

public highways in possession of private corporations, openly or secretly giving preferential rates, rebates and other favors to fortunate ones, with natural resources held by comparatively few able to give or withhold permission to use them, with patent laws making a privilege of the right to manufacture or use the most effective instruments or processes of production, and with other legislation conferring artificial advantages on some and disadvantages on others? Is this the statesman to lead us out of the wilderness, who can not see the difference between unlimited competition and a scramble among unprivileged unfortunates for the little that Privilege has not monopolized, or for the favor of Privilege's beneficiaries? But wait! Roosevelt does not actually say that unlimited competition has created trusts. He only says it has created them "exactly as it created the sweat shops and is chiefly responsible for child labor." The words "exactly as" leave room for quibbling. Sweat shops and child labor actually result from denial of opportunity to Labor by Monopoly. It is only restriction of competition that enters into creation of these evils. Strictly construed, the Colonel's statement exonerates unlimited competition. He surely knows how many are the limitations of competition which exist and so must know that unlimited competition does not exist and has not existed within his memory. Those blessed weasel words, "exactly as," leave opportunity to save the Colonel's reputation for far-seeing statesmanship.



But there is truth as well as error in much that Roosevelt has to say. It is true that "we cannot destroy real monopoly by attacking its legal forms. We must find out and take away the economic basis of monopoly." But why we must do that if competition is a bad thing the Colonel does not say. Yet in spite of his inconsistency, Roosevelt has offered a true statesmanlike suggestion. In this suggestion lies the refutation of all the charges brought against unlimited competition. Upon this truth he might have based a criticism of the administration that could not be easily brushed aside. But he clearly failed to realize its importance. Furthermore, his advocacy of a protective tariff indicates but an imperfect comprehension of the meaning of his suggestion. It is unfortunate that the leader of a party containing such excellent material as the Progressive party has not a better understanding of fundamental principles. Colonel Roosevelt may well be credited with an eager desire to bring about social justice. But the influence of his old party associations is still keeping him from clearly seeing the right way to ac-

complish that object. Should he fail to learn, then new leadership will be the Progressive party's only salvation.

S. D.



Strong Government.

Our Apostle of Force said in his Pittsburgh speech that the Democrats had failed, and always would fail, because they were afraid of a strong government. Speculation on the relative merits of plutocratic and democratic governments is unnecessary in the light of history. Nor is it necessary to go to distant shores, or to ancient times. Porfirio Diaz gave Mexico a strong government. There was never a question as to its stability. Order succeeded chaos, railroads were built, mines were opened, and there were the surface manifestations of modern civilization. Complaints of tyranny were met with the assertion that this was the only kind of government the people of Mexico could appreciate. And President Diaz was hailed as the builder of his country. Here was the ideal strong government.



But nature, though long defied, will ultimately assert herself. A time came when human nature could endure no more; and when the people of Mexico began to assert themselves the whole structure tumbled about the strong man's ears. The wonderful creation was found to be nothing more than a shell, empty and devoid of substance. The lands had been taken from the people, and the mines, railroads, and huge estates rested upon the backs of a nation of peons, taxed to the last point of endurance to support the government that had betrayed them. The strong government had grown tyrannical, because it is only by means of tyranny that such a government can express itself, and it had become corrupt, because oppression always begets corruption. President Diaz displayed to the world a nation orderly and prosperous; but when at last his own power crumbled, the world saw a nation steeped in social misery and political debauchery. The really strong government is the will of a strong people; and a people are strong, not from having things done for them by strong men, but from doing things for themselves.

S. C.



Boycotting of "Destructive" Mediums.

Copies of a letter from Henry B. Joy, president of the Packard Motor Car Company of Detroit, addressed to Marshall Cushing of New York City, under date of June 2, have been widely circulated among business men. The letter, while disclaiming