

tion whether the honor of congress has been impeached should be in any way connected with any question of the secret service except so far as the secret service was employed to investigate members of the two houses of congress." Mr. Culberson said the message was "a deliberate, studied and gratuitous insult to the congress by the president." Senator Newlands declared that the question at issue was whether the secret service had been used to investigate congressmen in the pursuance of their legislative duties or was only to detect fraud in the duties devolving upon the executive departments. "But," interposed Mr. Tillman, "the president's message shows that he has investigated us generally and that we are a lot of scoundrels that need investigation. Now, there may be men that feel that way, but God knows I do not." Mr. Newlands said he was not attempting to apologize for the president but wanted to have the senate avoid any hasty and improper language. Senator McLaurin of Mississippi favored a dignified resentment of the language of the president, and Senator Bacon declared that in his view, "the message was the most deliberate and carefully designed, carefully worded insult ever sent to any parliamentary body in this or any other country. 'It is my deliberate judgment,' he said, 'that if the king of England had sent such a message to parliament there would be but one thing to shield him from the loss of his crown, and that would be the appointment of a regent.'" The resolution was then passed without a roll call.

THE PENNSYLVANIA Society of New York gave its annual dinner at the Waldorf Astoria recently. Chief Justice Mitchell of the Pennsylvania supreme court was the principal speaker. He made pointed criticism of President Roosevelt, although he mentioned no names. Justice Mitchell's address created considerable discussion throughout the country. Later, in a newspaper interview, the chief justice declared that in all that he had said he had the absolute approval of his colleagues. For several years, he said, the legal profession has been restless under the strictures made by the president, and he felt called on to make the declaration contained in his New York address. "Do you mean," asked a New York World correspondent, "that the other justices of the supreme bench knew in advance of your address what you intended to say?" Chief Justice Mitchell replied: "Yes, they knew what I intended to say and they also heard it. I know from their expressions of opinion, made since the dinner, that they were heartily in accord with all that I said. Furthermore, expressions were made to me by judges of New York state which showed that their view was the same. There has long been a feeling that President Roosevelt, in his criticisms, has given away to the American impatience to get results without considering the danger that might come if results were sought by the same methods by unscrupulous persons. It has been felt that the president has not appreciated at all the position of the judiciary, nor realized that we are not lawmakers. For instance, there was the case in Chicago, when a judge ruled that a witness who had been summoned by the government could not afterward be prosecuted on the evidence given by him. President Roosevelt declared that that was not law, and it was spoken of as the immunity bath. Now, of course, that was law. A man can not be compelled to give testimony against himself, and the judge who made the ruling was right. But the president did not so see it. It is the feeling of the bench and bar that the tendency of the present administration has been to concentrate power in the hands of the president. The American people are impatient and want things done, and the president is the impatient American who does things. It is commonly said that the best government in the world is that of a wise, intelligent and benevolent despot, but we can not afford to permit the establishment of such a government, because a despotism once established is sure to be continued, whereas wisdom, patriotism and benevolence are not at all sure. It will not do to establish a precedent where the main factors may fail and the dangerous ones remain. The gist of all that I said before the Pennsylvania Society was summed up in the last paragraph, which was: 'If the law as declared by the constitutional tribunal is not what the people want it to be then let it be changed, but let it never be lost sight of that the authority to change it is legislative, not judicial, still less executive.' So far as the president's criticisms of the judiciary are

concerned, he is, in my judgment, overstepping the limits of his office when he makes them. The judiciary is a co-ordinate branch of the government, and his criticism is as much out of place as would be criticism by the judiciary of his acts as executive."

DUTCH WARSHIPS operating on the coast of Venezuela have captured two Venezuelan vessels. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says: "The existence of what amounts practically to a state of war between Holland and Venezuela, the absence for the first time in many years in an acute crisis of this kind of American warships from their proper sphere of influence; and the profession by the state department officials of their ignorance of the intentions of Holland, constitute a most curious and interesting international situation. The fact that America has a quarrel of her own with Venezuela and has terminated diplomatic relations with that country gives rise to a doubt as to the accuracy of the statement that this government is not interested in what is going on off the coast of Venezuela. Indeed, there is reason to believe that while the official records may fail to show the existence of any formal agreement between America and the Netherlands, the government of the latter country is proceeding with the tacit consent of America, to bring to an end the chaotic conditions that have prevailed in an international sense in Venezuela for the past two years. So far as the Dutch warships act strictly within the lines of the Monroe doctrine as construed in the annual message to congress of President Roosevelt last year; so long as no attempt is made to seize Venezuelan territory for permanent occupation; so long as the Dutch warship captains confine their activities to the seizure of Venezuelan ships, the blockade of ports and the attempt to redress the affront to Holland's honor, there probably will be no interference on the part of the United States government. Of course, it is inconceivable that this government has not already received some assurances from Holland on this point, but it is probably the case that these have not been reduced to writing, but are simply matters of mutual understanding. The experience of the allied powers who operated against Venezuela several years ago would seem to have indicated to Holland the necessity of coming to some understanding with the United States before proceeding to the point of actual hostilities, which after all is the situation on the Venezuelan coast notwithstanding diplomatic disclaimers. Logically the next step will be the declaration of a blockade, and of this due notice must be given by Holland to all maritime nations in order to prevent the lodgment of claims for unwarrantable injury inflicted upon neutral commerce. Meanwhile the action of the Dutch cruisers in seizing Venezuelan ships is calculated to have a depressing effect upon the trade of Venezuela and to discourage prospective shipments of merchandise in the present unsettled conditions."

