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THE ISSUES.

The wires tell us that the Democracy have determined to make Roosevelt and Rooseveltism the issue this year.

Is that true? Has the office of President descended so low that a great party hopes to win it through mere personalities?

And what do they propose to attack in the President? His moral or physical courage? His integrity? His ability?

Or is the attack to be confined to fears of what he might do sometime? That is the insidious charge made first by the New York rich men who will not forgive the President because when he was Governor of the Empire State they could not use him as a means to evade paying their fair share of taxation.

Are they going to take up the cause of General Miles and try to prove that he has been wronged? They should go slow on both those indictments, because it will be easy to establish that what the President did on account of New York taxes was the only honest thing he could do, and that in the case of General Miles, he had been insubordinate up to the point of a court-martial for years, that finally he reiterated as true charges against a brother officer which had been investigated and declared foundationless, that only his eminent military services in the long ago saved him from dismissal. "O, but the Panama affair," is said. Well, the Congress of Columbia had directly insulted the President and Senate of the United States; it was swiftly gravitating to a condition where France would have to interpose to protect the claims of her citizens on the Isthmus, when Panama seceded from the Colombian confederation, as she reserved the right to do when she joined it. The President hastened to recognize the new State, as did both Great Britain and France, and sent a warship to Aspinwall, as had half a dozen former Presidents, and in accordance with the original treaty made fifty years ago, to preserve the peace and to protect the property of Americans on the Isthmus.

What, if he had not done as he did, would the Democracy be saying now?

We believe that the President will be entirely willing to be judged by his official acts.

But if he is to be spitted by the opposition, what will be said of his opponent? That he is an

honest man, an accomplished lawyer. Judge will not be doubted, but what were the compelling forces that caused his nomination? Can only judge by the men in charge of his didacy? Hill, Belmont, Guffey, Cockran, are the pure and brilliant statesmen to command the confidence of the country?

But when it is known that even they were not the principals, that behind them were the plutocrats, the trusts, the rich tax-dodgers, the corporations that prey upon the people; they dictated the nomination of Judge Parker before their agents left New York and went to such men as Senator Daniel and J. P. Harmon were turned down to give the nomination for Vice-President to an octogenarian oil and railroad magnate, solely on account of his immense wealth and his willingness to contribute to the corruption fund of his party; when all these facts are ventilated, as they will be, what will the sovereign people of the United States decide to do? We shall see. In the meantime the Republicans will court the full investigation of their party and President; they will gladly contrast Mr. Hay with Mr. Hill, Mr. Root with Mr. Belmont; they will point to what their party has done and investigate what their opponents propose to do, and the decision will be a test of the intelligence of the American people.

DON'T SUBSCRIBE, EH?

It is said that the rich men of New York City are not subscribing generously to the Republican campaign. Very likely. It was those same rich men, which include the great trusts, banks and combines, who found Judge Parker, and who first raised the cry that President Roosevelt was a dangerous candidate and that a conservative candidate was needed. They wanted Grover the good, but they were afraid. Afraid that the people still had memories of what happened when they before by fraud and money secured him the place, and so they selected a man against whom nothing of wrong in all his past can be urged. Having fixed upon him, they sent their agents, the Hills, the Belmonts and Guffeys to St. Louis to secure for their candidate the nomination. A platform was prepared, before they left home, to be adopted and the only injunction given was if anything in it proved to be offensive to any part of the convention, to strike it out, but not to permit anything to be added which would be distasteful to the men in New York City who are to supply the campaign corruption funds. Hence the income tax plank was split into kindling wood; the tariff plank was bored full of holes; the finance plank was set on fire by Bryan's invective and consumed; the plank calling for the prosecution of unlawful trusts, combines and monopolies was attached for buncombe by order of those same trusts combines and monopolies, just as was done twelve years ago; a promise of freedom to the Filipinos some time in the dim future was given; a reckless and utterly unsubstantiated charge of corruption in office was hurled at Republican officeholders, the usurpations of the Republican President were set up, men of straw, and then knocked down; then the selected Judge of Esopus was nominated and for a running mate called out a man who of his own volition retired from active work ten years ago, who has been a trust mag-

nate, and oil magnate, a railroad magnate for half a century, and who has managed so well that his millions number half as many as do the years of his long life.

That is the platform and the ticket which these same rich men of New York prepared for free voters of the nation to support and it is very likely that they are not subscribing very generously to a fund intended to defeat their schemes. Their hostility to President Roosevelt began when he as Governor declared that every one of them should pay honest taxes on his property the same as the men of moderate means have to and signed the bill to compel such payment.

They could neither coax nor bulldoze him, hence their wrath, hence their determination to down him, hence the reckless, intense and unscrupulous charges that they hurl at him.

But we shall see. The people of this country mean to be honest; they are determined to be just, and every one of them believes in fair play. More, when they select a business agent, they do not take the word of a few that a certain man, though inexperienced and so constituted that he never gives an idea of what he thinks is all right, but rather one who has been tried.

Now President Roosevelt has been tried. The men of New York know the stock from which he sprang and know that they were thoroughbreds all; they have seen the President from the time he held his first office; they watched him in war and peace, saw him as cowboy and author, marked his bearing as Governor and watched him more closely when the bloody mantle of a slain President fell upon him; they saw how he accepted that trust and how he has fulfilled it; they believe that he is honest and brave and true, and may be no great amount of money will be needed to cause them to record their ballots where they will count most for the dignity, the integrity and the glory of his native land.

WHY A CHANGE?

Everyday, in a sort of delirious joy, the Democrats tell us they are surely going to win this year.

Assuming that for its wickedness the nation is to be further chastened, and that their anticipations may be realized, what then?

The first thing of course will be a change of Cabinet ministers. Is Mr. Hill to be Secretary of State in lieu of Mr. Hay? Does that prospect amount to an omen of good?

Or, if Mr. Belmont assumes the portfolio of the Treasury Department, will that add to the stability of American finances?

Do they know of any Democratic farmer who will improve on Secretary Wilson's work?

"But the tariff must be revised," is their next point. Who is going to do that and how will it look when it is finished? How will the mere hint that they are going to begin tinkering with it affect the industries of the country? Will the lead producer or lead miner feel better over the situation?

What did the threat to revise it cost the country eleven years ago?

What change is proposed anywhere that can possibly strike the public mind as an advantage?

Is it not true that the only anxiety is that the outs may get in?

Was it not so in 1884, and in 1892?