

THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S POLICY.

In the first statement of his policy, President Roosevelt said: "It shall be my aim to continue absolutely unbroken the policy of President McKinley for the prosperity and honor of the country." The reporter tells us that the speaker laid special emphasis on the word peace. Before leaving Buffalo, the new President discussed with the cabinet several questions which the policy of the country would embrace. His views as made public, unofficially, are said to be stated "in almost the exact language used by the President in discussing them with the cabinet and his friends" outside. We quote:

"A more liberal and extensive reciprocity in the purchases and sales of commodities, so that the over-production of this country can be satisfactorily disposed of by fair and equitable arrangements made with foreign countries.

"The abolition entirely of commercial war with other countries and the adoption of reciprocity treaties.

"The abolition of such tariffs on foreign goods as are no longer needed for revenue, if such abolition can be had without harm to our industries and labor.

"Direct commercial lines should be established between the eastern coast of the United States and the ports in South America, and the Pacific coast ports and Mexico, Central and South America.

"The encouraging of the merchant marine and the building of ships which will carry the American flag, and be owned and controlled by Americans and American capital.

"The building and completion as soon as possible of the Isthmian Canal, so as to give direct water communication with the coasts of Central America, South America and Mexico.

"The construction of a cable, owned by the Government, connecting our mainland with our foreign possessions, notably Hawaii and the Philippines.

"The use of conciliatory methods of arbitration in all disputes with foreign nations, so as to avoid armed strife.

"The protection of the savings of the people in banks and in other forms of investment by the preservation of the commercial prosperity of the country and the placing in positions of trust men of only the highest integrity."

With the "more liberal and extensive reciprocity" to be offered, the impassible barrier which has hitherto been set up against Canada may be removed, and terms which it will be possible for us to accept may be offered. If "a fair and equitable arrangement" can, as promised, be made, the two countries will at last be able to agree upon a reciprocity treaty. Such measures of reciprocity are promised, as will effect "the abolition entirely of commercial war with foreign countries." The tariff is promised a great overhauling, but this is qualified by the admission that the Protectionists will have to be satisfied and the revenue safeguarded. The Protectionists will probably abate something of their old demands; but so long as they are able practically to do what they like, it seems hopeless to expect a liberal tariff. As for the revenue, if many duties were repealed, it would decline to the extent of the amount they produce. The chances are that the repeal would affect chiefly raw or other materials of manufacture; and in that case the opposition would come not from the manufacturers, but from the producers of raw materials, notably the growers of wool, from whom we shall probably hear again that the proposed change would harm their industry, and the labor employed in it.

The promise made to encourage the merchant, marine and shipbuilding, means protection in some form, but it can

scarcely include subsidies to ships, at this stage of the nation's progress. The language used leaves it improbable that foreign vessels will be admitted to American register, in the near future, any more than in the past. The building of the Isthmian canal remains a project, but before it can properly be undertaken, some substitute for the Bulwer-Clayton treaty will be necessary. This is one of the knotty questions for which, so far, no solution has been found. "The use of conciliatory methods of arbitration in all disputes with foreign nations, so as to avoid armed strife," ought to avail to settle the boundary question between Canada and Alaska, which may be said to be actually evading such means of settlement. In the settlement of disputes with foreign nations the Senate, as a part of the treaty-making power, too often stands in the way. When a foreign government enters into an agreement with the American government, it is apt to consider the business concluded; but very often the Senate uses its obstructive power to prevent the agreement going into effect. What is needed is that harmony between the branches of the treaty-making power should be secured in advance; and if a strong effort were made to produce this, better results in the future might reasonably be expected.

If the promises of this programme are loyally carried out, the result will be beneficial in every country in correspondence with the Republic.

THE "TIMES" ON CANADA.

Canadians will be interested in reading some remarks of the London "Times" in criticism of what Premier Ross of Ontario said about British emigration. Possibly they were not intended to be enigmatical, but they certainly appear so. It is not political but climatic preference that sends so many Europeans to the United States, says the "Times," and then adds:

"No improved teaching of geography or the resources of the Empire can alter a fundamental fact. The temperate zones are best suited to the people of the British Islands, and the immediate problem to be faced lies in the fact that British emigrants prefer the States to the British colonies."

Are we to understand from this that we Canadians do not live in a temperate zone, but that the Americans do, and therefore life in the States is bearable to a European, but life in Canada is not? The writer could never have been in Canada, and must have derived his notion of the country from the usual sources, which even some among our friends south of the Great Lakes accept as gospel truth, that we live as the Greenlanders or the Aleutians do, and have no summer in our year. Need we wonder that this wrong notion of Canada is perpetuated abroad when we see the ladies of Ottawa presenting a fur cloak to the Duchess of York.

It might have been well for the "Times" writer to consider the isothermal lines upon the map, and to consider the country's products if he wished to make accurate statements about Canada's climate. Also, to remember that Montreal is in the latitude of Venice, and Toronto in that of Nice, while Winnipeg, far north as we consider it, is further south than London, England, which we believe is regarded as being in a "temperate zone." The existing record of mean temperatures for a long series of years over great areas in the North West of Canada ought to reassure any writer who is troubled about our climate.

But warmth is not all that immigrants require in a climate, else we should see more of them flocking to the Southern States of the Union. And if a perfectly equable