

The Salt Lake Tribune

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And now Col. Roosevelt's castor is indeed shod into the ring. A Whittier memorial in the National Capital is proposed. He well deserved it, and the people who provide it will honor themselves.

The report that "insanity is on the decrease in Kansas" is no doubt the utterance of a nature faker. For what would Kansas be without its freakery?

It is announced that the anniversary of the birth of the Chinese republic will be celebrated on February 12th, Lincoln's birthday anniversary. A good omen.

Senator Cummins now gets into the ring with a drastic anti-trust proposition. Sure he had to do something to offset the heating of the tom-tom, and to let the public have a reminder that he is yet a candidate.

The congress of tailors in New York decides that New Yorkers are the best dressed men in America. As New York tailors were in the majority in that congress, the declaration is only a round-about way of the tailors' praising their own work.

On and after July 4th next, the field of the National flag will contain forty-eight stars; and by official order, these will be arranged in six horizontal rows of eight stars each; and they will be so placed, star above star, so as to be in eight perpendicular rows of six stars each. The field will then be full.

That is a rather sharp remark which Colonel Bryan makes about Roosevelt considering his a guaranteed political bankrupt, or the guarantor would not find it necessary to come in himself. But Roosevelt will find President Taft a man of so many more resources than liabilities, that bankruptcy don't apply.

The News, in discussing Roosevelt's candidacy, concludes that after all, it wouldn't "be for a third term, as Roosevelt's first term was only as Vice-President," unless, as the News repeats, "as has been said, the substance and not the form must be considered." Ah, yes, "as has been said." But by whom? Why, by Roosevelt himself. And so, honestly considered, that settles the whole matter.

The San Francisco Chronicle very justly says: "It is time that Alaska were given a square deal. That Territory has immense natural resources, and the people who live there, and others with capital to invest, should be given an opportunity to develop them. It is proper that the resources of Alaska, like those of the rest of the country, should be conserved. But progress should not be stayed by conservatism that is unreasonable. Congress should give the matter its attention."

The proposition to drain and fill in the swamps of the Sacramento valley is one of the greatest proposed. They comprise a million acres; and the proposition as contemplated in the bill urged before Congress by Representative William Kent, in whose district the lands lie, is to combine drainage, filling, and the improving of the river for navigation, the cost being reckoned at \$33 an acre for the whole tract, or \$35,000,000 in all, this cost to be borne partly by the Nation, partly by the State, and partly by the owners of the land. The scheme is popular in California.

It is hard to get at the truth of the reports of Italian doings in the war with Turkey. First we had lurid accounts of outrageous inhumanities perpetrated upon the Turks and Arabs in Tripoli; but these sensational narrations were quickly disproved. And now we have a realistic account of the bombardment of Beirut by Italian warships. But later it transpires that all the Italian war ships did was to sink one or two Turkish gunboats, and didn't bombard the town at all. It's pretty safe to disregard accounts of Italian outrages in this war, because the Italians are not savages, and they have no idea of doing anything that

would bring down the censure of the world.

INTERVENTION SOUTHWARD.

It appears likely that the President will be given direct authority by congress to intervene in Mexican affairs so far as crossing the line to enforce the peace on the border and protect American citizens from bullets fired across the line are concerned. The resolution introduced in the Senate by Mr. Stone of Missouri last spring is apparently to be re-submitted and the authorization definitely made. It is likely that this sort of limited intervention may be precipitated at any time by some such occurrence as was several times manifested last spring, when the insurgents and the Federal forces fought so close to the line that bullets came across, killing and wounding American citizens. This sort of thing will not be tolerated any more, and the President has already given orders to the military on the border to stop that invasion of United States territory at all hazards. This will necessarily mean that in case of any further trouble of the kind mentioned, the United States will put a stop to the firing across the line, even at the risk of actually invading Mexico and quelling the disturbance. A peace zone will have to be established, within which it will be unlawful and punitive for any fighting to occur. It would be quite proper for the United States troops to enforce such a zone and protect the American citizens, even without any special authorization by Congress; but, in view of the complications that might occur, it is far better to have the explicit authority conveyed in the Stone resolution, and Congress should pass it without delay.

