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MEXICAN PROSPERITY.

Under the silver standard the republic of Mexico is selling all it has to sell abroad for silver and buying all that it has to buy in foreign parts for gold. One hundred dollars of American currency will purchase \$225 to \$227 of Mexican currency. Day laborers receive in the republic of Mexico at this time from 50 cents to 75 cents a day; that is to say, they receive from 20 to 35 cents in American currency, for each ten hours' work.

Any American publicist who has traveled in Mexico, or studied even in a most cursory manner the finances of that republic, and who will then honestly advocate the adoption of the silver standard for the United States, is utterly incapable of logical thought and wholly devoid of that good judgment which every American publicist should have. An American so devoid of consecutive and rational thought as to believe that his countrymen may be benefited by adopting a standard of value different from all the rest of the world, except some South American countries and Mexico, is utterly and absolutely unfit for public position of any sort whatsoever. On the other hand, any man who, having good reasoning faculties, pretends to believe in the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 (which is equivalent to setting up the silver standard instead of the gold) is too dishonest and wickedly deceitful to be with safety entrusted with any great public functions or duties. In short a citizen foolish enough to believe in Bryanarchy is not competent to administer any office in the United States; and any man who pretends to believe in it when he does not, is too

dishonest to be entrusted with civic authority of any kind.

MESERVE'S DEFENSE.

Counsel for Ex-Treasurer Meserve volunteered a promise that their client would adopt no technical defense; that there would be no wild search for legal loop-holes, but a square out-and-out acquittal of Mr. Meserve, in the courts and before the people, whose favorable verdict he most prized. In the proceedings so far we have moral defense number one: "The court has no jurisdiction." Should that position be sustained the people of Nebraska would of course see at once that the accused is morally perfect, and is a much persecuted individual. Now comes moral defense number two: "The crime is not against the state of Nebraska." Of course this second defense is likewise calculated to preserve the honor as well as to secure the continued liberty of Mr. Meserve, and those who have thought him morally guilty, must feel constrained to weep bitter tears of remorse for having thought illy of a man whose questionable acts have all been committed in a manner which places him beyond the reach of the law, consequently above the censure of Nebraskans.

But list to moral defense number three: "The defendant takes refuge under the statute of limitations." What more could the most exacting citizen demand in the way of an explanation? Does not the fact that Mr. Meserve cannot be punished prove absolutely and unquestionably that he is entitled to the confidence and respect of all good citizens who love right and justice above simple "legal honesty?" Had Mr. Meserve been elected by the vile plutocracy, had he taken his office from the hands of those who have never followed the banner of reform, his political and business future might have been ruined by the very defense which he has set up; but standing as he does for all that populism recognizes as pure and chaste, he will pass into history as a victim of ghoulish persecution, and the case against him will forever be known as a malicious prosecution unparalleled in modern day, in comparison with which the Dreyfus affair was fairness itself. Every statue of Lib-

erty in the United States has descended from its pedestal to plead for the acquittal of Meserve, nor will they plead in vain, for this man is technically, therefore morally, honest—and a reformer.

THE MERIT SYSTEM.

There has never been a more consistent and enthusiastic supporter of the merit system in the civil service of the United States than Theodore Roosevelt. As president of the Civil Service Commission, in 1893, he was distinguished as the foremost advocate of appointments to the civil service of the United States because of merit instead of partisan service or partisan prejudice. The Conservative believes President Roosevelt as thoroughly honest and sincere in his devotion to the principles of the merit system today as he was then. Therefore it has great confidence that he will not permit the removal of any competent, efficient and honest postmaster or other public servant simply because it is demanded by some practical politician who desires to put a friend into an official job. There is no more reason why an honest and faithful public servant should be removed to make room for a political successor than there is reason for removing a competent cashier or an efficient teller in a bank because someone else who is a friend of one of the directors may wish his place. Long service in a public position by an honest and efficient man makes the service more and more useful to the general public. Offices were created to facilitate the carrying on of the business of the public, and not for the purpose of exalting or remunerating private citizens. A public office is a public trust and has always been so held by the best citizenship of this republic.

FOR SHAME COLLIER!

Collier's Weekly, after having sent an industrious correspondent and an irrepressible artist clear across the Atlantic to note what the Prince ate upon his trip to America, how often he had his boots polished, to whom he spoke and what he said, what quality of cigars he smoked, what brands of wines he drank, what songs he liked and disliked—after giving to its readers the minute details of the Prince's conversational efforts, the editorial page contains a thinly-veiled protest against the fuss made in this country, when the Prince finally arrived. The Italians have a proverb: "A satisfied appetite does not believe in hunger."