BERLIN cablegram dated December 15, says: "President Castro of Venezuela, who arrived last night from Paris, called this morning on Chancellor Von Buelow and Foreign Secretary Von Schoen, leaving his card. The foreign secretary later in the day sent Counselor Goetsch, who acted on the German indemnity commission at Caracas in 1903, to return the call and inquiry concerning President Castro's health. The local newspapers today publish various accounts of the luxurious living of President Castro and party at their hotel in this city."

MR. ROOSEVELT'S friends seem to take pains to let the president's enemies in congress know that he is eager for a fight to the finish. The Philadelphia Public Ledger is a republican paper and its Washington correspondent stands very close to the Roosevelt administration. In a dispatch to his paper this correspondent says: "It is President Roosevelt's intention, and the information comes from high administrative officials, to shake up congress with a series of epistolary broadsides if the house and senate take him to task for his expressions in the last annual message. These broadsides will not be scattering. According to unimpeachable authority they will be aimed at groups of congressmen, and the political slaughter is expected to be appalling. The plan is to 'show up' the records and the affiliations of certain members,

In support of the president's contention that the secret service should not be hampered in its work and to explain his intimation that it was so hampered by members who feared investigation at the hands of the secret police. So far as known, the White House is prepared for a bitter war that will be carried into the camp of the capitol. Even if the senate and house use the mildest methods in eliminating from the record the section of the message referring to the secret service, this mildness will stand them in no stead. The president will take any action by congress as a direct affront and will act accordingly. It is understood to be his determination to make certain of his remarks understood by the country, and instead of dealing in generalities he will name names and assail reputations to bring this about. Specific cases will be cited, it is declared, showing the connection between big men in the public service and equally big corporations. These specific cases are to be comprehensive in their entirety and it is expected that the congressional feelings will be sorely wounded. All this is to be done in support of the charge made by the president that if many of those congressmen who voted for the reduction of the appropriation for the secret service had desired to protect the criminal classes they could not have adopted a better or more successful method. If congress forces the issue, he will attempt to prove his contention in the most forceful way."

THE PRESIDENT'S friends say he is supplied with ample ammunition for all kinds of assaults. The Ledger correspondent says: "Mr. Roosevelt has gathered a vast amount of interesting information concerning congressmen from the secret service, whose work in the land fraud cases and the investigation of other matters has given it opportunity to unearth a considerable number of nuggets in the rich political field of exploitation. It is known that Chief Wilkie has been asked to get together all these facts and such others as his force can assemble. For several days the chief has been working personally and through his agents on this task searching other departments for evidence. The result is said to contemplate the records of public men on public questions, and then the influence of their actions with respect to private corporations, the interests of which would be affected by their work or their votes. Aside from the personal knowledge of derelictions of members of congress, the secret service is expected to derive much information from this setting of congressmen's records against corporation desires. Whether or not it is due to the warlike attitude of the president, there was a noticeable falling off today in the enthusiasm that marked the beginning of the open attack on the White House. Senator Culberson declared flatly that he would not introduce the resolution in the senate calling for action. The democrats, he added, would vote for any suggestion that the objectionable portion of the president's message be stricken from the Record. In the house every effort is being made to moisten the president's powder by demanding of him the information that the president is now threatening to produce. That this will be the natural recommendation in the committee's report was the statement this afternoon by John Sharp Williams, after a protracted interview with Mr. Perkins, chairman of the committee. There is a feeling of distrust among the democrats that they are being made to play catspaw to the chestnut of the republicans who desire an official whitewashing from the house. If the republicans refuse to ask for the president's evidence, the democrats will refuse to assert that the house as a whole, including the republican majority, is free from blame. That action on the part of the democrats would put the republicans in the unpleasant position of making a party matter out of the rebuking of the president and the whole affair would probably go up in smoke. To avoid such a ridiculous denouement the republicans are expected to allow the democrats to dictate practically the terms of the report and the action leading up to it. The democrats realize this and are anxious to avail themselves of their unusual power."

It is heart-rending to witness the struggle of the esteemed New York Times and Evening Post and other good papers of the north in behalf of tariff reform after their support of the republican party in the election campaign. They are deeply pained and mortified that the revision of the tariff by its friends is being made a farce. —Knoxville Sentinel.