

higher duties against the United States and Great Britain to compensate them for the withdrawal of bounty payments at the end of 1910. The industry has long been specially favored by the Laurier Government, but in view of the widespread hostility in rural Canada to bounties, a hostility which had much to do with ending the system, and also in view of the well-organized and growing movement among the farmers for lower duties, it is scarcely conceivable that the Government can comply with the new plea of the iron and steel interests.

THE JOHN HAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The John Hay Memorial Library, which was dedicated in Providence on Friday of last week, is perhaps the most important architectural monument in America to the memory of a man of light and leading. Mr. Hay was both. He was a man of letters of memorable gifts and achievements. He was also a diplomatist of very high rank. It is safe to predict that in twenty-five years he will not only stand in the front rank of American publicists in this field, but will be counted by the world at large one of the leaders of that new diplomacy which rests on fairness, justice, and frankness between nations. His name will be cherished in the Far East. He will be counted there among the little group of public men in the West who, in a great crisis, were true friends of that vast section of the world, fast rising in activity and influence. The library will not only be a notable addition to the resources of Brown University and of the city of Providence, but will be of great service to students of literature and history in this country. It is an impressive and a beautiful building, with space for three hundred thousand volumes. It will house the Harris Collection of American Poetry, which now numbers twelve thousand volumes, and is separately endowed. It will also include the Rider Collection of Rhode Island History, the Wheaton Collection of International Law, and the Lamont Collection of Eighteenth Century English Literature. The lighting, ventilation, and disposition of the books represent the very latest contemporary experience and knowledge. The library will contain a

large reading-room accommodating one hundred and eighty readers, and every device will be used to make the building not only a great treasury of valuable books, but a working laboratory for students and readers. Close relations will be established with neighboring libraries, and especially with the Providence Public Library. The chief features of the exercises of dedication were addresses by Dr. Angell, of the University of Michigan, and Senator Root.

BEAUTY STILL AN ASSET

Last week The Outlook called attention to a court decision in Colorado significant from the standpoint that beauty is a material asset of positive value. Another matter, which also has to do with the West, emphasizes that position. The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society has called attention to certain facts with reference to the Grand Cañon National Monument, with a view to extending the boundary of that reservation. The celebrated chasm of the Colorado River in Arizona consists of two sections—the Grand Cañon and the Marble Cañon. There is no break in the walls between these divisions, but the cañon may be said to be continuous for a total length of over two hundred and eighty miles. This cañon is one of the natural wonders of the world; certainly it is the greatest eroded cañon in the United States. Its average depth is about four thousand feet, although in some portions it is more than a mile deep. It measures from ten to fifteen miles from rim to rim. It has been the subject of description by writers ever since it was first seen by Coronado in 1540. It contains interesting archaeological remains, and also possesses much scientific interest on account of its extraordinary geological exposure. Finally, it may be said to present natural scenery of a character and upon a scale unparalleled in the known world. Towards the end of President Harrison's Administration a large territory lying north and south of the Colorado River in Arizona was established as the Grand Cañon National Park, and towards the end of President Roosevelt's Administration, under the "Act for the Preservation of American

Antiquities," an area of over eight hundred thousand acres, lying within the Grand Cañon National Forest, was established as the Grand Cañon National Monument. President Roosevelt's proclamation declared that it was not intended thereby to prevent the use of lands for forest purposes, but that, while both Reservations should be effective on the land withdrawn, the National Monument would be the dominant Reservation. President Roosevelt issued later proclamations dividing the Grand Cañon Reservation into two parts, without, however, affecting the Grand Cañon National Monument. The portion of the National Forest north of the Colorado River was erected into the Kaibab National Forest, and that south of the river into the Coconino National Forest. The Scenic and Historic Preservation Society requests that the Grand Cañon National Monument shall be enlarged. At present only about half of the Grand Cañon and the Marble Cañon are within the National Monument; in particular, half of the Grand Cañon to the west is left without protection from vandalism. Hence the Society sensibly recommends that the present Reservation be extended westward to include all of the Cañon. The recommendation has been heartily endorsed by President Taft.

The characters are admirably represented, and the dialogue is entertaining and witty. Rebecca is a fountain of youth, impulsive, spontaneous, unconscious. The old stage-driver belongs to a type of which Americans are never tired—the kindly, homespun, humorous countryman who hides a great deal of affection and helpfulness under the guise of humor. The maiden aunts are true to the life, and the children frolic and giggle precisely as they are doing to-day in a hundred New England villages. The attraction of the play is easy to explain. There are two backgrounds in the memory or imagination of Americans—the background of New England and of Virginia. From the Atlantic to the Pacific there are a host of people to whom the New England scenery and the farm life never fail to appeal. All Americans enjoy a real picture of farm life, no matter whether they ever had any relation with the farm or not. "Rebecca" touches another source of unfailing interest: it is a drama of childhood. It is a thousand miles away from the sex play and the problem play; the morning air is on it, and one comes away from it refreshed and invigorated. There is no trace of the pedagogue in it; but there are very few sermons more effective than this unpretentious, spontaneous play of childhood, with its fresh and captivating humor.

A CHARMING PLAY It is an evidence of the vitality of those two charming stories of a girlhood in Maine by Kate Douglas Wiggin, "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" and "New Chronicles of Rebecca," that they could be successfully dramatized; for there is, in the nature of things, no plot in either story. The charm in both books lies in the atmosphere, the development of character, the New England background, the deftly mingled humor and sentiment. Both are beguiling pictures of New England country life. The play, which is drawing large audiences at the Republic Theater in New York, lacks the element of plot; but the incidents or episodes are so related to one another in the unfolding of a childhood full of purity and fun and intelligence that they supply the absence of plot.

DECLINE IN RURAL POPULATION The census figures for Missouri, announced recently, show a marked falling off in the rural population of the State. The State, as a whole, showed a gain of approximately 187,000, or six per cent, over the figures of 1900. But in the two largest cities, St. Louis and Kansas City, the gain was 197,000. So there was a net decrease of 10,000 in the population of the State outside these cities. Missouri has been a prosperous agricultural State in the last decade, and the Director of the Census, Dr. E. Dana Durand, expresses the belief that conditions there are typical of those of other agricultural States of the Middle West. Several explanations have been offered for this decline. Undoubtedly cheap land in the Southwest has attracted thousands