

is the widespread suspicion among the natives since the Japanese war that the foreigners are going to partition China. It is not strange that all these conditions caused friction and excitement.

"Then, two years ago, the young emperor tried to introduce western civilization and reforms. The old conservative mandarins held up their hands in holy horror, and the reform party was quickly subdued.

"These same conservatives do not hesitate to spread the report that it is due to foreign influences that the flame of liberalism is being fanned. The Chinese want to be left to themselves, and the one word 'foreigners' sums up the great cause of the present trouble."

The administration's policy as outlined by the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Times-Herald, is cautious and in the right direction and is as follows:

1. The United States will under no circumstances join in the partition of China among the powers.

2. The United States will use all its influence, to the utmost extent, short of war with European nations, to prevent the dismemberment of the Chinese empire.

3. The United States proposes to have a voice in the settlement of the Chinese trouble, and its voice will ever be raised against spoliation and in favor of preservation of China's territorial and governmental entity, along the lines set forth in Secretary Hay's note to the powers dated July 3.

4. The United States will not declare war upon China on the present showing of facts, no matter what other powers may do.

5. The United States acting independently and for itself, will cooperate with the other powers in restoring order in China, in punishing all officials, high or low, found guilty of crimes against human life, in setting up a stable government that may give guarantees of security of life and property and freedom of trade.

FORESTRY AS AN INVESTMENT. Mr. C. D. Robinson, of Pawnee City, Neb., began, fifteen years ago, an experiment in forestry as an investment. In a letter to THE CONSERVATIVE Mr. Robinson thus tells about the splendid results he has attained:

"I started my 40-acre post farm, as I call it, in 1890—the dry year. I planted 50,000 osage and 58,000 catalpa, one year old plants. I estimated that I could raise good fence posts within about 15 years. I guessed about right on the catalpa, but missed it on the osage. I cut 150 catalpa posts, for my own use

last winter, and they will average about four inches in diameter. Of course they are of the best; they are not all that large. They are making a fine growth and within the next five or six years they will make two or three good posts to each tree. They are growing very tall; many of them are now 25 to 30 feet high. They are planted four feet each way; had I planted 6x6 would have had a much better growth, but would not have nearly so many to the acre; and as I only care to raise trees large enough for fence posts 4x4 is none too close.

"I am very much encouraged with my scheme; am sure it is going to pay handsomely. I have, of both kinds, 108,000 trees (2,700 to the acre) and they will average at least two to each tree; so will have in time 200,000 of the best fence posts grown. We all know what osage is to last, and from what I learn about catalpa am satisfied beyond doubt they are equally as good to last in the ground as osage, and in some respects are a better post. They do not get so hard and are light and easy to handle; am sorry they are not all catalpa, although I am not discouraged with the osage; they will be all right in time, but it will take, perhaps, ten years more before they will be large enough for posts. Will have a lot of them then. I cut them off close to the ground when three years old and they sprouted up from the stump and will make from one to six from each stump; will average perhaps three.

"The cost of plants, planting, cultivating, trimming and all labor up to date, for the 40 acres, is \$995.33. I could commence cutting catalpa now every year, but my idea is to let them all get large enough for good fence posts and cut them all at once and job them to some railroad company or wholesale lumber company and then let them grow again from the stump. I think I would get the second crop much sooner than the first; perhaps within two-thirds or three-fourths the time."

Estimating the forty acre tract to be worth \$2,000, the labor cost \$1,000, the total investment would be \$3,000. The market value of the 200,000 posts is \$20,000. This is what Mr. Robinson may sell his posts for and still have his land and the stumps from which to grow more posts and the second growth would mature in about ten or twelve years. The return on the investment is about 45 per cent simple interest. Owing to the depletion of our forests the price of lumber is constantly increasing. For this reason forestry as an investment will be even more profitable and attractive in the future than in the past. Farmers could not make better or more profitable use of a ten,

twenty or thirty acre tract than to plant it with catalpas.

In 1885, just fifteen years ago, the editor of THE CONSERVATIVE, in a paper read before the national forestry association, advocated the planting of trees by railway companies, along the right-of-way, rows of trees on each side of the track. This was urged both from the investment standpoint, to replenish the ties, and as a means of beautifying the country. The results obtained by Mr. Robinson prove that it would have paid. THE CONSERVATIVE hopes that the railroad companies will yet become interested in this matter and will seriously consider the practicability of tree planting.

PATERNALISM IN GOVERNMENT.

On the question of paternalism in information gathering, people will always differ as to where the line should be drawn. Of late years the drift has been tremendously strong in one direction. The agricultural department is now giving the farmer advice upon every namable subject; it is helping the forest owner to harvest his wood crop by sending men into the woods to map out the work; it is telling thrifty housewives how to bake bread and how to make a little extra money by raising roses for perfumery, or in keeping bees. What this department is doing for the farmer the geological survey has long done for the miner.

It is the same way in countless other government bureaus. They are getting information for public distribution. It would be only a short step to the government's telling people of every sort of physical condition what food they ought to eat; in fact, this is almost done now in the bulletins describing Professor Atwater's experiments. It already tells them through books, freely distributed, how to treat the diseases of horses and cattle, and it would be an easy transition to the publication of national 'Guides to Health,' and perhaps the issuance of a series of specifics for common maladies, through congressional quotas.

However plausible may be the theories of Herbert Spencer and Professor Sumner as to the relation of the state to the individual, most students who care chiefly for practical results find much in favor of this socialistic sort of information gathering. It may go too far. It has in its track certain dangers that must be avoided, the chief of which is the tendency to create bureaus and commissions for the salaries that go with them rather than for the results. In private life, self interest cuts off the head of the useless employee. In the government service all the employee has to do is to establish "his pull." Then the wasteful printing of these paternalistic bureaus passes all understanding. The extent to which the system undermines personal initiative is moreover, its greatest possible danger, and the one of all that should not be forgotten.—Boston Transcript (rep.).