In this connection it may be mentioned that there is a party in Panama that wishes the intervention of the United States in the coming Presidential election in that miniature republic. For that matter, it is probably true, as has been repeatedly stated, that the substantial citizens of Panama, including the large business interests, would be glad to have the United States take the government of Panama in hand, superseding the local turmoils and grafts, and giving the remainder of Panama the steady, orderly, and peaceful government which prevails under Colonel Goethals in the canal zone. That military government is a direct lesson of American efficiency, firmness, and accomplishment on all desirable accounts. We have been of the opinion from the first that the United States would find it necessary to take over the whole of Panama and make it a territory or dependence in some form, so as to assure tranquility and settled conditions. The canal itself is of such tremendous importance that it cannot be jeopardized by any treacherous or ineffective government in the republic in which it lies. In case of trouble, there would be no certainty that the United States would have a friendly government in Panama, unless that government is its own; and the risk is too great to allow of any uncertainty in a matter of such tremendous importance. The United States may as well make up its mind to take over Panama absolutely, as it will have to do in the end; and it would be a good thing to take up this whole question with the United States of Colombia and settle all together our international activities in that relation, making a clean job of it, and compensating Colombia for the loss of that province, paying fairly therefor, and frankly taking it over as part of the United States jurisdiction.

CHINESE SHOULD REFORM.

It is known that the Chinese in the United States, and especially those in San Francisco and on the West coast generally, are governed not by the laws of the State or of the Federal Union, but by the laws of their "tongs." These tongs have "hatchet men" and assassins of various kinds and degrees, and when there is a feud between the tongs, blood, turmoil, and pillage ensue, entirely beyond the jurisdiction of the local officials, who find it impossible to get at the truth of the matter and to get evidence to punish anybody. The tongs attend to their own punishing, and pay no regard to the civil government of the country.

But now that China has become a republic, all this ought to change. There ought to be on the part of the Chinese in this country a complete renunciation of "tong" government, and a frank submission to the laws of the country, since all the members of these tongs profess themselves to be good republicans and in favor of popular government in China as well as in this country. But, if they do so favor popular government, they should recognize popular government, and should yield allegiance to the power of the people as expressed in their laws, and as expected to be carried out through the officers whom the people have chosen. A late number of the San Francisco Chronicle, however, in commenting upon the Chinese lawlessness, gives but little hope of reform in this matter. The Chronicle editorially says:

The fact, as reported in yesterday's Chronicle, that three Chinese tongs are banded together with the purpose of exterminating a fourth highlander society does not bespeak much progress on the part of the local Chinese of the lower classes. Also, the fact that Chinese gunmen boldly parade the streets of Chinatown, and that their societies have even rented cottages outside the Oriental quarter in which to house their murderous members, speaks not well for the police department.

It is impossible for the Chinese to convince the civilized world that they are fit for a republican form of government as long as this sort of thing can truthfully be reported about them. If they are not willing to yield obedience to the law, if they defy, deceive,

and resist the duly constituted officers and show such contempt for law and civic authority as they commonly do, and as is concretely named in the Chronicle comment, then the world will have little faith in "The Great Republic of China," and will conclude that the Chinese, so far from being a self-respecting, self-governing people, are simply composed of gangs of outlaws, each determined to have its own way, and each devoted to the perpetuation of blood feuds, robbery, and murder. If the Chinese really wish the world to believe that they are in favor of popular government, they should show better signs of deserving that belief than they have hitherto done during their residence in the United States.

THE ROOSEVELT CANDIDACY.

