

the Seward quotation employed by Mr. Roosevelt in his message to congress stands as a rebuke to the policy of the Roosevelt administration. In carrying out that policy, the Roosevelt administration is doing just what Mr. Seward said should not be done. It is embroiling this government in the revolution in Colombia; it is depriving this government of its perfect neutrality in connection with such domestic altercations; and it is supplying to the insurgents on the isthmus the force for their use and benefit in spite of the fact that Mr. Seward said that the United States could not comply with a requisition of that character.

In the statement made by Attorney General Speed, and quoted by Mr. Roosevelt, it is said: "From this treaty, it cannot be supposed that New Granada invited the United States to become a party to the intestine troubles of that government nor would the United States become bound to take sides in the domestic broils of New Granada. The United States did guarantee New Granada in the sovereignty and property in the territory. This was as against other and foreign governments."

How does that help Mr. Roosevelt?

Under his administration, he has done just what Attorney General Speed said the United States government should not do. We have become a party to the intestine troubles of the Colombian government, we have taken sides in the domestic broils of Colombia, and like the quotation from Seward, the quotation from Speed serves as a rebuke to Mr. Roosevelt's Panama policy.

Mr. Roosevelt prints a list of "riots," "outbreaks," and "revolutions" which have occurred on the isthmus from May, 1850, to July, 1902. He lays great stress on the fact that on several occasions sailors and marines from the United States warships were required to land in order to control the isthmus and he directs attention to the fact that on several occasions among them in 1885, the Colombian government asked that the United States government lend troops to protect its interests and maintain order on the isthmus. Mr. Roosevelt might have quoted from the president's message in December, 1885, in explanation of the landing of troops on that occasion. In that message President Cleveland said:

"Emergencies growing out of civil war in the United States of Colombia demanded of the government, at the beginning of this administration, the employment of armed forces to fulfill its guarantee under the thirty-fifth article of the treaty of 1846, in order to keep the transit open across the isthmus of Panama. Desirous of exercising only the powers expressly reserved to us by the treaty, and mindful of the rights of Colombia, the forces sent to the isthmus were instructed to confine their action to 'positively and efficaciously' preventing the transit and its accessories from being 'interrupted or embarrassed.'"

"The execution of this delicate and responsible task necessarily involved police control where the local authority was temporarily powerless, but always in aid of the sovereignty of Colombia."

"The prompt and successful fulfillment of its duty by this government was highly appreciated by the government of Colombia, and has been followed by expressions of its satisfaction."

"High praise is due to the officers and men engaged in this service."

"The restoration of peace on the isthmus by the re-establishment of the constituted government there being thus accomplished, the forces of the United States were withdrawn."

It will be seen that on that occasion the United States government was "mindful of the rights of Colombia," and that the forces sent to the isthmus were "instructed to confine their action to 'positively and efficaciously' preventing the transit and its accessories from being 'interrupted and embarrassed.'"

It was admitted that this task was a delicate one, and necessarily involved police control where the local authority was temporarily powerless, but it was pointed out that that control was "always in aid of the sovereignty of Colombia," and it is shown that when peace was restored on the isthmus by "the re-establishment of the constituted government," the forces of the United States were withdrawn.

How different from the policy of Seward and of Speed and of every one of Mr. Roosevelt's predecessors in the White house is the Panama policy of the Roosevelt administration.

From Polk, who, in transmitting that treaty to the senate, laid particular emphasis upon our

guarantee of New Granada's sovereignty, to McKinley, who said that the United States government has imposed for its own governance "the further condition that recognition of independent statehood is not due to a revolted dependency until all danger of its being again subjugated by the parent state has entirely passed away"—from Polk to McKinley, the Roosevelt Panama policy stands condemned. It is condemned as to the indifference we have shown for our solemn guarantee to Colombia of its rights of sovereignty and the unseemly haste we made in recognizing a government that sprang up in a night time and before that government was by any means organized; and before, also, the parent state had been given the slightest opportunity of exercising the right to re-establish its authority.

In defense of his fearfully and wonderfully made policy on the isthmus of Panama, Mr. Roosevelt will do well to take a stand on the proposition that "the end justifies the means." He cannot justify that policy by reference to international law, by the precedents set by our own government or by quotations from American statesmen.

Piping Days of Prosperity.

Remembering that in 1900 the republican leaders, pleading with the workmen to "let well enough alone," promised them "four years more of the full dinner pail," it is interesting to read the newspaper dispatches relating to labor difficulties these days.

