

there would be no such thing as restriction of immigration.

According to the bureau of statistics, the value of imports into the United States from Russia during the present calendar year will amount to \$14,000,000 principally in hides, skins and wool. The value of export from the United States to Russia during the year is estimated at \$24,000,000, showing a balance of \$10,000,000 in favor of the United States. Russia also buys much American cotton in London, and with this included the total value of American goods sent into the empire is estimated at \$35,000,000, a balance of \$21,000,000 in favor of the United States. The American exports are principally manufactures of agricultural machinery and cotton.

President Taft's announcement first in a letter to the foreign relations committee and then in a message to the senate that he had taken upon himself the responsibility of notifying Russia of the abrogation of the treaty, did not come as a surprise. It was learned last night that he had taken steps to terminate the pact, and in Associated Press dispatches it was stated that the senate expected to hear today that he had sent notification to the Russian government through American Ambassador Guild at St. Petersburg. It also was stated that the notification had been couched in the politest diplomatic language and that the date of the termination of the treaty had been fixed for January 1, 1913.

All of these facts became public soon after the foreign relations committee met at 11 a. m. The committee was in session for nearly three hours, but the only points discussed were whether the house should be considered in the matter, and whether the senate should act in open session rather than behind closed doors as customary when dealing with foreign affairs.

It was decided to recognize the house by making the resolution ratifying the president's action a joint one, and it further was decided to debate the matter in the open. Senator Heyburn later in the senate protested against this decision, declaring the matter should be taken up in executive session.

Senator Lodge prepared the resolution which the committee approved and it followed the text of the president's note to Russia in the diplomacy of its expression. There was no suggestion of a violation of treaty pledges in the resolution, as in the house document. Senator Hitchcock reserved the right to oppose the Lodge resolution in the senate, and later introduced a substitute which followed the form of the Sulzer resolution, with the declaration of a violation of treaty pledges by the Russian government.

Senator Culberson said tonight that he could not venture a prediction as to how far the democrats of the senate would go in their opposition to the Lodge resolution or any other resolution approving the action of the president in taking the matter out of the hands of congress, following the adoption of the Sulzer resolution in the house.

"There is a feeling among the democrats," he said, "that the president is trying to steal their thunder. I think the country ought to be made acquainted with the facts."

THE SERVICE PENSION

The action of the democratic house in passing a "dollar-a-day" pension bill is being made the object of wide-spread attack by political enemies. The New York Evening Post brands it "the first great democratic blunder, on the national scale, since the election of 1910," and a "cowardly surrender by the democrats to the pension machine." It is a "vicious measure" and an "unblushing raid on the treasury," according to the Post. The Chicago Tribune, the leading republican organ of the middle west, says it has "always been a friend of the old soldier" but declares it "can not stand for the measure." Like the Post, it brands the service pension bill as "a raid on the national treasury" and demands that, if it passes the senate, it be vetoed by President Taft.

We can hardly believe that these expressions reflect any considerable public sentiment. It is almost forty-seven years since the war ended. The boy of twenty, who volunteered in 1862, if he still lives is now an old man of seventy. To draw his dollar a day pension he must have served at least a year as a soldier, and have a present income less than \$1,000 a year.

It must take an extraordinary vivid imagination to see "wasteful extravagance" in thus paying \$30 a month pension, after fifty years, to poor old men of seventy years and over who in their youth risked their lives and broke their

"SHALL THE PEOPLE RULE" -PASS IT ALONG

The democratic precinct club organization work is now proceeding in an encouraging way. Every Commoner reader ought to help in this work. The headquarters of this movement has prepared a pledge to which it asks the signatures and address of all democrats who want to keep the democratic party true to its great mis-

sion. The Commoner prints herewith a copy of this pledge and asks every reader to clip the same and forward it to Senator Robert L. Owen, chairman Federation Democratic Precinct clubs, Washington, D. C. The headquarters will send out on request printed copies of this pledge. Here it is:

