

PUTTING IT TO THE TOUCH.

President ROOSEVELT has rightly received high praise for the extraordinary vigor and resolution with which he moved to take up the tremendous tasks which were thrust upon him at the very threshold of office. Decisions which brooked no delay he made out of hand. Into situations which were bad enough to paralyze an ordinary Executive he flung himself with direct courage. Had he not succeeded, the failure would have been disastrous to his prestige. But he boldly risked all in order to win much. The question now arises, however, whether he ought to press his good fortune too hard.

Whatever may be said of the farm bill, it does not rank in the public mind with the critical measures which had to be adopted respecting the banks, or with the Economy Bill which the President drove to enactment with amazing speed. He can hardly expect the farm bill to score a like triumph for him. He himself was forced in honesty to say to Congress that he is not thoroughly convinced that it will work. He commends it only as a desperate remedy for a desperate disease and evidently regards it as a form of that "experimentation" which he spoke of during the Presidential campaign as desirable. Recalling the sad fate of the Farm Board, which President HOOVER summoned Congress in extra session to create in 1929, Mr. ROOSEVELT might be excused for going a little slower with his plan of farm relief. But he gallantly identifies himself with its fate, be it good or ill, thereby showing again his chivalrous spirit. Yet it is not at all certain that Congress, or the people, will regard this particular measure as wise. Farm organizations are for it, but what will the great mass of consumers think of this form of sales tax, resting heavily on food? President ROOSEVELT must be aware of the political hazards he is running through advocating this legislation, so that, in a sense, he is fully as daring in putting it to the touch as he was in openly defying the American Legion one day and the Anti-Saloon League the next.
