

ing and the present demand for higher freight rates. It is possible that there are roads that have escaped the machinations of the wrecker, and that are honestly entitled to a higher rate; but if so, they should lose no time in devising some means of establishing that fact in the public mind.

S. C.



Regaining Confidence.

No better proof of unsound business conditions could be offered than the high nervous tension of business men. There has not been a time for years when a financier would not jump if anyone so much as said "Boo" to him. He was able through the utmost care and attention to keep himself afloat, but he felt morally certain that if anyone rocked the boat all would be lost. That is why he deprecated the various reform measures proposed. It was not that he was afraid of the reform itself, but any reform meant change, and change opened up all the terrors and possibilities of the unknown. It was like changing seats in midstream in a canoe loaded to the gunwhales. The new tariff might not be unjust or too low, but it would be different. It would require readjustments—and changes might capsize the boat. It was the same with the anti-trust bills, with the banking bills, and with every measure looking to the redress of wrongs. There might be no harm in the bills themselves, but they necessitated change.



It is this fear of change that has kept business drifting when it should have been going ahead. The tariff changes proved to be harmless, and so did the other corrective measures. The bumper crops beckoned prosperity, and the high prices for food stuffs fully balanced the low price of cotton; yet capital remained in a dazed condition, and waited for something to turn up. Realizing that a reaction would follow the close of the European war, capitalists were afraid to profit by present conditions and opportunities. But in spite of the croakings, grumbings, and forebodings, business has continued; and one after another of the trade-weather signs has added its mite toward the reassurance of capital. And now the "balance of trade" has turned in our favor. This is the end of all doubt. For a hundred years this country has been exporting more merchandise, more gold and more silver than it has imported—several billion dollars worth more—along with India, Ireland, Australia, and all other debtor countries. And so accustomed have been our financiers to

look upon this evidence of our debts as a sign of prosperity that a general cry of alarm went up when the August returns showed that we had imported more than we had exported. But it was merely a temporary interruption. The September figures show a handsome balance in our favor; so the financiers will either have to resume business, or find something else with which to frighten themselves.

S. C.



Atonement Must be Complete.

The House has passed the Philippine autonomy bill. To question its passage by the Senate is to question not merely the democracy, but the honor of Democratic Senators. As it is, the bill involves but a partial payment of a debt long due the Filipinos. It must be followed by complete withdrawal from the islands. Until that shall be done the disgrace remains with which the shameful destruction of the Philippine Republic branded this nation.

S. D.



Blind Congressman Gardner.

Congressman Gardner of Massachusetts is another public official who declares that "the United States is totally unprepared for a war, defensive or offensive." More than a quarter of a billion was spent during the past year on army and navy and more than three billions were spent since 1900 for all kinds of naval and military purposes. Yet we are totally unprepared—and no nation has attacked us. Why should we not have put that money to some more productive use? Why should we waste more in the same way? And why does Congressman Gardner ignore such plain facts and urge a policy, the futility of which is made clear by his own assertions?

S. D.



The Meaning of Civilization.

Civilization can not be saved through barbarism. It is consequently as absurd a paradox to speak, in any but a metaphorical sense, of a "war for civilization" as it is to speak of "civilized warfare." Yet every nation involved in the European war is gravely offering this impossible excuse. A truly civilized nation is one that can maintain peace, even with such barbarians as are to be found in Europe, without the aid of army or navy.

S. D.



A. Mead Coghlin.

The passing away on October 15 at his home in

Toledo, Ohio, in his 49th year, of A. Mead Coghlin, removes one who worked unselfishly and unostentatiously in the cause of fundamental democracy. He was a friend of humanity and an advocate of the Singletax. His religion was faith in the Golden Rule. A staunch friend of *The Public*, his modest nature would not permit of any acknowledgment. He insisted strongly on observance of the scriptural injunction: "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." His works were of the kind that are sure to live after him.

S. D.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BUFFALO [PROGRESSIVES' OPPORTUNITY.

Buffalo, N. Y., October 17.

