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PASSING EVENTS

Several things happened last week—some of them important and some of them not important at all—some of them expected and some of them not expected at all. In this respect and to this extent it was a week very much like all other weeks and in no way different from yet other weeks which are to come.

IN PENNSYLVANIA—At the hour this is written it seems certain that Theodore Roosevelt has at least a two-thirds control of Pennsylvania as a result of the primary held in that state yesterday.

Understanding regarding the movement, though there may be some affectation of ignorance among those who do not wish to understand. Mr. Taft made the open declaration that the people are not to be treated with the government.

NO MYSTERY—There is no mystery associated with the progressive movement. It is a cause which has been open and above-board from its inception.

THE CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE

When the smoke of the battle has cleared away, the speeches which Theodore Roosevelt has made during this present campaign will receive the verdict which calm judgment bestows and they will be classed as great state documents.

In points of law, Theodore Roosevelt argues successfully with the nation's greatest lawyers. In economics, he commands the attention of the best-versed economists.

From the moment of the delivery of the Columbus speech, the utterances of Mr. Roosevelt have commanded the attention of statesmen the world over; his speeches have held students of constitutional questions spellbound by their comprehensive thoroughness; his appeals have won the affection of a great people.

In the Columbus speech, Mr. Roosevelt presented two salient points, which have become the real issues of this campaign—though there has been a steadfast effort on the part of the reactionary organs to divert attention from them.

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Merely to announce one's belief in the rule of the people, while openly or covertly trying to prevent it, would be demagoguery of peculiar mean type.

Disaster is ahead of us if we trust to the leadership of men whose eyes are blinded, who believe that we can find safety by dull timidity and dull inaction.

Clouds hover above the horizon throughout the civilized world. But here in America the fault is our own; it is the sky above us is not clear.

I believe in the right of the people to rule. I believe the majority of the plain people of the United States will, day in and day out, make fewer mistakes in governing themselves than any smaller class or body of men, no matter what their training, will make in trying to govern them.

We here in America hold in our hands the hope of the world, the fate of the coming years, and shame and disgrace will be ours if in our eyes the light of high resolve is dimmed, if we trail in the dust the golden hopes of men.

The attempt has recently been made to improve on Abraham Lincoln's statement that "this is a government of the people, for the people, by the people."

I hold that we of this nation are false to our professions, false to the traditions handed down to us by the founders and the preservers of the republic, if we do not make it in very truth a real republic, a democracy in fact, as well as in name.

NOT PERSONAL—The attempt to make the campaign a personal affair must fail. It is not a battle for any man, it is a fight for a principle—for a great principle—a principle which must triumph if this government is to remain the greatest on earth.

ing in Montana, where the state committee went through the farcical routine of endorsing Taft, when it is known that Mr. Taft could not get, at the polls, ten per cent of the republican vote of this state.

A GOOD START—The week brought marked advance in the spring-season work in western Montana. The farmers are well along with their seeding, though in places it is somewhat later than last year.

IN THE CITY—In Missoula the week was important in that it brought the paving work closer to realization and there are prospects that this long-considered and much-needed improvement will be made an actuality before the close of the summer.

There is no man more despicable than the ingrate. The breaker of faith who, through dishonesty, selfishness or sheer wickedness, betrays his pledged friend and a sacred friendship deserves the contempt of honorable men.

There has been in this country such a display of ingratitude by one man to another. Who the ingrate is the indisputable records of the last four years proclaim.

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They Can't Fool the People About Teddy

THE OPPOSITION TO ROOSEVELT IS A TISSUE OF FALSEHOOD.

(From the North American.)

It is a conservative statement to make now that never before, in this country, has there been so deliberate and determined an organized effort by powerful forces to deceive the American people about the true character of a public man.

The list of lies, added to every day, has become too long to catalog in completeness in a single issue of a newspaper. Therefore we shall cite today only a few of the widespread falsehoods that insult every thoughtful man's intelligence.

They are picturing the man who brought into being more than a score of arbitration treaties, ended the Russo-Japanese struggle and won the Nobel prize, with the approval of the whole civilized world, as a bloodthirsty, war-loving, peace-hating barbarian.

