

In this issue of **POSTAL NOTES.** The Conservative will be found a letter from Mr. George G. Hall, president of the Burlington National Bank, of Burlington, Kansas. Mr. Hall's point that postage instead of revenue stamps should be used on postal notes, is certainly well taken; that his objection with regard to the refusal of bankers to receive endorsed postal currency is a reasonable one is not so apparent, as it is quite certain that wherever there is a bank there is usually a postoffice, and what the postoffice receives as cash the bank would hardly find it advisable to refuse as a deposit. The bank would not lose materially by the innovation, as the note would only be used for the transmission of small amounts, such as are now frequently sent by postal order. Larger amounts would still be forwarded by draft, the sole mission of the postal note being to do away with small postal orders, which are a worriment alike to the purchaser and the postmaster. The Conservative feels indebted to Mr. Hall for his criticism, and hopes that others will as frankly pass upon the merits of the proposed system, that the plans may be made as perfect as possible before being acted upon by congress.

Another banker asserts that for one cent enough ink eradicator could be purchased to remove the writing on the notes and cause them to pass again as currency. It is difficult to see how this could be more easily accomplished with the postal check currency, than with the internal revenue stamps, so long in general use. For that matter, drafts are raised, postal and express orders tampered with; in fact, any sort of money order is subject to the operations of crooks. The ease with which a draft or check is raised makes that mode of transmitting small sums of money more hazardous than the plan suggested, as it would be as difficult to raise the postal check as any other form of currency. Absolute protection from criminals never has been attained in any system of exchange; it is not to be expected that the postal check currency will prove an exception.

At the very moment **INCONGRUOUS.** when Carrie Nation is traveling through Nebraska on her reputation for purifying cities and converting officials, her principal claim being that she has succeeded in inducing the mayor of Topeka to close all joints in his city, another strenuous woman, Miss Boise, is horse-whipping that same model mayor for allowing saloons to run openly in the heavenly city of Topeka. Has Miss Boise chastised an innocent and highly praiseworthy mayor, or is Mrs. Nation the joke of the season.

The change of heart experienced by democratic senators, and the abandonment of their plans for the defeat of the ship subsidy bill, coming simultaneously with the withdrawal of Mark Hanna's opposition to the Nicaragua canal, lends color to the suspicion that the seductive Marcus has been doing some night roaming in the democratic dormitory.

BEGIN AT HOME. Going to England for political issues, is certainly an ingenious method of proving that affairs in this country are progressing rather satisfactorily, in the main. Nations, like individuals, usually do well to attend to their own affairs; their credit is strengthened by following that rule. Any man who appoints himself arbiter of the domestic quarrels of his precinct, soon becomes unpopular in the neighborhood; any nation which takes it upon itself to police the globe, not only has a large contract to fill, but risks its prestige in the undertaking. Besides, peacemakers are never thanked. Office-holders and office-seekers are requested to remember that their constituents reside neither in South Africa, nor in the domain of the inflexible Czar or that of the incomprehensible Turk. There are enough questions to be settled at home to demand the closest attention of all who seek to benefit mankind, and while this country may be great and powerful, it is not yet the guardian of the world's orphans, nor the champion of the world's oppressed. We can best serve humanity by making the United States a model of perfect government for the edification of other peoples, and to further the peace, prosperity and happiness of our posterity.

SUSPENSE. To those familiar with conditions in the Philippine archipelago, the recent dispatch stating that a detachment of American engineers was attacked by Morros on the island of Mindanio, conveys little or much, as the case may be. The island, the most southern of the group, has previously been mildly pro-American. If the attack mentioned is of a political nature and is countenanced by the native rulers, the American generals will find these people of a different stamp from the indolent peons of Luzon, or the mountain tribes of the islands surrounding it. In war the Morro is fierce and fearless, as his fanaticism robs him of the dread of death, and he is as wily as he is brave and persistent. If the affair just reported is merely a brawl between natives and certain of the soldiery, it is of no more moment than a street row in this country; but if it marks the beginning of organized war-fare with the fierce Morros, let America prepare to read of encounters which may be dignified with the name of battles and protracted campaigns against a foe that knows neither fear nor mercy.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. A jaundiced press has daily pictured the president in a different attitude toward Cuba. Ignoring the fact that his worst enemies admit that pliability is not a Rooseveltian trait, and that a tenacity of purpose bordering upon stubbornness has distinguished the president before and since his occupancy of the executive seat, the saffron hued journals crowd their columns daily with accounts of concessions made by the president to the friends of a tariff-to-the-limit policy, yet the recent conference for the purpose of discussing the Cuban situation finds the president just where he was months ago, he having neither advanced a yard nor retreated a step, nor will he do so. Roosevelt is the reverse of vacillating; it is not his habit to go reeling and staggering through life. He is the opposite; a man of deep convictions which he is not afraid to express and uphold, and friends of Cuba may well rest assured that there is none more loyal to the cause of the lovely little isle, than the strong-willed Theodore Roosevelt.

REFORMED REFORMER. Tammany stands vindicated. The new administration is discouraged, particularly the impulsive Jerome, who, prior to and during the last municipal campaign in Greater New York, personally conducted the raiding expeditions into the territory where the red light glows, and the clinking glasses, clicking dice and whirring roulette wheels form the orchestral accompaniment to the drama always being played. Jerome, the impetuous, has now decided that some things are impossible, especially the Sunday closing of saloons. To give Mr. Jerome due credit, it is certain that he sincerely believed it possible to purify New York, until after he had stepped into his present office, and for the first time was made to realize the giant proportions of the obstacles to good government, which he had expected to overcome. Safe and reliable cures for municipal ills are, for some reason, easily seen from without the city hall, which suggests that impressions depend not so much upon the way one looks upon a matter as upon the position he occupies when he does the looking. The Conservative hopes that the Low administration will strain every effort to give New York a clean—not necessarily puritanical—government. Should these efforts fail, other cities may know how far to go in countenancing mild evils; should they prove successful, the possibility of clean municipal government for the greater cities will have been established, and New York will have set an example which the other municipalities will not be slow to follow.