



MR. TAFT OPPOSES TRUST LAW REPEAL SAYS SOME CHANGES MAY BE NECESSARY.

Tells National Civic Federation That He Intends To Be President of All the People.

President-elect Taft put himself emphatically on record as favoring enforcement rather than hasty repeal of the Sherman anti-trust law last night after Melville E. Ingalls had urged the members of the National Civic Federation, who were at dinner at the Hotel Astor, to work for the repeal of the law.

Judge Taft said he was not ready to part with the law; that enforcement was necessary, and that discussion of it was for the men who understood all the conditions.

Samuel Gompers was one of the speakers who preceded Judge Taft. He touched indirectly on some of the disputes of the campaign, and then he won tremendous applause when he said: "There seems to be an impression that Mr. Taft is going to be less the President of Samuel Gompers than of any other man."

Mr. Taft replied to that remark, too, toward the end of his speech. "It has been very pleasant," he said, "for me to meet here at this board Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Gompers and other labor leaders. I trust they know, and I know they do know, that whatever may have happened as regards any citizen of this country is all wiped out as far as my conduct as President of the United States is concerned, and I want to thank Mr. Gompers for his statement that I will be as much his President as that of any other man."

This was another sentiment of Mr. Taft's that won a great deal of applause. But there was at least as much enthusiasm for what he had said regarding the desirability of an employers' liability act, which he referred to at Cooper Union last January, long before his nomination for the Presidency.

In connection with the need for such a law, which he dwelt on strongly, Mr. Taft spoke of the injustice that lay in the delays caused by the clogging of the courts. He suggested the creation of a quasi-judicial tribunal that should have the power of arranging compensation for laborers injured in the course of their work.

The active prosecution of a demand for such relief Mr. Taft commended to the federation.

MR. INGALLS'S CHALLENGE. Melville E. Ingalls, who supported Mr. Bryan's candidacy this year, devoted himself to an impassioned appeal for the repeal of the Sherman law, saying that a campaign with that end in view would be the greatest work of his life.

He said that the law was passed twenty years ago, when no one expected it to be enforced, and that the worst thing that could happen to a country was to have a law on its statute books that could not be enforced.

Mr. Ingalls was not opposed to regulation of railroads and other corporations, but he wanted such regulation to be put in the hands of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the bureau of corporations, suggesting a comparison with the regulation of corporations in England by the Board of Trade.

Mr. Taft's references to the Sherman law were generally regarded as a direct answer to Mr. Ingalls, particularly his references to impressionistic sketches without true understanding of the meaning of the law, whether he intended such a construction to be put on his words or not.

Mr. Taft was the last of the speakers called on by Seth Low, who was in the chair. After Mr. Ingalls spoke Andrew Carnegie talked of old age pensions here and abroad, and August Belmont, John Mitchell, Samuel Gompers and A. B. Garretson, chief of the Brotherhood of Railroad Conductors, spoke.

JUDGE TAFT'S SPEECH. Mr. Taft's speech follows: Time was, as the last speaker has most eloquently said, when everybody who employed labor was opposed to the labor union, when it was regarded as a menace.

Continued on third page.

NINTH ANNUAL DINNER OF NATIONAL CIVIC FEDERATION.



Among the prominent persons appearing in the foreground are President-elect Taft and Mrs. Taft, Andrew Carnegie, ex-Governor Warfield and Mrs. Warfield, ex-Governor Batchelder, Isaac N. Seligman, John Hays Hammond, Seth Low, Frank Hitchcock, ex-Judge Alton B. Parker, Jacob Wertheim, D. J. Keefe, Melville E. Ingalls, Lee Hart, A. B. J. Bur, Miss Elizabeth Marbury, Miss Anne Morgan. (Copyright, 1908, by Brucker & Co.)

FORT NEARLY IN WRECK.

Broken Rail Ahead of Train, but Signals Stop It.

East Orange, N. J., Dec. 15.—Governor John Franklin Fort had a narrow escape from being in a railroad accident while on his way home last night. Just as the train on which was the Governor and a number of state officials had passed Trenton Junction, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, it stopped so suddenly that the passengers were nearly thrown from their seats.

HELD AS BOGUS OFFICER.

Williamsburg Tailor Says Prisoner Impersonated Policeman.

In the arrest of Michael J. Gerson in Williamsburg yesterday, the police believe they have found the man who has caused many tangles in the Police Department by pretending he was an officer and collecting various sums of money from merchants and others in this city.

AUTO CRUSHES CARRIAGE.

Miss Josephine Kelly Loses Purse in Crash on Fifth Avenue.

An automobile, driven by Gunnar Peterson of No. 15 23d street, New Brighton, Staten Island, crashed into a carriage in which was riding Miss Josephine Kelly, of No. 34 East 69th street, at Fifth avenue and 50th street yesterday afternoon.

CONSTITUTION ALL RIGHT.