They are picturing him as an anarchistic advocate of the recall of judges, when every falsifier of the lot knows that Theodore Roosevelt has never approved the general adoption of any such instrumentality of government.

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take a second time. I know that when he has deceived men in his estimate of men he has been worse cheated than myself. I know that the only way he has to grind is mine. And I know that as long as I can keep him at the post of duty I can go to sleep knowing that I've got a big brother on guard.

Why is it that boys and girls and honest men and good women all feel that almost intuitive understanding of Theodore Roosevelt? We do not believe that there are many mothers in this country bending over the cradle of the first son and praying that he may grow into 300 pounds of judicial temperament.

We do not think that many sturdy boys are dreaming of strolls over smooth golf links nor speed-breaking spins in fatly padded limousines. We think that most fathers are hoping that their sons may be broad, virile, brave fighters for the right, rather than narrow, sheltered, privileged aristocrats in a country whose justification for existence is its denial of privilege and aristocracy.

Therefore, our theory of the understanding of Theodore Roosevelt by the American people is his capacity for self-revelation, which is traceable directly to the life he has led.

He has lived in no rut. He belongs to no class. He has rubbed elbows with the cowpuncher of Dakota and the guide of the Maine woods. He is a sportsman, and every sportsman understands him. Every writing man and student feels intuitively a bond with him.

And the solution in us seems that Theodore Roosevelt typifies the American spirit, that spirit which breathes through his words:

"We who stand for the cause of progress and for the cause of the uplift of humanity and the betterment of mankind are pledged to eternal war against tyranny and wrong by the few or many, by plutocracy or by a mob. We stand for justice and for fair play. Fearless and confident, with bold heart and keen eyes, we face the coming years, for we know that ours are the banners of justice, and that all men who wish well to the people must fight under them."

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Theodore Roosevelt, from the time when he, as a subordinate in the navy department, first met William H. Taft, felt a deep personal fondness and admiration for the man who, Mr. Roosevelt thought, possessed qualities he deemed lacking in himself.

President Roosevelt made his good friend a member of his cabinet and placed in his hands a very arduous and efficient task of orders. And, erroneously believing that his co-worker would give orders as efficiently, Mr. Roosevelt chose Mr. Taft as the best man he could recommend to the nation to continue and perfect the policies to which Mr. Roosevelt's whole heart and mind were and are devoted.

The same influences now ardently championing Mr. Taft then assailed him and supported Cannon, Knox, Fairbanks or Foraker. They made the task of nominating Mr. Taft a difficult one. They feared what Mr. Taft's honest supporters firmly believed—that he had absorbed Rooseveltism and become a true progressive.

The rest was reluctant, but consented to accept the Roosevelt indorsement, and, by blocking the Cortelyou-Hitchcock schemes, Mr. Roosevelt accomplished his desire to give to his trusted friend the nomination that would have been his own could he have been persuaded to swerve from his pledged determination not to succeed himself.

Ten days after Mr. Taft was nominated, and at a time when the people were showing little enthusiasm over his candidacy, he published in Collier's a full-page article, which was given great publicity throughout the country. ("My Conception of the Presidency," Collier's, June 27, 1908.) He said: "I remained for Roosevelt to prove how the people will respond to a strong and true leadership when the hour has come for great reforms."

It was so clear that the vote was for and against a legate that Mr. Taft's enemies—so soon to be his chosen, intimate advisers—assailed him as a "dummy" and a "proxy." And it was then that Mr. Roosevelt determined to obliterate himself absolutely for a year or more, to avoid any possible embarrassment or belittling of the friend he trusted and admired.

Mr. Taft was elected without being bound by a single pledge, save those he had made voluntarily to the people, highest of which was to maintain and perfect the Roosevelt policies. Mr. Roosevelt made no demand to retain any personal hold through any representative. No bargain, no dicker, was made about the party organization. All was turned over to Mr. Taft unreservedly. One request was made. Mr. Roosevelt thought the question of conservation so important and knew so well the competence of Secretary Garfield that he requested his retention. That request was refused.

