

managers, but in compliance with the law of the land?

The president touches very lightly upon the tariff question. He does not even say, as he said in one or two former messages, that reciprocity and protection are "twin measures" or that "reciprocity is the handmaiden of protection;" nor does he pay to the protective system those high sounding tributes so common with republican statesmen when dealing with that subject. Indeed, when one remembers that the tariff question is now occupying a conspicuous place in public attention, it is somewhat difficult to believe that the non-committal reference to the tariff was written by the same hand which penned the clear cut and frank statements, in the same message, referring to railroad legislation. By reading between the lines one might conclude that the president is opposed to tariff revision at the present time and that he is in favor of reciprocity in what might be called homoeopathic doses. When the president says that it would, in his judgment, be well to endeavor to bring about "closer commercial connections with other peoples of this continent" one is justified in concluding that Mr. Whitney of Massachusetts was not far wrong when he represented the president as being in favor of freer trade relations with Canada.

The president pleads for "the element of elasticity to our currency system." He says that "banks are the natural servants of commerce, and upon them should be placed, as far as practicable, the burden of furnishing and maintaining a circulation adequate to supply the needs of our diversified industries and of our domestic and foreign commerce." Here, also, the president fails to make himself entirely clear, although many people will suspect that he advocates some sort of an asset currency, perhaps such a system as that which Secretary of the Treasury Shaw has publicly favored.

His reference to the merchant marine, while not explicit, so far as his own preferences are concerned, will be fairly interpreted by the champions of the ship subsidy as an indorsement of their measure.

The president's references to elections are interesting. His recommendations that contributions by corporations be forbidden and that congress as well as the state legislatures forbid the use of money in connection with any legislation "save by the employment of counsel in public manner for distinctly legal services," are wise. So, also, is the renewal of the recommendation contained in a former message that a statement of the expenditures for nominations and elections, and also a statement of all contributions received be made public. The president overlooked one vital point in making these recommendations. The law should require that every contribution made for campaign purposes be published, say thirty days prior to election day, in order that the people may determine the character of the forces behind the respective candidates.

One of the general recommendations made in the message will appeal to the American people generally. This is where President Roosevelt recommends that the suggestion made seven years ago by President McKinley, to the effect that congress make provision for the care of the graves of the confederate dead be acted on. President Roosevelt adds: "The first need is to take charge of the graves of the confederate dead who died in northern prisons." It is to be hoped that congress will act promptly on this recommendation. The old-time wounds are very nearly healed, and nothing would so tend to the completion of the healing process as a provision by congress of suitable care for the graves of our southern brothers. On Memorial day the men and women of the south strew flowers on the graves of the boys in blue, while the men and women of the north strew flowers on the graves of the boys in gray. Among the masses of the American people today there are "tears and love for the blue, love and tears for the gray." This sentiment might well find expression in an act of congress complying with the president's recommendation; for do we not know that "they banish our fates forever when they laurel the graves of our dead?"

WHY?

The Sioux City Journal, a republican paper says: "A very good place to initiate reform is with the congressmen's mail. No doubt there has been improvement in that regard, but the chance for betterment is still open." Then the Journal offers a list of "Don't's" from which the following are taken:

Don't offer the congressman money for a postoffice.

Don't offer to divide with him the first month's salary for a place.

Don't ask him to represent a claim that

would not have standing in a justice court.

Don't ask him to try to beat the civil service commission.

Don't ask him to be accessory to a fraud on the pension office.

Don't ask him to correct a record by law that has never had correction in morals.

Don't appeal to him to support a measure because there is a graft in it for a constituent.

Don't ask him, in any kind of language, to be a grafter.

Once upon a time there was a member of the Nebraska legislature who had the habit of intimating in his speeches to the assembly that he had been "approached." This gentleman became famous as "the approached member." On one occasion after his fame in this line had been established, this gentleman, addressing the house, intimated that an attempt had been made to purchase his vote on the pending measure. Another member addressing the speaker asked permission to submit a question to the "approached member." The speaker replied that the question might be put with the "approached member's" consent. Consent being given the other member with marked deliberation asked the "approached member" this question: "What is there about you that makes everybody try to bribe you?"

Silence prevailed and, greatly discomfited, the "approached member" took his seat. The very pertinent question cured him, for that session, at least, of his habit of making public reference to the many alleged attempts to corrupt him.

Some of the "Don't's" offered by this republican newspaper recall this more or less interesting story, and suggest the question: "What is there about a republican congress that it is necessary for a republican newspaper to request that men having axes to grind refrain from efforts to corrupt the members of that body?"

