body of Colombian troops have taken possession of Pinos island, off the

Atlantic coast of Panama, about 50 miles west of Cape Tiburon. Even this is now denied.

Meanwhile the United States have been strengthening their naval and military forces at Panama. They have also sent William I. Buchanan, of New York, as American minister to Panama. Mr. Buchanan's appointment was confirmed by the Senate and he left at once for Panama. But on the 19th Senator Gorman moved a reconsideration on the ground that confirmation had been allowed inadvertently; in consequence of which, under the rules of the Senate, Mr. Buchanan's appointment now stands unconfirmed.

But the event of principal interest and importance regarding the Panama question is the carefully prepared speech delivered on the 17th by Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, in conditional criticism of the Administration. Mr. Hoar's speech is printed in full at page 291 of the Congressional Record for December 17th. The point he emphasized was not whether the Republic of Panama had been recognized prematurely by the Administration, but—

whether our Administration, knowing or expecting beforehand that a revolution was coming, so arranged matters that the revolution, whether peaceable or forcible, should be permitted to go on without interruption, and only took measures to stop the Republic of Colombia from preventing it. Did the President, or the Secretary of State, or any other department of our government, purposely prevent Colombia from anticipating and preventing a breach of the peace and a disturbance of the transit across the Isthmus by sending her troops there before it happened, and so virtually let the revolution take place, and say to Colombia, "You shall take no precautions to stop it?" Did we, in substance, say to Colombia, "We will not allow you to prevent a revolution in your province of Panama by moving your forces there" before it broke out?

After reviewing all the documents which the Administration had sent to the Senate, Mr. Hoar concluded that—

all our government, by its own statement, seems to have done in its anxiety that transit should not be disturbed was not to take measures that violence should not occur, but to take measures that violence should not be prevented. It performed its duty of keeping uninterrupted the transit across the Isthmus

only by interrupting it itself—interrupting it itself in its most sacred and rightful use, that of the lawful government of the country moving its own troops over its own territory that it might prevent a breach of its peace and an unlawful revolution against its authority. Mr. President, is there any doubt that, as now standing unexplained, this was an act of war?

But he closed with this explanation:

Now, I do not undertake to say—I do not say—that there has been anything, so far, on the part of our Government liable to any just criticism. But the American people and the Senate, as yet, know only part of the story. They are, in my judgment, entitled to know the whole, and to know it now, before action be taken upon the Panama treaty. We are entitled to know it in the way prescribed by the established custom of the government for a century—by an official communication from the Executive to one or the other House of Congress, and not to get it through some individual Senator, whose information may be colored, unconsciously, by his own wishes, or by what he fancies to be the wishes of anybody else, still less by the unofficial public utterances of the representatives of foreign states, or even of officials of our own executive departments.

For thousands of people in the wage-working class of the United States this is to be a dismal holiday season. The business depression (p. 566) has reached a point at which workmen in certain manufacturing lines are being discharged in large numbers, while others are having their wages sharply cut down. The details are meagerly reported by the newspapers, but enough appears to indicate the actual presence of the hard times among workingmen.

NEWS NOTES.

—The second East River bridge, connecting Manhattan island with Brooklyn, was formally opened on the 19th.

—Frederic R. Coudert, the New York lawyer of international fame, of the old firm of Coudert Bros., died on the 20th at the age of 71.

—In the progress of his European tour (p. 584), Wm. J. Bryan visited Tolstoy on the 18th, and was received by the Czar on the 21st.

—A celebration of the centennial anniversary of the transfer of the Louisiana territory from France to the United States was begun at New Orleans on the 18th.

—The United States authorities having prohibited gambling in Alaska, a

gambling palace is being erected on the ice of Behring sea, three miles from shore, within easy reach of Nome.

—John J. Brennan, a Chicago alderman, convicted of fraudulent practices at the judiciary election last June, was sentenced on the 21st to one year's imprisonment in the House of Correction.

—C. S. Hammond & Co., 165 Broadway, New York, have issued a new map of Panama, which is especially useful at this time, when the Panama question promises to take first place in American politics.