Mr. John O. Herbold is a fundamental democratic Democrat, and, like his father, a Singletaxer. Why shouldn't he be? His grandfather was a rebel in Germany in 1848, whom they would have shot against a wall as they did his friend at Rastatt. Mr. Herbold is running for Assembly, Second District, New York, on the Democratic ticket, and Singletaxers in that district will make no mistake in giving him support. He has a large Republican majority against him and needs every progressive vote to win.

THOMAS H. WORK.

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CONNECTICUT'S DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE.

Hartford, Conn., Oct. 15.

Professor Willard C. Fisher was known to be the only nominee of the Progressive primaries for the governorship when the Democratic state convention of Connecticut occurred at Hartford, September 17 and 18. And he sought the nomination of his own, the Democratic party, when its delegates assembled, but the party machine, which hates a "radical" as heartily as such a man is hated by its prototype in the other old party, prevented his nomination in spite of the generally acknowledged fact that Fisher's nomination by two parties assured his election, and the probable election of the rest of the nominees on the Democratic ticket. The convention appeared to agree with a prominent McKinley Democrat, an editor of Hartford, who was a delegate, that it is better for the party to lose than that such a radical as Fisher be governor. Fisher's friends who, through an ante-convention campaign, made in his behalf, have styled themselves Progressive Democrats, expect him to win because of their conviction that the progressives in the State outnumber the Tories and they assert that the Democratic nominee, the present lieutenant-governor, is already beaten, though he has the nomination, while the Professor is certainly not yet defeated though he failed to secure it.

Professor Fisher is forty-nine, though he appears

younger because he has always been morally and physically clean, and he has been for nearly twenty-five years a professor of political economy, succeeding Professor Woodrow Wilson at Wesleyan University when this famous radical went from there to Princeton.

Fisher dreaded the hard work of campaigning, the loss of sleep and traveling, dreaded the possible enmities, and greatly loved his books and pipe, his only dissipation, and pressure was exerted for many months by his friends in all parts of the state before he consented to the use of his name as the Democratic candidate. He said, when finally he decided to run, that he was still young enough to sacrifice a short period of his life to endeavor to secure better political conditions for the working class and that though his election was not greatly necessary, it was decidedly important that the people should be told what was being done to them by various interests whose corrupt work it would give him much pleasure to describe wherever he could secure audiences. He addressed many assemblies of shop men at the noon hour and many political and labor organizations in all parts of the state previous to the Democratic convention, and he plans to continue the process with the aid of his little old "Ford."

The Professor encourages "heckling" by his audiences, his experience as instructor accustoming him to questions and having taught him that perfect understanding can be secured only through quizzing and criticism. The present campaign will certainly introduce beneficial changes into political methods in Connecticut, and no nominee for the governorship can hereafter hope to win who fails to give the voters of the state a chance to see and question him, as may probably be realized by the Democratic and Republican nominees of the present campaign, who have planned no speeches. The Progressive nominee can certainly be depended upon to strive to secure direct nominations, a favorite measure of his, and a condition which would have assured his nomination if it were now in force, as is proven by his receipt of nearly 2,500 assurances of help from voters throughout the State. And he will surely destroy the favorite teaching of the old-fashioned, and rapidly disappearing, machine politician of the duty of "sticking to the party," regardless of its platform or nominees. The Professor favors abolishing contract labor in jails and prisons; the prison commission of Connecticut comprising several leading editors, and others, who have for years prevented investigation of conditions which are popularly believed to be disgraceful. He also favors measures which shall oblige the Consolidated and other corporations to submit such complete reports as are now demanded of the insurance companies, and which shall protect the stockholders and public against stock juggling and the state against tax dodging; he favors spending more to improve the wretched, and at times impassable feeder roads, over which the farmers must drive to market, and less upon the already fine highways, built for the motors of the leisure class. Professor Fisher thought for several years after his graduation that the money question surpassed all others in importance, but he became convinced that the labor question must first be set-