SYMPATHY

Harpers' Weekly says that one afternoon recently there entered a hospital in the poorer quarter of Philadelphia a little girl of about eight years, bearing in her arms a fox terrier whose forefoot had been crushed by a heavy wagon. To the attendant who tells the story the little girl explained that she desired to have the doctors "fix the doggy's foot." The physicians were for refusing the case at first, but, in view of the great distress of the youngster, they finally permitted their good nature to get the better of them. Chloroform, instruments and bandages were produced and a neat operation was performed, the child bravely assisting.

"Now," said one of the doctors, "you may take the dog home with you."

The little one's eyes widened. "Oh," she explained, "it ain't mine! I jest found it, an' I think you oughter take care of it."

And off she went leaving the dog in their custody.

That is a very pretty story and one which should be read to children and to folks generally.

The men and women of the future will be kind to one another if the boys and girls of today are taught to be considerate of dumb animals and sympathetic with their afflictions.

LOAFING AS A FINE ART

General Smith, U. S. A., popularly known as "Hell Roaring Jake" Smith, is now upon the retired list. Recently he sailed for Europe, and before doing so said he was going over there to loaf because it was impossible to loaf scientifically in this country.

General Smith is evidently a very careless observer. Loafing has become a fine art, to say nothing of having become a science—in this country. Scores of bank examiners, numerous examiners of insurance companies, directors in banks and industrial corporations, government officials, city officials charged with watching out for the interests of the people—these and hundreds of other instances that might be mentioned all prove that loafing is scientifically followed in this country, and demonstrates that General Smith is traveling far under a very badly mistaken notion of prevailing conditions.

Scientific loafing as practiced by a bank examiner in Illinois resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to confiding men and women who trusted Mr. Spaulding.

Scientific loafing on the part of insurance commissioners in New York resulted in hundreds of thousands of policyholders being systematically robbed by greedy insurance promoters and syndicate schemers.

Scientific loafing on the part of public officials charged with guarding the welfare of the

people has resulted in giant combinations that feed and fatten upon the public.

Indeed, scientific loafers who live off of the toil of their fellows and spend their entire time in frivolous pleasures are almost too numerous to mention.

General "Jake" Smith has spent his study hours to poor advantage if he knows so little about his own country. We have more scientific loafers to the thousand of population than almost any other country on earth.

TAKE THE HINT

Two cattle barons charged with the illegal fencing of 212,000 acres of government land in Sheridan county, Neb., pleaded guilty before the United States court at Omaha and were sentenced to pay a fine of \$300 each, and to remain for six hours in the custody of the United States marshal. Referring to this judgment and speaking to a representative of the Associated Press, Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock, said:

You can say that I am surprised and indignant. The punishment is utterly inadequate. The indictment was the result of four years of determined effort and the expenditure of thousands of dollars by the department. We had selected the largest operators in the hope that the result would be a warning to those engaged on a smaller scale. That the case was a strong one is evident by the fact that the men pleaded guilty. The result is discouraging but we shall not cease our efforts. They have promised to tear down their fences and if they do not keep the promise they will be indicted again and again until they learn that laws are made to be obeyed. We will not let up.

Those who have been tempted to give their support to the plan of trusting railway rate regulation with life-term judges may find in Secretary Hitchcock's comment a valuable hint. For four years the interior department had worked on these cases, and after all of their efforts the result was a paltry fine and six hours in the company of the marshal.

No wonder Secretary Hitchcock is disgusted. It will be strange, however, if in the light of such experiences as these the American people consent to an increase in the number of life-term judges in a vain effort to obtain relief in the matter of railway rates.

TARIFF REVISION

Curtis Guild, Jr., governor-elect of Massachusetts, has written to President Roosevelt a letter in which referring to the hard fought election in Massachusetts Mr. Guild says that in his judgment the republican ticket would have been overwhelmingly defeated if the republican platform had not contained a plank favoring immediate tariff revision.

Mr. Guild says that he deems it his duty to inform the president of the real condition of public feeling in Massachusetts and he urges the president to incorporate in his message a suggestion favorable to tariff revision.

What Governor Guild says of public sentiment in Massachusetts may be said of public sentiment in other states. The people have become thoroughly weary of a high protective tariff, and every day they are growing more and more restless under the impositions placed upon them because of the shelter which the trusts find in the tariff.

QUITE A JOKE

A former clerk in the Equitable testified before the insurance committee that Thomas B. Jordan, the controller of the Equitable, had the habit of writing, for the benefit of the society's lobbyist, his comments on bills as they were introduced in the legislature. It was brought out that concerning one bill that provided that stockholders should have the right to examine the books of the company, Controller Jordan wrote: "Of course we are opposed to this," and the New York Tribune's report says that just then "the unconscious humor of this aroused a general laugh."

But there does not appear to be any humor in it for the policyholders, nor are the risibilities of policyholders generally aroused in the light of the fact that even after all these investigations the same disinclination with respect to publicity exists among the insurance chiefs.

Mr. McCurdy doubtless felt less of a jar by taking two steps to come down.