What followed during and after Mr. Roosevelt's 15 months' absence from the country? First, by the selection of his cabinet, the character of the Taft administration was only too plainly foreshadowed by his appointment of men generally known to represent the very forces which the people had elected Mr. Taft to combat.

The breach of pledges to support the Roosevelt policies, which alone had made his election possible, promptly followed. The real exemplars of the progressive policies were stricken down, one by one, and in their places men of reactionary views were installed.

A shameful alliance was made with Aldrich and Cannon, to the utter exclusion of the men who remained faithful to the policies which constituted the platform upon which Mr. Taft had been elected. A party division in congress soon developed. The progressives, both in the house and the senate, refused to be driven or bribed by patronage into deserting the progressive doctrines which had developed so greatly under Roosevelt.

The "men of earnest, enthusiastic interest in the public weal" chosen by Mr. Taft to guide his conduct were Aldrich, Crane, Cannon, Keen; Hammond, the Guggenheim hired man; Penrose, Knox, Tawney, Ballinger and Wickersham—all representatives of special interests and including the leaders in all the bitter fighting against Mr. Roosevelt in the campaigns for railroad regulation, pure food, conservation and water-power control.

Proposed legislation palpably drawn to favor railroads and to destroy the Roosevelt policy of regulation, was prepared at the White House and sent to congress, with the president's command that it must be passed without the change of a word or a comma. So brazen was this betrayal of party pledges that the best members of the republican party in both branches of congress openly raised the banner of revolt against the Taft leadership.

The abandonment of the policy did not cease after the progressive republicans had made a good law out of a bad bill. For the commerce court was packed with railroad judges, who have continuously endeavored to destroy the powers and usefulness of the interstate commerce commission.

The sickening story of the betrayal of the conservation policies and the substitution of Baileys' with the deplorable truths of the document dictated by the attorney general by order of the president, and his signature, as his own decision of a judgment drawn up by an accused Ballinger lieutenant, and the entire revelation of the administration's attempt to transfer the Alaskan public wealth to this Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate, presents a complete perpetration of treachery.

The pure form of the policy, Dr. Wiley forced out of the public service and all standards lowered at the behest of the makers of poisoned foods and liquors, is the exhibition of loyalty to one of the best and most cherished of the Roosevelt policies.

All honorable men agree that an ingrate is despicable. And on all sides from the Tory press comes talks of Theodore Roosevelt's "betrayal of a friend" and "ingratitude to Taft." We deny that any man who studies, with an open mind, the history of the past four years can honestly assert that it is Theodore Roosevelt and not the man Roosevelt made president who is the ingrate.

If the desertion of Theodore Roosevelt by a trusted friend had been merely a personal blow, he would grieve, but he had no resentment. For no more malignant misrepresentation exists than that he has no tolerance for opposition. No word of bitterness comes from him, for example, in public and private when the desertion by former close friends and co-workers such as Lodge and Root is mentioned. He says simply that he is sorry they no longer think as he does, but that they belong by right on "the other side."

Bitterness rises only when the truth is borne in that the friend he trusted most has dishonored Theodore Roosevelt's indorsement to the American people and betrayed the policies of progress which to Roosevelt and all loyal to those policies are immeasurably more important than hurt or benefit to Theodore Roosevelt or any other individual.

A LINGERING SUSPICION. (From Judge.) A sudden thunderclap sent little Billy running to his father with a scared whimper. "Come, come!" said pa. "Be brave! Be a man!"

As they sat together on the veranda, Billy boldly declared, "Us men aren't 'traid of nothin', are us, pa?" "Why, of course not, sonny!"

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TIPS. (From Judge.) When attending a gathering where the absent ones are freely discussed, it is never wise to leave early.

Laugh much and loudly, and the world will surely laugh with you—provided you have wealth; but if poor, it may brand you as being half-witted.

Never propose to a girl while under the influence of soft-litened lights and music. You may be awakened next morning by a hand organ in a dizziness.

If your name is Bill, live up to it and please your wife—come in promptly.