

Paris, was merely an invoicing agency for its French importations. A double set of books was kept. One set showed the prices at which the goods were invoiced for custom house purposes. It was clearly shown that the consular invoices for the French business were undervalued, on an average to the extent of 20 per cent. It is estimated that the government has been defrauded out of \$100,000 in this manner, since last August.

It is claimed by free traders that dishonesty of this kind has always prevailed, but with the connivance of the government. Political favorites were supposed to invoice their imports according to their own ideas of value, thus enabling them to make immense fortunes, as well as to crush out rival houses that were not in the swim. It is possible that in the past many oblique transactions have taken place under the guise of protection, but probably owing more to the venality of customs officials, than to any political agency. In this case, however, it has not yet been shown that any official of the customs department was cognizant of what took place. Though, as the case stands, the United States consular agency in France may have much to explain.

The question is, are other firms engaged in similar criminal work? The dishonesty of Lehman & Co. would never have been discovered had it not been for the two creditors who took the case into the courts. So that if this firm were content with comparatively moderate gains, they could have kept on making \$100,000 yearly by beating the McKinley bill. But their greed in making a fraudulent assignment brought them into the toils. Tariff is all right if regulated and carried out properly. It is discrimination or dishonesty that makes the great evil.

BRITISH ENEMIES TO ROYALTIES.

ACCORDING to the findings of an observing newspaper correspondent who has been dissecting English topics, somewhat critically, it is finances and not politics that are threatening the peace of royalty. The mischief has its fountain head at the Liverpool quarters of the Financial Reform Associations which, with its branches in all parts of the kingdom, is sowing the seeds of discontent through the constant distribution among the people of statistics on the royal family.

Its reports are simply cold figures, without a comment or word of disrespect to the crown or its belongings. But the figures, which are always accurate, are selected

for the business in hand, and though seeming to be a mere compilation of useful knowledge, by their arrangement are turned into an eloquent protest against the extravagance of the royal household. Its financial almanac has for years been the terror of the Queen's progeny. By an astonishing resource of inventiveness it has always managed to inform its readers on nearly every leaf that the Queen with the income of all the crown lands and palaces which she held, drew from the public treasury an annual salary of £385,000, or \$1,925,000; that the Prince of Wales, since he came of age, had cost the English people in cold money \$15,000,000; that other members of the Queen's family had almost an equal sum from the people's taxes; and so on with the rest of the exorbitant costs of the royal establishment.

In juxtaposition to these figures this dangerous little book has never failed to present the current statistics of the earnings of the laborers of the kingdom. The regular statement of the destitution and hopeless poverty of the millions who pay this annual tribute to the court gentry, is always close at hand, so near that the eye of the reader could not possibly look upon the grandiloquent title of the heir apparent, and escape the stare of poverty's grim head-letter arrayed in "deadly parallel."

That this sort of thing is making Republicans with wonderful rapidity is a foregone conclusion. With all his tenacity for traditions and his cultivated love for the person of the Queen, the average Englishman has a prodigious amount of common sense for practical operations. He has an abiding contempt for theories of all sorts until they have been practically tested. But when convinced by actual demonstration, his conviction is as good as a law. When therefore this persistent arraignment of royalty once reaches his understanding, the conviction will not have to be made a second time. The royal household will be retired from public charge as promptly as the dignity and seriousness of the occasion will permit.

Supporters of the crown understand this fact pretty well, and their nervousness is manifested on the occasion of every trivial attack upon the Queen's interests. Just now everything is going wrong with them. The republican spirit is asserting itself without any seeming restraint in every part of the realm. It is doubtful if any statesman has ever occupied a more delicate position than that of Lord Salisbury today. The cloud that is hanging over him now is too dense for any man to foresee the immediate outcome of the

forces that are at work. The principle which he is engaged particularly to defend is the greatest concernment of every nation of Europe, and it is impossible to conceive what may follow a systematic movement by the English republicans to overthrow the crown.

A MISSOURI HEROINE.

IN southwestern Missouri, a few days ago, occurred an incident which has all the required equipment for a perfect melodrama. It appears that away down in that country bands of regulators calling themselves Black Caps terrorize the people, as the White Caps do in the Eastern States. The experience of one of those Black Cap bands in its regulating mission will make cheerful reading for the order-loving public.

James Daggett, a squatter, having secured his full allotment of land from the government, endeavored to hold in addition, a piece of timberland, close by, for his brother. Charles Lawson came along and entered as a homesteader on the timberland claimed unlawfully by Daggett. After a tedious contest, Lawson succeeded in getting his patent for the land. This so enraged Daggett, that he sought the aid of his brethren of the Black Caps. First, Lawson was notified to leave the country within forty-eight hours. He ignored the warning and pursued the even tenor of his course. But on the night of the 30th of June last when returning from the market town he was met by ten men dressed in black caps and gowns. Immediately, the poor fellow was grasped and tied by his merciless enemies and taken to a piece of timberland adjoining.

Fortunately the meeting took place close to Mr. Lawson's home, and his wife heard the disturbance. Divining what was taking place, she armed herself with a Winchester rifle, and quietly reconnoitering followed the men who held her husband captive. When they arrived at a safe place in the woods, they proceeded to strip Lawson of his clothing, preparatory to administering a whipping.

Just as the lash was raised to give the first blow, Mrs. Lawson took aim with her rifle and fired; the would-be whipper dropped. She fired two more shots, and the result was that the Black Caps fled, all but one who was badly wounded. Mrs. Lawson unbound her husband, and both went to examine the wounded man.

When the black covering was removed he was found to be James Daggett. His thigh was broken and he was suffering intense pain. He it was who had the whip raised when Mrs.