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## The Alliance Herald

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### THE WHITEWASH BRUSH.

Our republican brethren have finally disposed of the Cox "slush fund" charges to their satisfaction, although it has been a difficult task and they have finished it none too well. To begin with, the charges were unequivocally denied, and proof was demanded. When proof was furnished, the republican scribes declared the amount of the fund was grossly exaggerated. When testimony was adduced which showed that the fund was even larger than charged, they evaded the issue neatly by saying that even if it were true that the plan was to raise a tremendous sum, Cox was wrong in his statements as to who was expected to contribute the money.

Furthermore, it is charged that the democrats tried out the same thing and failed; that the democrats realize that there isn't much in the scandal, but expect to use it to good effect locally, and, anyhow, it will be forgotten long before the end of the campaign. This sort of argument reminds one strangely of the defense of the colored man when they charged him with steal-

ing turkeys. First, he claimed, he didn't like turkeys; second, he was out of town at the time the turkeys were stolen, and couldn't possibly have taken them; third, that if he were in town, the turkeys had come over to his place and were just itching to be annexed; and lastly, that if he did steal them, they were old birds anyhow and too tough to eat.

Now, it seems, the republicans have found a scapegoat. They're saying now that the attempt was to raise money, not from fifty or a hundred representatives of the big financial interests, but from tens of thousands of small contributions. The fault was in the man they secured to manage the "drive." This is the way Mark Sullivan wields the whitewash brush:

"They could have raised it from fifty or a hundred men, and the very smallness of the group coupled with the bigness of the individual contribution, would have constituted just such a sinister situation as Cox alleged this wholly different situation. Will Hays planned an organization for raising his campaign fund through tens of thousands of small contributions, without allowing any one man to contribute more than a thousand dollars. There can be no doubt whatever that this system is vastly more desirable and is designed to prevent exactly what Cox charged—the getting of an underhold on the government by a small group of men. In a mere detail of putting the system into effect, Will Hays did the only thing that has justified all the commotion that Cox started. He put in charge of it one of these professional 'drive-

managers, a man who had experience in raising money this way for the Y. M. C. A., the community camp, the Roosevelt memorial and other causes. It was in the methods of this that the only things were done that are questionable and it is doubtful whether even they are questionable in any respect except taste.

"In writing the literature for the drive and in letters to his assistants throughout the country, he introduced a professional money collecting jargon that included those phrases which are now practically the only thing the democrats have to fall back on to justify their jibe at the republicans. It was he who kept boosting the figures for quotas he knew there was no expectation of getting. It was he who tried to boost the limit of the thousand dollars, and had to be overruled. It was he who said 'boys, get the money,' and told the local collectors to have an 'inspirational address' delivered at the luncheons tendered to the prospective victims. There was a faked uplift turn to it which was very offensive to persons of any taste. But it was exactly the same sort of thing which these collectors had learned and practiced in other drives.

"The ribald politicians spoke of these collectors as 'Fred Upham's psalm singers.' The only risk the republicans run and it was some risk is that the public will now visit upon the republican party the accumulated resentment against six or seven years of harassment from 'drives' and professional drive managers. The public has become tired

of this mixture of sanctimony and salesmanship. It injured irreparably the interchurch world movement, a movement which, if its animation had been more exclusively spiritual might have had results beneficial almost beyond imagination, but it

tell too much into the hands of these 'drive' managers who measured results by the same standard as a traveling salesman. Of course in a way the republicans are saved by this same familiarity of the public with drives. It enables the public to un-

derstand pretty clearly just what has happened in this case, and to distinguish between what has happened and what Cox charged had happened."

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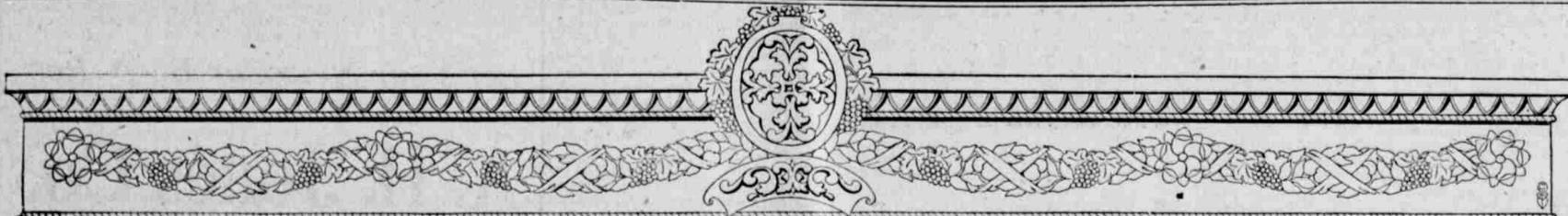
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