

system will do the most to stimulate Filipino industry and so encourage Filipino thrift, bind the Filipinos by ties of gratitude to us, and develop their present prosperity and their ultimate character?



## The Charleston Fair

Unusual interest attaches to the South Carolina Inter-State and West Indian Exposition, which was opened with appropriate ceremonies on Monday of last week. It is, to begin with, a comparatively small Exposition, although the buildings are numerous and spacious. Unlike the Pan-American, however, it aims to illustrate the development and the characteristic productions, not of a hemisphere, but of a territory relatively small in extent and harmonious in productiveness. In all Expositions the commercial side is prominent, and ought to be; nothing better serves, not only the purposes of trade and the material interests of the world, but that fuller acquaintance of section with section and country with country which is so essential to the well-being of society, than these large and complete exhibitions of the industry, the practical genius, and the art of different countries and sections. All the World's Fairs have marked so many steps towards that better acquaintance which is one of the highways to peace. The commercial side of the Charleston Fair was suggested, without being described, by Mr. Depew in his opening address. Situated in one of the capitals of the Old South, the Exposition strikingly illustrates the immense development of that South of the last thirty-five years which is sometimes called the New South, not as indicating any separation from the characteristic qualities of the older South or any radical departure from its ideals, but as a modern development of Southern energy and a modern application of Southern ideas to material interests and material progress.

The Southern States in 1866 were facing a series of disasters and calamities unparalleled in modern times. Their wealth was destroyed, their working capital lost, their farms devastated, their cities and villages in ruins, and they were without manufactures or industries. The problem of adjusting to their political, social, and economic conditions a suddenly emancipated slave population of nearly equal

numbers, which had been granted every civil right, including suffrage, demanded immediate attention. The unconquerable and invincible grit and pluck of the American were never more splendidly illustrated. Orderly government has been established, education fostered, agriculture revived, railroads constructed, mines opened, new industries built, and the riches and resources of the land brought out. The farm wealth has grown from a nominal to a real value of three thousand millions of dollars. In the place of no manufacturing industries a thousand millions of dollars have built and equipped mills, factories, and furnaces, whose annual output is one thousand five hundred millions, and rapidly increasing. The new South, regenerated and disenthralled, contributed in 1900 to the wealth and prosperity of our country 2,500,000,000 tons of iron, 40,000,000 tons of coal, 736,000,000 bushels of grain, and 11,274,000 bales of cotton. The gold and silver and precious stones, whose quest brought Columbus across the ocean and inspired the adventures of De Leon and De Soto, became the commonplaces of commerce compared with the present reality and future possibilities of this annual fruitage of a territory blessed with exhaustless treasures in fields, mines, and water-power, which are owned and controlled by people who have displayed the genius and energy, the initiative and wise working, which have produced these marvelous results.

A more definite statement of the purpose of the Exposition was made by F. W. Wagener, President of the Exposition Company, in his telegraphic greeting to President Roosevelt: "The purpose of this Exposition is to illustrate the marvelous industrial and commercial development of the Southern States in the last quarter of a century, and to contribute to the expansion of American commerce in other lands and among the islands of the Southern seas." President Roosevelt answered: "I hope it may prove of great and lasting benefit to our industries and to our commerce with the West Indies." The Exposition marks, therefore, not only the larger and freer industrial life of the South, but the more intimate relation of the whole country with the West Indies, and the broadening lines of American relationship and commerce with the whole world.

It was pre-eminently appropriate that Charleston should be selected as the home of the Exposition. The city is a natural center for the West Indian trade. It has not only one of the most beautiful harbors in the country, but improvements have made it one of the best. The Exposition covers about one hundred and

sixty acres, divided into two spaces, and connected by a piece of land on which stands the Administration Building. An old colonial mansion, the home of the Lowndeses before the Revolution, has been loaned to the Exposition for its use, and will be occupied as the Woman's Building. It is very finely situated in a grove of live-oaks remarkable for their size and beauty. The general type of building is that with which the country was made familiar at Buffalo—the Spanish type, modified by the new conditions and climate of the Spanish-speaking countries in the Western world. Two features of the Fair will be especially attractive to visitors; one is the Governmental exhibit, which was presented at Buffalo with such intelligence and in such an attractive way that it secured and held the attention of every one who gave the Fair more than a passing glance. This Exposition has a National value, because in a concrete fashion it illustrates the various functions of the Government, the racial background of the Nation, and the stages of life and activity on this continent with great vividness and completeness. It was a happy thought on the part of the Exposition to secure the Dewey Arch, and that striking piece of monumental art has been set up on the grounds of the Exposition.

The Exposition will serve its best purpose, however, if it attracts to Charleston that great mass of people in the Northern and Western States who have never seen the quaint and attractive old city, and who have not come in personal contact with its delightful people. It is one of the historical centers of American life, one of its characteristic communities; a city which will always stand by itself because in its history and spirit it has developed a marked individuality. Like some other smaller cities, it impresses the imagination far more powerfully than most of the great metropolises of the world. Its foundations were laid by as fine a group of men and women as any which came from the Old World to the New. The French Huguenot brought with him an enthusiasm for religion, a sincerity of purpose, a passion of conviction, quite as notable as his brother colonists brought to New England, with the grace of manner, and refinement of life which were, in a peculiar sense, the possession of the

France of the seventeenth century. This tradition of social grace and dignity of life has been preserved intact to the present time. Never indifferent to commercial success, and rarely without commercial importance, Charleston has always kept her ideals distinct from her business, and has treated life as if commerce were its tributary and not its highest activity. To our great and tumultuous civilization she has contributed a note of idealism which has been of high importance. Sometimes mistaken in fundamental matters, she has espoused every cause with passionate ardor, and has poured herself out with lavish generosity for the principles in which she believes. Such a community may make serious political blunders; it may not always read the signs of the time aright; but it can never be otherwise than interesting.

Charleston ought to be a focal point of National interest during the coming months, and the Fair ought to advance materially, not only the specific interests which it represents, but that mutual acquaintance between the different sections which has ripened so rapidly of late years, and which is so essential to the development of what is best in the American people and to the large and noble settlement of the problems of the future.



## Advancing Wages and Prices

A few years ago the question was hotly debated whether wages would advance as rapidly as prices in case the supply of currency were increased. Since 1897 the supply of currency has been increased until the amount of money in the country is nearly one-third greater than it was four years ago. A few weeks ago the Department of Agriculture issued a report which seemed to prove that wages had advanced more rapidly than prices. It covered the periodical inquiry into farm wages which the Department has been making every few years since 1866, and showed that in 1899 farm laborers were getting higher wages in gold than they had received since the panic of 1873. The advance between 1895 and 1899 had been from \$17.69 a month to \$20.23, or 14 per cent.