

sions, workingmen's compensation acts and prevention of child labor.

—A measure to regulate gambling by licensing bookmaking has been adopted by the German Federal Council, and is now awaiting the action of the Reichstag. It is estimated that there are 200,000 betting places in Germany, and since 6 per cent of every bet entered will go to the government, with an additional tax of from 6 per cent to 30 per cent on the winner, considerable revenue is likely to be found.

—The second national Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits, called by the Western Economic Society, met in Chicago on April 14. It remained in session until April 17. Resolutions were passed expressing distrust of pending rural credit legislation. Other resolutions declare that "The Sherman act as it is now construed is a serious menace to the progress of organization and confederation," and ask for "legislation which will not hinder or forbid such legitimate organization and which will prevent unfair practices by all organizations as well as protect such organizations from unfair discrimination and practices directed by great or small combinations or dealers." [See vol. xvi, p. 374.]

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## PRESS OPINIONS

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### The President's Mexican Policy.

The Christian Science Monitor (Boston), April 17. Things have gone far enough, we think, to justify the United States in insisting that the reparation for the kind of treatment to which it has been subjected should be made at once, not for any mere triviality of ruffled feathers, but as an earnest that whatever authorities have set themselves up in the distracted republic to the south shall, in dealing with civilized peoples, bring themselves into accord with that procedure which alone, when relations are strained, has enabled the agents of rival nations to act and interact without precipitating trouble. Were the public and congress informed as to the tenor of Special Commissioner Lind's face-to-face talk with the President relative to affairs in Mexico City, and were all other evidence on the situation open to the world, no doubt it would be apparent that the sudden alteration of policy has sufficient moral justification and can be made consistent with the President's prior policy of "watchful waiting." It is with this conviction strong within them that many persons will refrain from criticism of the more aggressive mood, who cannot contemplate with approval any acts that are likely to cause war, even though they may be justified by precedent and by international law. That a majority of citizens of the United States and of their congressional representatives support the administration in its present demand for an apology from the de facto Mexican government is beyond doubt. A minority, while not withholding approval, will give it solely because of confidence in the President's judgment and because they are sure that he has no such belligerent ends in view as some reports accredit to him. Such observers will recall that he is deeply committed to a pacific policy toward Iberian America by his memorable speech

at Mobile. . . . Expansion of territory for the sake of territory, war for the sake of war, military strife without in order to suppress political strife within, all these are motives lacking in a majority of citizens' desires as they face the complex, strained situation in which the republics that should be good neighbors find themselves. It is a time for continued patience, good will and emphasis on idealism as well as for affirmation of national rights and the letter of the law. The highest interests of the United States are against war or annexation, or any additional burdens of racial assimilation and imperial rule.



### What Gold Lace Has Done for Us.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat, April 15.—What childishness is this upon which Washington seems to be insisting. War with Mexico unless an admiral's demand for a salute to the Stars and Stripes? That is gravely declared to be the alternative. An officious underling at Tampico arrested a paymaster and a squad of marines, and held them for a few minutes until called down by his superiors. This is interpreted by the American admiral—and apparently by Washington—as an "insult"; an insult to be retrieved by the firing of a salute of twenty-one guns to the flag. Failing that—war! That is the gold lace notion of maintaining the national honor. That is the bureaucratic conception of what the United States must resort to when some fool foreigner either ignorantly or maliciously gives an affront which officialdom has magnified into a mortal assault on national dignity. Yet Mexican officials were swift to deny any intentional discourtesy. They were quick to express their regret and their purpose properly to discipline the petty officer who committed the blunder. . . . This should have settled the matter there and then. But our great admiral would not let slip so good a chance as this to jump into the center of the stage. The flag must be saluted or war resorted to as the alternative. Only thus can the insult be wiped out and the dignity of the great republic upheld! What rot. What besotted devotion to a false conception of national dignity and honor. What stupid following of autocratic precedent. For an offense that at the very worst was merely venial it is proposed that a bloody war shall be precipitated in the absence of a ceremony sealing an apology already offered. The lives of hundreds, or possibly thousands, of American men are to be sacrificed to wipe out a fancied insult. Hundreds of millions of treasure are to be poured out to satisfy the punctilla of an admiral whose vanity outweighs his patriotism and whose sense of honor has been blunted by a too serious view of himself. But for the horrible gravity of it all it would be excruciatingly funny.



### Silly Enough as It Is.

The Day Book (Chicago) April 18.—I don't just get that saluting the flag business, unless it is pretty much the same thing as not only making a boy apologize for doing something, but making him get down on his knees to do it. . . . But why waste all that good ammunition? It would have been much more theatrical and spectacular to make Huerta stand on his