Two issues of a certain metropolitan paper will serve as examples.

In one of these issues, the following headlines which are descriptive of the dispatches appear:

"Speaks burning words in the frost-laden air; John Mitchell talks to strikers' mass meeting of 4,500 at Trinidad, Colo.; Tells them that miners' union can never be driven from state; Sued for damages."

"Will turn down Mitchell; Coal operators decide to make no settlement."

"After Cripple Creek men; Six are formally accused of grave offenses."

"President Sterritt says strike has no effect; Governor Peabody will not permit workmen who are prisoners at Cripple Creek to be released by the civil courts."

"Find a spy in the camp; Miners' union man detected in national guard."

"Puts 2,500 out of work at Bellaire, O."

In the other issue of the newspaper referred to, the head-lines appear as follows:

"Harvester trust company discharges 7,500 men; Reducing its force over one-third; It expects to effect a saving of \$5,000,000 a year by this move."

"Reduction of miners' wages; Action of coal company in the Myersdale, Pa., region affecting 2,500 employes."

"Strikers to be evicted at Salt Lake; Troops said to have situation well in hand."

"Will submit to reduction of 10 per cent cut in wages affecting 17,000 cotton mill operatives."

"The strikers in the southern mines are discouraged."

"Pittsburg painters vote to strike."

"Morehead Bros. rolling mill at Sharpsburg will resume operations after shut-down of two weeks; Plant employs 700 men and they return to work at a reduction of 20 per cent."

These are, indeed, piping days of prosperity.

As Others See Us.

Some of our friends across the border and across the seas are poking fun at our boasted republicanism; and they do not hesitate to make a few savage thrusts along with their good-natured jibes.

The Montreal Herald, referring to the Panama incident, says:

"Every one gets something out of this record-breaking republic-making. The United States gets the right to spend two hundred and fifty millions on finishing the digging of a canal, and the ill will of Latin America. The republic of Panama gets a fee of ten million dollars for the canal right of way, and recognition of its political status. The republic of Colombia and the other South American countries get a lesson in Yankee diplomatic methods. Europe will get the use of the canal and the benefit of the favor which the United States loses in South America."

This is one of the penalties we must pay for departing from republican methods; and yet we do not doubt that many republican papers will say that the United States of America need not be in

the least concerned as to these criticisms. But even the republican editor must, on sober second thought, realize that we have a deep concern in our reputation abroad as well as at home. Even the republican editor must, on reflection, know in his heart of hearts that this great government cannot afford to engage in policies which justify those who never have been in sympathy with republicanism to taunt us with being hypocrites and to point to our methods as indicating the beginning of the end of the republican form of government.

"Incapable."

In one of his public statements, Mr. Roosevelt recently said: "If I could be absolutely assured of my election as president by turning my back on the principles of human liberty as enunciated by Abraham Lincoln, I would be incapable of doing it, and unfit to be president, if I could be capable of doing it."

Mr. Roosevelt, as well as Mr. Roosevelt's party, has turned his back on "the principles of human liberty as enunciated by Abraham Lincoln."

Every student of events knows that in these days republican leaders are unable to quote from the writings and speeches of Lincoln in order to sustain the policies they are pursuing.

Indeed, the writings and speeches of Abraham Lincoln are filled with statements that serve so well as bitter condemnation of the republican policies of today that one not knowing they were the words of Lincoln, might be led to believe they were written by a man of the present time and written directly in criticism of present-day policies.

Is it not, then, utterly absurd for Mr. Roosevelt to say that he would be "incapable" of turning his back upon "the principles of human liberty as enunciated by Abraham Lincoln?"

If Mr. Roosevelt would agree to retire if it could be shown that, according to his own statement, he is "unfit to be president," there would be little difficulty in convincing an unbiased jury that Mr. Roosevelt has done the very thing which he says would disqualify him if he were "capable of doing it."

Will You Help?

Every reader of The Commoner is requested to participate in the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation through the special subscription offer. Thousands of these cards have been ordered by subscribers and if every Commoner reader who believes in the principles advocated by this publication will undertake to add five names to the list of The Commoner subscribers, The Commoner's circulation will be materially increased and as a result, its sphere of influence will be greatly enlarged.

This special subscription offer is similar to the "lots of five" plan adopted last year. Cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering the cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence.

These cards may be paid for when ordered or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who are willing to assist in the coming contest.

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER

Application for Subscription Cards

5	Publisher Commoner: I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold.
10	Name
15	Box, or Street No.
20	P. O. State
25
50
75
100

Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.

If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.