

ably the characteristic upon which main reliance must be placed to enable the American growers to compete successfully with the cheap labor of southern Europe. The shipment of inferior grades of corn under the circumstances would be a death blow to American corn exports, even to those countries where maize is used only as food for live stock.

IN THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS.

The last act required of the people of Utah relative to admission to the Union has been performed. Today, December 16, at noon, Gov. West, Hon. Frank J. Cannon, Delegate to Congress from Utah, and Hous. J. R. Letcher and Hoyt Sherman Jr., of the Utah Commission, officially presented to the President of the United States the engrossed copy of the State Constitution, with the certification of its adoption by the vote of the people. The President promised immediate consideration, remarking that if, upon examination, he found that the terms of the Enabling Act had been complied with, he would take great pleasure in affixing his official signature to the proclamation formally admitting Utah to the sisterhood of States. As the compliance with the Enabling Act has been perfect, and its ascertainment will be a matter of mere formal examination of the Constitution, the official proclamation may be looked for within a very few days.

NOT ALTOGETHER BAD.

There has been a good deal of condemnation of the United States Supreme Court during the past few months in certain quarters, and it has been proclaimed loudly that the highest judicial tribunal in the land is given over wholly to the big corporations and money interests. No doubt there is occasional room for criticizing the court of last resort, for its members are but human, and sometimes have been known to voice the general sentiment of the people when perhaps the rigid rules of justice would have required the pursuit of an opposite course. But to say that the Supreme court is in the situation claimed by many agitators, especially among the workmen's organizations, where it will not administer justice as between the poor people and the rich monopolies, is to make an assertion that is unwarranted by the facts.

An incident that may serve to illustrate this comes in an account of proceedings in the Supreme court on Friday last. The case of Mrs. Nora O'Brien against the Union Pacific railroad was up for hearing. Mrs. O'Brien is a poor woman whose husband, a locomotive engineer in the railway's employ, received injuries in 1893, from which he died. In the lower courts she was awarded damages, and the railway carried the case up. Mrs. O'Brien was too poor to pay the expenses of her counsel to Washington or to retain some one at the capital to represent her, so the only showing her case had was a crudely prepared brief. When the case was called on Friday morning,

Senator Thurston put in an appearance, ready to argue the case in behalf of the road for which he has been general solicitor so long, but from which he is now retiring as quickly as convenient, owing to his being in the U. S. Senate. He had read the brief on behalf of Mrs. O'Brien, and quickly detected its vulnerable points. But the court had learned the reason of Mrs. O'Brien not having an attorney present to argue her case, and before the discussion was through eight of the brightest and best informed lawyers in the country came to the rescue of the poor woman in the persons of the justices of the United States Supreme court themselves, and quizzed Senator Thurston so searchingly and unmercifully that it is doubtful if the highest-priced attorney in Washington could have presented the O'Brien side of the case in as favorable a condition as it was when submitted to the court's deliberations for the decision that is to come in the near future.

No doubt when this case is passed upon, justice will be administered as between the railway and the engineer's wife, regardless of the wealth or poverty of either. And as a general proposition it may be safely said that when the justices of the Supreme court are fairly informed on the issues before them, there is not much wavering in favoritism to one side or the other. The justices readily recognize that the safety of the country lies to a great extent in the confidence the people have in the judiciary, and if public speakers and writers throughout the country were as careful in endeavoring to preserve that confidence as are the majority of the judiciary, there would be a much higher regard for the decisions of that branch of the government than now exists among portions of the country's population.

THE STRUGGLE IN GERMANY.

Quite a struggle is raging in Germany between the socialists and the imperialists. The former have during the past week vigorously criticised the existing order of things in the empire and laid before the Reichstag a number of bills, proposing to eliminate from the penal code the paragraphs against lese majeste; for a law of a liberal tendency on the right of association; to replace the special laws of the various states of Germany; to make the eight-hour work-day obligatory everywhere; to make the franchise uniform throughout Germany; and to amend article 31 of the code so as to require special authority from the Reichstag for the imprisonment of a member of the Reichstag.

It is particularly the government's policy of prosecuting people for lese majeste that at present is the object of attack. Mass meetings are held and protests made against it, and the Germans seem to have sufficient ground for their attitude in this respect. One paper has collected data showing that since August last there have been sentences aggregating thirty-one years and two months in jail and five months' imprisonment in a fortress imposed for lese majeste in Prussia alone. And as a rule these sentences are imposed for utterances that in England and every other country, except where

absolute despotism rules, would go unnoticed.

It is unfortunate for Germany that in the present struggle the terms socialism and socialists have become so prominent, because it has a tendency to detract the attention from the true nature of the questions at issue. The war broke out with the retirement of Chancellor Caprivi, who was regarded as too liberal in his policy, and the elevation of the present chancellor, Hohenlohe, to the important position. Immediately after, a bill was introduced nominally directed against Socialists, but so sweeping as to include nearly every representative of liberal ideas. The bill was rejected, but others have been proposed hardly less obnoxious. The real struggle is therefore between absolutism and popular government; it is a battle to decide whether the executive of the government shall be the servant of the people or whether the representatives of the latter shall be merely instruments in the hands of the former. Anyone in Germany who boldly takes the more liberal view seems to be regarded as a "socialist" by the supporters of the young emperor.

How the struggle is to end is not difficult to foresee. It may take a long time, but the final result is sure to be a victory for the liberal ideas, as they are founded in reason and the inherent rights of man. The German people are powerful, and will some day assert their sovereignty. It may come with the force of an avalanche, irresistible as were the German armies in the battles for military superiority on the European continent.

THIS MEANS BUSINESS!

President Cleveland has sent to Congress a special message on the Venezuelan controversy, which is notice to Great Britain that the Monroe doctrine is a very live issue in affairs on this continent. The document will cause a thrill of patriotic enthusiasm throughout the Union, such as has not been felt for many a day, and Americans, independent of political party affiliations, will give their warm support to the Chief Magistrate in the stand he has taken. The diplomatic correspondence of the United States with Great Britain on the Venezuelan matter has been of the most conciliatory character; but now that the British government has seen fit to reject the peaceful overtures of the United States, notice is served that on this side of the water there shall be no trifling or delay.

In his message, the President calls the attention of Congress to the merits of the dispute, and states what has been done by this government, and Great Britain's response hereto. The latter the President regards as an intimation that the United States will be allowed no position as an arbitrator in the Venezuelan boundary controversy. From this standpoint the Chief Executive makes to Congress recommendations which are to the point, plain, decisive, and consistent with the national honor and courage. Britain will not arbitrate, therefore it is the duty of the United States to ascertain, upon its