

The Conservative.

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In the presence of calamity and distress the advocates of a protective tariff are like blasphemous sinners in the agonies of death, and they acknowledge the saving grace of doctrines and principles which they have long reviled.

A furious fire on the fourth, fifth and sixth of July, 1866, destroyed the city of Portland, Maine. And on the twenty-seventh day of that same month, July 1866, a republican president, Andrew Johnson, approved and affixed his signature to an act giving to Portland—for its up-building—absolute free trade with all the world. Congress then recognized that specially enacted right for Portland as the greatest possible encouragement and aid in its re-construction. And yet, the Dingley tariff for repressing and restricting trade, originated in Maine only a few years later, and still blemishes and mars the statutes of a free republic.

Again—five years subsequent to the Portland fire—on October 9th, 1871, there came the destruction of Chicago, by fire. And on April 5th, 1872, the president of the United States approved the act for the relief of Chicago, which gave it free trade—temporarily—in all building materials except lumber. The kings of the pine forests of the Northwest, whose saws were whirring through billions of feet of logs, chartered a Pullman car, sped to Washington, and, as millionaire mendicants, prostrated themselves before the Ways and Means committee, and begged so effectively, that lumber was excepted from the benefactions of the free trade extended

to Chicago for its re-habilitation after the annihilating conflagration of Oct. 9th, 1871.

The two illustrations show the malicious hypocrisy of the republican party in advocating protective tariffs. At the moment when free trade in sugar is denounced, a little retrospection over former confessions by imperiled republican advocates, as to the vital blessings of free trade, may refresh the fainting and inspire fidelity to the principles of commercial freedom.

REEVE ON ROOSEVELT.

THE CONSERVATIVE publishes this week an extremely severe criticism of President Roosevelt, over the honored signature of its author, Mr. C. H. Reeve, of Plymouth, Indiana. But, knowing the President personally, and having had frequent official relations with him while he was Chairman of the United States Civil Service Commission, the editor of The Conservative differs essentially from the estimate which Mr. Reeve makes as to the more marked characteristics of Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Reeve is a gentleman of high attainment, and of eighty years experience in this great republic, and he would not, knowingly, do the President an injustice. That Mr. Reeve has touched vulnerable points among the idiosyncracies of the President, his best friends and most ardent supporters, can not deny. But those peculiarities are much intensified and exaggerated by the newspapers of the country, and they have been thus accentuated so long that many good citizens now see all his strong features of honesty, moral courage and manly patriotism minimized, and all the impetuosity and brutal frankness of Roosevelt magnified.

The inbred honesty of his nature and an alert conscience combine in Roosevelt, with a sincere love of independent right-doing. Such a man cannot be warped by a mere partisan creed, nor shrunken to smaller stature by personal ambition. Roosevelt is big enough, brave enough and brainy enough to prefer being a fearless, patriotic President for the whole people of the United States for four years, rather than President for a mere party for eight years. He has it in his power to be the first, and it is not in his power to be the second.

MEXICO.

The editor of the Conservative has gone with his second son, Paul Morton, to the City of Mexico.

QUERY.

If all the cane and sugar beet industries were destroyed, would there be any objectors to sugar without an import tax, except for revenue? Where, then, would be found "that friend of the people," the philanthropic, altruistic Oxnard?

INSURED.

The third nomination for the Presidency of Colonel Bryan by the fusion forces of the United States, is insured by his friends. And his third defeat is insured by the conservative citizenship of the Republic. The last insurance is bottomed on the first, and the premiums are not too high.

STATE FAIR. The State Fair is a humbug. The fact that voluntarily the

people have declined to support it by their patronage for more than twenty years demonstrates its uselessness. The further fact that in those years, the people, by legislation, have been forced to pay sixty odd thousand dollars in taxation for its maintenance, proves it an expensive humbug and fraud. Before the agricultural capacity of these soils had been verified, State Fairs were useful demonstrations. They are not needed now.

NON-PARTISAN. The Conservative seldom resents criticism. But it can

not resignedly submit to being classed among the democratic periodicals of Nebraska. This journal owes no allegiance to the adulterated democracy of today in this state. Democracy has been diluted with populism until there is no health in it, and is so highly flavored with "the initiative and referendum" that it has a nauseating taste, which causes the gorge to rise.

The Conservative is not an exponent of fusion in Nebraska. The Conservative protests against the libel of being classed as democratic under the Nebraska standard, where populist vagaries are as sixteen-to-one against the real principles of democracy.