The bad faith and treachery involved in the Roosevelt candidacy must be plain to every one. The claim that when Roosevelt in 1901 disclaimed and renounced all purpose of being again a candidate for the Presidency, he meant only to renounce a consecutive candidacy, and not to renounce a candidacy after there had been an intervention of a full term, is a mere subterfuge. He knows, even better than any one can tell him, that such was neither the intent of his declaration, nor was it so accepted by the people of the United States. It was understood clearly and plainly to remove him absolutely from the running for President at any time; otherwise the declaration had no meaning whatever. Being made directly after the election, and long before his second term began, it was entirely superfluous to say what he did, unless he meant the declaration to be a complete renunciation for all time.

But, added to the bad faith, treachery, and deceit involved in the Roosevelt candidacy, there remains the Roosevelt declaration of principles and the example of his lawless attitude while President. Every one recalls that when in the Presidency, he considered that if a thing was, in his judgment, needful to be done, he proceeded to do it, law or no law, and even against positive statutes. His vindictive persecution of Senator Mitchell and others in the West and on the Coast, while exempting from like prosecution his favorites who were equally offenders, was based upon an illegal view of the law as the law is now interpreted by the Circuit Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit, in an opinion recently delivered in San Francisco in the noted "dummy entrymen" cases. And then, Roosevelt's speech to the Constitutional Convention at Columbus ranges him among the extreme theorists, the special advocate and defender of the initiative, referendum, and recall, including the recall of the judiciary, even to the wild declaration that the people are entitled to such legislation as they want, regardless of constitution or fundamental laws. He stated, to be sure, that the recall of the judiciary was not to be lightly or rashly exercised; but since no one has proposed to exercise it in that manner, and since, in order to get exercised at all, it must be provided by law, Roosevelt stands committed to that proposition just as fully as though he were advocating it to be exercised as a regular programme. For, in order to exercise the recall at all, the recall must be provided by law; but being provided by law, the people will exercise it according to their own judgment, and will not be restrained by the ideas of Roosevelt or anybody else.

Speaking generally of the Roosevelt irresponsible lawlessness, and the Roosevelt hostility to the judiciary, Representative Richard Bartholdi, Republican, representing the Tenth district of Missouri, residing in St. Louis, states the case very clearly and forcibly when he says: "President Taft believes in the rule of the people as much as Mr. Roosevelt does, with the difference that Mr. Roosevelt is ready to remove the safeguard which the constitution has provided for the protection of minorities through the judiciary. If judicial decisions are to be subject to a vote, then we might as well abolish the constitution and the courts. I do not believe the American people will approve any such revolutionary change." And neither does anybody else believe it who is in the possession of his calm, sober senses.

The Roosevelt announcement does not seem to have occasioned any great surprise to the American people; as a matter of fact, Roosevelt has been a candidate, under cover, all the time. Those who supported La Follette supported him merely as a stalking horse, expecting the La Follette boom to collapse, as it did, and being ready to switch to Roosevelt at the first intimation of that collapse. Pinchot was one of those worthless, Governor Johnson of California was another, and so it went all along the line. The La Follette men, save for a few in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, have never at any time considered the La Follette candidacy serious. They have been ready to make the switch at the first favorable opportunity, and apparently Col. Roosevelt was hand in glove with this treacherous scheme, for he made his candidacy more and more pronounced every day upon the La Follette collapse.

Nor does the Roosevelt announcement create any panic in the Taft ranks. The members of Congress, and the politicians generally, have evidently discounted the Roosevelt move. They have seen through it very clearly ever since the plea developed, and very plainly as soon as the false supporters of La Follette began to switch to Roosevelt. And so neither enthusiasm on the one hand nor panic on the other accompanied the official and open announcement of the Roosevelt candidacy. Everybody expected it; every-

body discounted it, and everybody of truth and honor views the whole despicable programme with the contempt that it deserves.

PERSISTENCE OF PENSIONS.