"Shall the People Rule? is the Overwhelming Issue"—Democratic National Platform, 1908. PLEDGE The Presidency in 1912. Let Us Organize. I believe in The Rule of the People, and the party and the legal mechanism to make it effective; an Honest Registration and Election Laws, a thorough going Corrupt Practices Act and in the Election of Senators by the direct vote of the people. I favor the election of party committeemen and of party delegates to the Democratic National Convention of MEN who are KNOWN to favor the People's Rule Program as above indicated and the progressive principles of the Jeffersonian Democracy. It is of the utmost importance to the masses of the people that a man be nominated as candidate for the presidency who is Democratic from Principle, who is Identified with the Progressive Movement to bring the government closer to the people and make it responsive to the peoples' will and one who is Courageous Enough to lead a fight for such principles. I will endeavor to attend all Caucuses, Conventions and Primary Elections of the party and will assist in organizing a Democratic Precinct Club in my precinct as a part of the National Federation of Democrat Precinct Clubs and will assist in making effective the principles above set forth in seeing that the Democrats are registered and attend the primaries and elections. Name..... P. O..... County..... R. F. D..... NOTE—If you favor the above principles and desire to see them enacted into law kindly sign this slip and mail it to R. L. Owen, Chairman Federation Democratic Precinct Clubs, Washington, D. C. (SEE OTHER SIDE)

On the reverse side of this pledge the following appears:

AN APPEAL The time for action is at hand and we appeal to progressive democrats to immediately write for copies of the constitution, by-laws, organization blanks and literature for use in organizing precinct clubs that will affiliate with the State and National Federation of Democratic Precinct Clubs in an effort and determination to have the Democratic platform declare for progressive principles and to nominate candidates who are in sympathy with and who will wage a fight in behalf of the principles set forth in the platform. Address THE FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC PRECINCT CLUBS Bliss Building, Washington, D. C.

health to serve their country on the field of battle for \$13 a month!

Our national government is lavish, even wasteful, in its general expenditures. Senator Aldrich, when chairman of the senate finance committee, said it wasted at least \$300,000,000 a year that could be saved by a business-like administration of its affairs. The cost of the service pension will be an average of perhaps \$40,000,000 a year—for a very few years. In a little while the last veteran of the great war for freedom and nationalism will have gone to his long rest. In the meantime, if President Taft and his aids will institute that business-like administration of which Senator Aldrich spoke there will be no occasion to use the veto on the soldiers' pensions. They can save enough to pay those pensions five times over every year, and still have \$100,000,000 left out of the savings alone!

Under the circumstances, we fancy the president will think twice before using the veto.—Omaha World-Herald.

THE LAST STRAW

According to a Washington dispatch, the tariff board will report that the middleman, not the tariff, is to blame for the increased cost of living. In other words, the board will solemnly find that there are no trusts brought into being by the tariff to take advantage of practical monopolies afforded, and that the whole trouble is caused by the middlemen who sell to consumers the goods they buy from the manufacturer.

If such a report is made, it will be to Mr.

Taft's back as that last straw was to the camel, for he vetoed all tariff reduction measures on the ground that the tariff board was the only authoritative body, and that its findings must not be anticipated or interfered with.—Denver News.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF A CORPORATION LAWYER

Few corporation lawyers in the United States have been more serviceable to their clients or reaped a larger reward from their practice than Samuel Untermyer. Yet Mr. Bryan is almost conservative in his views on that trust question, the corporation question and the "money power" when compared with Mr. Untermyer, whose opinions are set forth in an interview cabled from Paris and printed in the World this morning.

Mr. Untermyer's radical theories do not seem to have interfered, however, with the practice of his profession. If he is sincere he is a very remarkable man. If he is not sincere he is still more remarkable.—New York World.

J. F. Fassett, San Francisco, Cal.—I wish you would let me say through the columns of The Commoner, to the 6,500,000 voters who have three times "fought a good fight," and as we had hoped "finished the course" and as we know "kept the faith," that all signs point to the necessity of again buckling on our armor and giving the special interests another fight. But, voters, in the name of God, who can we trust to lead us?