

goes to repair machinery and buildings, and some goes to pay profits to capital, or, in other words, for saving or for supplying long-felt wants. Consequently, to do justice to the laborer and greatly increase his comforts, so that he shall be as well off as anybody else, we must cut down the profits or interest on capital, or seize the capital.

"Now let us see what would be the result of distributing among labor *all* the profit and interest on capital of the entire country. It must be observed, however, that if we took it all, capital would promptly disappear, and next year, or the year after, labor would have to depend on its own resources. Besides this, the socialistic program makes no provision for saving; the money is all to go to furniture or amusements and transportation. The capitalistic or savings class * * will vanish from the scene. We believe 'the state' is, in the new regime, to play the part of the capitalist, but it could not withhold from labor the means of living with the comfort required by the new creed.

"The total wealth of the United States, according to the census of 1890—that is, the total existing product of land labor and saving—was \$65,037,091,107; the population was at the same date 62,222,250. Evenly divided, this would give \$1,039 per caput, or a little more than \$5,000 per family on the accepted basis of five persons to a family. If the laborer spent his \$5,000 at once in making himself comfortable, of course he would be plunged into a very hopeless kind of poverty. But suppose he invested it; it would not yield him over, say, six per cent at present rates of interest. This would make his income \$300 a year, or about \$6 per week. It is evident he could on this make no material change in his style of living. Six dollars a week does not go far in rent and furniture and dinners and amusements.

"There are no statistics to show the annual income of the United States, but if it is put down at 6 per cent on the total accumulated wealth, it will not be underestimated. This interest would be \$3,902,225,472 which, divided among the population, would give \$62.31 a head, or \$311.55 per family of five persons, that is, less than one dollar a day."

And much more of the same unanswerable sort from Mr. Godkin, in which he properly denounces "the most mischievous delusion which has ever taken hold on the popular mind."

GROVER CLEVELAND.

The democrats are expressing regret that Grover

Cleveland is not president at this critical time, believing that his good sense and indifference to fool public sentiment, would be of great use.

It is not necessary to go outside of the republican party to find a man as sensible as Grover Cleveland, or one with

equal backbone. We refer to Tom Reed, speaker of the house of representatives.

William McKinley is an excellent man, but he has too much respect for the politicians; he does not seem to know that the jingoes and yellow newspapers do not represent the best public sentiment. Mr. McKinley has as much intelligence as either Cleveland or Reed, but he lacks indifference to fool public sentiment, which every truly great man must possess. Reed has it; Cleveland has it.

Public sentiment is nearly always wrong at the beginning. Public sentiment was favorable to free silver originally, but the democrats adopted it first, and the republicans were forced to oppose it. They were compelled to convince the people of the fallacy of the doctrine, and did it. It is one of the well known political facts that thousands of republicans believed that free silver was so popular that it could not be defeated.

Were the republican party not behind the policy of expansion, it would not live a moment; it would be laughed out of existence. Free silver is excellent sense compared with expansion.—Atchison Globe.

EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION.

President McKinley is an amiable and versatile gentleman of the Ohio type, whose most marked trait is elasticity under the gentlest pressure. In the South not long ago, he was an expansionist of the most expansive sort. In Boston, he was a contractionist of remarkable contractive power when he disavowed imperialism for the American people, and declared that imperial ideas had no place in the American mind.

THE CONSERVATIVE of February 2, 1899, contained an article entitled "The Origins of Nebraska City," in which the name of Gen. C. F. Ruff, U. S. A., appears as one of the persons who took a prominent part in the stirring pioneer experiences of fifty years ago. We copy below an extract from a letter recently received from the widow of General Ruff, which will be of interest to the readers of THE CONSERVATIVE:

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feby. 6, 1899.

I received this morning the copy of THE CONSERVATIVE which you sent me. It was a very kind thought in you which prompted you to send it, and I thank you for it. I have read it through—particularly the letters from my husband. They took me back to the time and the place where they were written. And I well remember the cold and snow of that deserted spot, where we endured all the cold and discomforts those letters predict for his command. And where we were buried in snow so deep and far-

reaching that no communication with the states could be had until the next spring when we received papers giving an account of the convening of congress, the rising of congress, and all that happened between. And I well remember my arrival at old Fort Kearney later in the spring, on my way to Clay County, Missouri, to bid good-bye to my mother and old home, previous to our regiment's starting to Oregon. But these old memories are not as interesting to you as to me. * * * *

Yours sincerely,
ANNIE E. RUFF.

The first twenty numbers of this weekly paper, founded and edited by the former American minister of agriculture, Herr J. Sterling Morton, lie before us. The title of the sheet indicates that it is directed against the frivolous and often dangerous revolutionary movements, in the line of political and agricultural doctrines, which spring up with facility, especially out of the lack of experience and education among the inhabitants of the western states, and, as in the case of free coinage of silver, which it was attempted to establish in the last presidential campaign, are liable to shake the industrial and commercial foundations of the commonwealth. THE CONSERVATIVE strives chiefly to uphold gold coinage and insure it against future demagogic operations by needful legislation, and to strengthen and extend "civil service reform." As is well known, Herr Morton, upon settling on the treeless prairies of Nebraska, became a pioneer advocate of forestry, and he has seized every opportunity in the forty-four years which have passed since that time, to practise arboriculture scientifically and apply it practically to the great benefit of the country. The keen interest which he took in it as a citizen and minister of agriculture has not ceased in him as a journalist, but nearly every number of the paper contains valuable information on this subject, the importance of which to the general welfare, and especially to soil and climate, is pointed out. Quite interesting and not without value as historical material are the notes and reminiscences of the first settlers, and the descriptions of the redskins. The paper takes a fair and tenable position upon the contemporary question of the relations of the laborer to the employer. Turbulent assaults of labor upon capital and avaricious exploitation of labor by capital are equally opposed. Herr Morton comes out energetically against the present administration's policies of protection and expansion, conformably to the views of the wisest and brightest Americans. We can only wish the weekly the best of success in fulfilling its important mission.—Translated from Die Nation of Berlin, Germany.