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Spelling Reform. It did not take President Roosevelt long to discover that he had allowed his haste to overcome his discretion in pledging the influence of the presidential office to a crude and drastic scheme of spelling reform, and he has tactfully announced that the action to be taken by him will be of a purely experimental character and that it will not be persisted in unless it has the manifest approval of the people. Any one who knows anything about English literature knows that there is a natural process of spelling reform constantly going on, and any radical interference with this natural process can only have detrimental results. The worst of these modern schemes of spelling reform, is that they seem to be devised generally by men with but a single idea, that of making spelling a little simpler and easier, without regard to the characteristics which indicate derivation, which associate English with other modern tongues and which are the life and soul of the language. If English is to be "reformed" let it, at least, be done by men who know English, and: "What know they of English who only English know?"

Parcel Post in the United States. The Merchants League of America has been formed to oppose all legislation for the establishment of the parcel post system in the United States. While frankly admitting that the League is formed in the interests of the small merchants who expect to be detrimentally affected by the competition of the large establishments in the great centres of population it appears to be basing its chief argument upon the anticipated annual deficit which the scheme will entail upon the Post Office. That the parcel post tends to cheapen the distribution of goods is undeniable. The main question for the American people would appear to be whether they can obtain this advantage without incurring dis-

advantages which would more than counterbalance it. The crushing out of the small storekeeper is not a thing to be risked without thought. So far as the postal deficit is concerned that is about the last consideration for a wealthy country like the United States. Penny postage involved a big deficit in England in its early years.

To the West. Several of our Montreal bank managers are now visiting western Canada. This week Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, left for the West, and will be absent for a month. The banks of this city have a great interest in the progress of western Canada and there is no better time of year for visiting that section of the Dominion.

Nippon. By the way, it is not strange that not even the Russo-Japanese war, nor the universal recognition of the stupendous progress of Japan in modern civilization has yet led the European nations to call the country by its own native name—"Nippon?"

Insuring Bank Deposits. The American Banking Company of Baltimore has undertaken the business of guaranteeing bank deposits. Except under special circumstances bonds are not issued to one individual for more than \$5,000. The premium rate is a quarter of one per cent., but the minimum premium is five dollars. A circular issued by the company says that "in view of the many recent failures of both state and national banks, the bonding of bank deposits will appeal to all classes of business men, as well as persons having savings accounts." The adoption in the United States of banking laws similar to those of Canada would render the guaranteeing of bank deposits absolutely unnecessary.