Now, I feel some hesitation and embarrassment in getting up to talk on some of the subjects that have been mentioned to-night. I am sworn, or expect to be sworn if I live, to uphold the Constitution of the United States, and I think, in expectation of that obligation, I ought to rally to the defence of that poor, battered old instrument under discussion to-night.

A CONGRESS ASSURED.

Russia Meets Austria's Proposals—Annexation Left Open.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 15.—The Russian government has sent its final reply to the Austrian note which was received here on December 10, complying with the Austrian proposals regarding the convocation of an international congress on the Balkan question.

STATE SELDOM PAYS IN CITY.

The law as regards the percentage to be borne by the state is a dead letter, the city authorities say. In only one instance since consolidation has the state borne any part of the cost of a grade regulation, and that was in Avenue U, in Flatbush, several years ago.

DEWEY'S WINES FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS.

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DORANDO IN COLLAPSE

LONGBOAT, THE INDIAN, WINS MARATHON RUN.

Monster Crowd Storms Garden to See Race—Italian Runner Fails in Last Mile.

Tom Longboat, the famous Canadian Indian runner, defeated Dorando Pietri, of Olympic Marathon fame and conqueror of Johnny Hayes two or three weeks ago, in the Indoor Marathon run at Madison Square Garden last night.

CITY AND B. R. T. SPLIT

L. I. R. R., TOO, TURNS DOWN CROSSING PROPOSAL.

The Board of Estimate will appeal to the Legislature for relief. It will ask the Legislature to exempt the city of New York from the operations of the general railroad law so far as it bears on grade crossings.

SECRET SERVICE GRILL.

Senate Plans Investigation of Entire Body.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The resolution calling for an inquiry as to what should be done with reference to that portion of the President's message that deals with the Secret Service will be introduced in the Senate to-morrow, according to the present plans of the leaders.

FRANCE AGAIN AROUSED.

Hints That German Agents Were Connected with Mutiny.

Algiers, Dec. 15.—An investigation into the mutiny of a contingent of soldiers belonging to the Foreign Legion is said to establish the existence of a regular agency organized for the purpose of inducing desertions from the Foreign Legion.

HORSE DRAGS OFFICER.

Policeman Prevents Runaway Dash into Crowded Plaza.

Dragged for more than a block clinging to the bridle of a runaway horse, Patrolman Burke, of the Traffic Squad, brought the animal to a stop within a few feet of a crowd of persons on the Williamsburg plaza of the Williamsburg Bridge during the rush hour last night.

BAD CHINESE FINANCE.

Serious Trouble Reported Brewing in the Empire.

London, Dec. 16.—"The Times" prints a long Peking dispatch on the Chinese finances and currency. It says that the financial condition of China will presently be causing considerable anxiety, arising from the heavy fall in silver, the debased subsidiary coinage, reduced customs revenues, over-speculation, the overtrading of native merchants in great business centres and numerous failures.

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PRESIDENT DENIES THE CANAL CHARGES

CALLS JOSEPH PULITZER "REAL OFFENDER."

"REAL OFFENDER."

Mr. Bonaparte Considering Libel Proceedings—Government Has Nothing to Conceal.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 15.—President Roosevelt sent a special message to Congress to-day denouncing the charges regarding the purchase of the Panama Canal property by the United States as false and libellous, speaking of Joseph Pulitzer as the "real offender," and saying that the Attorney General "has under consideration the form in which the proceedings against Mr. Pulitzer shall be brought."

The message served to clear the air of the various unfounded rumors which have been circulated, and is so complete in every detail that it seems to dispose of all necessity for an investigation. The Senate so carefully investigated every phase of the Panama transaction some years ago that Senators have all along been unwilling to attach much importance to the various rumors of malfeasance, but some of them were disturbed over the refusal of William Nelson Cromwell to reply to the questions put by the late Senator Morgan as to who got the money.

In the House the same opinion seems to prevail, but Mr. Rainey, the author of the resolution calling for an inquiry, is unwilling to lose the notoriety which that measure promised him, and insists that he is still a "doubting Thomas" and that he "must be shown." The force of the President's denunciation of those responsible for the rumors which have been in circulation caused some amusement among the members of both Houses, and there was laughter when that part of the message was read.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives

In view of the constant reiteration of the assertion that there was some corrupt action by or on behalf of the United States government in connection with the acquisition of the title of the French company to the Panama Canal, and of the repetition of the story that a syndicate of American citizens owned either one or both of the Panama companies, I deem it wise to submit to the Congress all the information I have on the subject. These stories were first brought to my attention as published in a paper in Indianapolis, called "The New York World," edited by the Delany brothers. The stories are so serious and libellous in character and false in every essential particular, that I feel it my duty to state the known character of Mr. Pulitzer and his newspaper, and to state the statements in connection with the acquisition of the title of the French company to the Panama Canal, and of the repetition of the story that a syndicate of American citizens owned either one or both of the Panama companies, I deem it wise to submit to the Congress all the information I have on the subject.

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