

out does the rift between the two wings of the party widen. It matters not whether the avowed cause of the split be the repeal of the Panama tolls, or some other measure, the split is bound to come. The Bourbons will never consent to serve under a real democrat longer than is necessary to secure the offices at his disposal. Nor is the fact that one of the Bourbon leaders is afflicted with an incurable grouch conducive to political harmony.



The outspoken opposition of Speaker Clark and Floor Leader Underwood, and the enlistment of the Bourbons under their banner at this early day, will give real democrats the more time in which to prepare for the coming struggle. The two House leaders are united only in the sense that they are opposed to the President's democracy. Both aspire to the Presidency, and each thinks old line conservatism a winning issue. But they are reading the signs of the times while standing on their heads. We are not going that way. The issue before the country is not personal, popular as the President is; it is not political, much as the men who displaced the "rascals" would like to have it appear; it is economic. And the moment the Democratic party forgets how to spell its article of faith with a small "d" it will be time for the turning out of another set of rascals. Democracy is the word, live, progressive democracy with the little "d." And if Speaker Clark, or Floor Leader Underwood, or any other Bourbon does not like to march to that music, he should lose no time in joining some other procession. The Democratic party out of power included every known variety of politician, and professed all the vagaries known to man; but the Democratic party in power must choose between democracy and not-democracy.

s. c.



A Message Worthy of Attention.

Herbert Quick's "Message to the Women of America" disposes in a few brief paragraphs of all the jingo speeches, and exposes the true inwardness of the demand for intervention in Mexico. Says Mr. Quick:

All I can say to the women of America is this: Your sons are in danger! Your lovers are in peril! There is a damnable conspiracy to tear them from you and kill them, or return them to you crippled, diseased in body, diseased in soul! Owners of great newspapers are also the owners of great estates in Mexico, which will be tripled in value the day the Stars and Stripes wave over the land! Senators stand up in the halls of Congress and demand inter-

vention in Mexico because their own interests will be made more valuable. They talk of honor, but they think of dollars.

That is all that need be said in answer to the ravings of the Hearst papers and the speeches of Penrose, Fall and other congressional betrayers of the interests of the people they pretend to represent. Mr. Quick's suggestion as to the way to meet the agitation for intervention applies with equal force to all jingo agitation.

Lay down the law that the women of America are willing to "endure" disorder in Mexico, not for one year, but forever, rather than send a single American boy in khaki to die in Mexico.

s. d.



Washington's Land Question.

Congressman Albert Johnson of Washington on March 14 in the House of Representatives came dangerously near to proclaiming a great truth. He read with approval the letter of a farmer constituent in Jefferson County who had taken up 149 acres on the Queets river. The farmer complains that after putting \$3,000 worth of improvements on his land, his taxes were raised so high that he says, "I saw no hope, gave up in despair, and moved out." Further on he says, "They tell me the tax is on the timber and improvements, and as there is a strict law against burning timber or improvements, I naturally expect the increase to continue." He has offered his place for sale but "can not find anyone fool enough to buy" and so offers as an additional inducement "to remove all improvements so as to make the tax . . . as light as possible." He finally expresses willingness to take only "enough to pay me and my family's way across the line into Canada where a farmer that tries to improve his place is protected." The letter is published in full on page 5511 of the Congressional Record. Mr. Johnson declared that he has "a hundred or more letters in a similar vein." There is nothing surprising about that. What the State of Washington clearly needs is revision of its tax system so that those who put improvements on land will not be taxed for so doing, and those who withhold lands will be penalized.



Mr. Johnson got very close to this truth—and then sidestepped it. He tried to place the blame on the government's conservation policy; there being, as he states, 730,000 acres of untaxed forest lands in Jefferson County, while the area of assessed lands is but 280,000 acres. But such an explanation does not explain. If the untaxed for-