—Senator Hanna was reported from Washington on the 22d as having declined formally and finally to serve as chairman of the Republican National Committee during the coming presidential campaign.

—Judge Grosscup decided on the 17th, in the traction case recently argued before him (p. 584), to order the receivers of the Union Traction company to use electric power over the cable tracks on Lincoln avenue and Blue Island avenue.

—An earthquake on the 15th broke off the southeastern peak of Mount Ranier, lying sixty miles southwest of Tacoma. Hundreds of acres of rocks and ice, including a number of glaciers, were broken loose and hurled for miles down the mountain side into the valleys.

—The Cuban reciprocity bill (p. 584) was signed on the 17th by President Roosevelt, who at the same time issued a proclamation declaring the treaty to be in effect on the 27th. President Palma, of Cuba, proclaimed the treaty on the 19th, also fixing the 27th for its taking effect.

—A labor conflict between the livery drivers' union and the livery owners' union of Chicago has "tied up" the undertaking business, and funerals are conducted under difficulties. The owners' union charges the drivers with obstructing funerals, and the drivers' union charges the owners with this responsibility.

—At the by-election in the Ludlow division of Shropshire, England, held on the 23d, the result was pronounced against Mr. Chamberlain's policy, which was distinctly at issue. Although the Liberal-Unionist (Chamberlain) candidate was elected by a majority of 970, the division has heretofore been so overwhelmingly Liberal-Unionist that there was no opposition at the preceding election. At the last preceding contested election the Liberal-Unionist majority was nearly 4,000.

—Two officials of Franklin union, No. 4, of Press Feeders, of Chicago (p. 567), were indicted by the Cook county grand jury on the 21st, along with others, upon charges of assaults in connection with recent strikes. They were included with the actual participants under the ruling of Judge Gary in the anarchist

cases, which held public speakers liable for specific crimes committed under the influence of their speeches. Several indictments for riot in connection with the street car strike (p. 535) were found on the 23d.

—A successful trial of a flying machine was made on the 17th near Kitty Hawk, N. C., by Wilbur and Orville Wright, of Dayton, O., sons of Bishop Wright, of the United Brethren church. The machine flew for three miles, at an even speed of eight miles an hour, in the face of a wind blowing 21 miles an hour, and then gracefully descended at the spot selected by the navigator. The machine has no balloon attachment, but gets its force from propellers worked by a small engine. It is built upon the principle of the box kite.

—A debate on socialism versus the single tax, with reference to the interests of the working classes, took place at Chicago on the 20th between Ernest Untermeyer, Seymour Steadman and A. M. Simons for socialism, and Louis F. Post, Henry H. Hardinge and John Z. White for the single tax. A verbatim report of the debate, from the stenographic notes of W. C. McDermut, one of the best court reporters of the country, is announced by the socialist publishing house of Chicago, Chas. H. Kerr & Co., 56 Fifth avenue (room 509), for 25 cents.

—As chairman of a committee appointed by the Chicago Federation of Labor to investigate assertions that labor unions produce hard times, T. P. Quinn reported on the 20th that he had received replies from several economic students attributing hard times to inequitable distribution. Among those reported as having replied were Sir Charles Dilke, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Ernest H. Crosby, John Burns, Prince Kropotkin, and Lawson Purdy. The report recommended:

That the American Federation of Labor take immediate steps, first—to have all land now illegally held by individuals and corporations reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlement under the jurisdiction of the general land office; second—to have adequate appropriation made by the present Congress for the irrigation of all desert land, the draining of all swamp land and the whole held in the department for general use under the homestead law, and that an extra appropriation be made to cover preliminary expenses of all actual settlers; third—that each State federation of labor now in existence be urged to take immediate steps to secure the enactment of a State law making possible home rule in all municipalities within the States, this law to include the right to raise revenue in their own way.

PRESS OPINIONS.

MANIFEST DESTINY.

The Commoner (Dem.), Dec. 18.—When the Filipinos complained they were told that it was "manifest destiny." When Colombia complains she is told that it is "manifest destiny." The Boers were told that it was "manifest destiny." The Poles are told that it is "manifest destiny." Sinned down, the weaker peoples are compelled to accept subjugation by stronger