It is astonishing, in looking over the report of the Commissioner of Pensions, to see that the roll of pensioners on the list the present year shows, for the first time, the absence of any Revolutionary pensioner. The pension report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1910, showed the presence thereof of one such pensioner, a daughter of a soldier of the Revolutionary war. The report for the year ended June 30, 1911, drops this one pensioner, by reason of death.

The pension report for 1910 showed widows of soldiers of the war of 1812 to the number of 338 on the roll; for 1911 the report carries the number of such widows at 279, a loss of 59 of those widows in the year. The war of 1812, a century ago, still leaves us, as appears, 279 widows, pensioners on account of that war.

It is probable, therefore, that the year 1965 will still show upon the pension rolls some hundreds, perhaps thousands, of widows of soldiers of the War of the Rebellion. There are 2629 widows of Indian wars upon the roll, and 5982 widows of Mexican war soldiers.

The pension report showed that there were on the roll June 30, 1911, a total of 295,707 widows of the War of the Rebellion. That war ended in 1865. If these widows survive in the same relation that the widows of the War of 1812 do, there will be a good many thousand of them alive and drawing pensions in 1965, one hundred years after the close of the War of the Rebellion, just as there are 279 widows of the War of 1812 on the roll, a hundred years after the termination of that war.

Now, we make no point against the presence of these widows on the pension roll. Undoubtedly, they are there of right and by law. We simply call attention to the inevitable effects of our pension legislation in holding out pension benefits for such a great length of time after the close of the way upon which those claims are founded. It is simply a sociological or economic point, and not one in any respect finding fault with the drawing of pensions by those widows who are on the roll.

But it is a question that Congress might well take up and legislate upon, so that the country will understand exactly what it is doing in pensioning for long lives young girls who may marry very old veterans of the war in order to provide themselves with a fair income that may last for three score or more years. And when it comes, as it has already come, to the pension of minor children, hundreds of whom are on the roll now on account of the War of the Rebellion, we almost of necessity recall the case of the daughter of a veteran of the Revolutionary war who remained on the roll until 1910, or more than a hundred and twenty-five years after the close of the War of the Revolution. It is clear, then, that we may expect such pensions up to and including the year 1990, or seventy-eight years hence.

ANARCHISTIC DOCTRINE.

The difficulties of Samuel Gompers, head of the Federation of Labor, with the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, are notorious throughout the country. When Mr. Gompers appears before that court he is very humble; when he is out of the presence of the court he is very humptious. When arraigned for contempt, he pleaded that he meant nothing but a quotation from Shakespeare when he baited the court in his harangues and writings. After his recent experience where he ate humble pie in the court, he went away and gave utterance to the following:

I contend that when the court transacts its right, the citizen should decide for himself. If he is of the opinion that the court went too far, he must decide for himself.

It must be plain to every person, and undoubtedly it must be plain to Mr. Gompers himself, that the carrying out of a doctrine like that is simply anarchy. It denies to the authorities constituted by constitution and statute law the control over the affairs under their jurisdiction. It breaks down all barriers, and leaves every man to decide for himself not only what his rights are, but what the rights of the courts are. If a citizen does not think that he is properly treated by the court, he may ignore the court and go his own way, and according to Mr. Gompers, no court has any right to interfere with him.

No plainer enunciation of the ultimate doctrine of anarchy could possibly be set forth than this. Plainly speaking, it makes every man a law unto himself, and obliges him to obey the courts only when the decisions of the courts please him; when they do not please him, he is at liberty to ignore them, and should not be interfered with in so doing.

It is astonishing that any man in any sort of responsible position would utter a doctrine like that. It is the wildest kind of revolution, and means the assertion that every man is an independent government in, of, and for himself. Mr. Gompers has been cutting a very pitiful figure ever since his unreserved endorsement of the McNamara, which a good many people with considerable justice regard as hypocritical, for it seems impossible that he could have failed to be aware of their guilt. And now this wild declaration of chaos and anarchy will necessarily force him a good many steps lower on the ladder of public esteem.

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