

THE EVENING FARMER

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1909.

BULKELEY'S PLEDGE TO GOV. McLEAN

STATEMENT MADE THAT SENATOR PROMISED NOT TO TRY FOR ANOTHER TERM.

Down in this part of the state there comes a general statement on the part of certain Republicans, says the New Haven correspondent of the Hartford Times, that there was a gentlemen's agreement made between Senator Bulkeley and ex-Governor McLean that the former would not enter the senatorial fight for another term. It was stated that this agreement was made in the presence of a third party, a prominent Hartford country man, Frank and the Republican hereabouts who have heard of this agreement are wondering how much foundation there is to the story. They think that if such an agreement was made that it could be easily verified and that the witness of such an understanding is one of those "feared" independent Republicans who wouldn't hesitate to come out publicly and declare whether the story was a dream or a fact. The friends of Governor McLean in this part of the state who have heard of the agreement do not hesitate to say that if Senator Bulkeley was a party to any such agreement he should pull right out of the senatorial race and leave the field free and open to Governor McLean or whoever wanted to oppose his candidacy. One of the McLean men made this statement: "From what I can learn after an investigation of this report I am satisfied that Governor McLean would never have gone into the senatorial fight had he believed for a moment that Senator Bulkeley would run against him. We all know how intimate these two gentlemen have been in the past politically, and we all know that they have been the very warmest kind of friends. It is true now that they are friends and that they are in the same sense as that which marked their intimacy in days gone by. With this well-known friendship between these two leaders of the Republican party, it doesn't strike the McLean men in Connecticut that McLean would deliberately go into a contest for a seat now occupied by Senator Bulkeley. An ardent Union League club supporter of Senator Bulkeley when he was asked about this reported agreement between the senator and the ex-governor characterized the story as merely a game of talk. He added: "If there was a third party present at the time it was said that the two men made the agreement it would be a very easy matter in my judgment to get a statement from the third party that would settle all further controversy on this point. I think myself that had such an agreement been made the statement of the witness thereto or of any other witness would have long ago appeared in print and set at rest the disputed point. I don't think that Senator Bulkeley with his well-known political shrewdness would handicap himself for his political ambitions by making any such arrangement with Governor McLean or any other Republican in the state."

PILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS

Democratic Mayors in Willimantic and Rockville

Willimantic, Dec. 7.—Daniel P. Dunn was elected Democratic mayor for the third time at the city election here yesterday, defeating W. B. Knight by 340 votes. The Democrats elected the city clerk and treasurer and two of the three aldermen. The Republicans will control the board of aldermen, 4 to 3.

Rockville, Dec. 7.—The Democrats elected the entire city ticket at the election here yesterday. George Foster being re-elected mayor over his Republican opponent by 469 votes. The council stands, 10 Democrats to two Republicans.

Farmington, Dec. 7.—At the city election here yesterday, Archibald McDonald, Republican, was elected mayor over his Democratic opponent, Oscar LaRue by 116 votes. The council for the coming year will stand five Republicans and four Democrats.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER TOO ILL FOR STATEMENT

Highway Commissioner James H. Macdonald was still too ill at his home in New Haven last night, to make any further statement in connection with the controversy that has arisen over road-building in this state. Mr. Macdonald, it was said, was slowly but surely improving in health.

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MAYOR TO ALDERMEN

Mayor Buckingham's message to the Board of Aldermen conveys the impression of a close knowledge of and familiarity with the governmental affairs of the city, and such is undoubtedly the fact, for his prolonged experience as City Clerk has made him fully acquainted with municipal conditions.

He recommends the application of business principles and rightly asserts that the city's finances should be placed "on a sound basis." True economy is not, he says, the overlooking of needed public improvements, but rather such as "will not delay progress or postpone necessary improvements."

Equalization of taxation, by which is meant the full value assessments which are required by law, has been promised, and that promise "must be scrupulously kept."

The Mayor suggests that the electric light investigation be continued, as a possible means of obtaining reductions in both public and private rates.

He recommends the purchase of dock frontage adjoining the small city dock at the foot of Wall street.

Mentioning the fact that the new State tax will add a mill to the annual tax rate, he suggests economy of expenditure—else it "will rise beyond reasonable bounds."

He indicates a disposition to push the placing of the principal arteries of travel in first class condition, a most worthy purpose.

He expresses regret over the loss of harbor area, and suggests a careful watch against further injury to the harbor. But for the doubt whether the contract entered into by the previous administration with the railroad can be overturned, he might, and probably would, have made a recommendation upon that matter.

But for the reference to equalization of taxation, the message might have won the approval of the Taxpayers' League. If, however, it meets the wishes of the thousands of other voters, Mayor Buckingham can dispense with the league's approval.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Taft's message to Congress deals at somewhat greater length than has been the Presidential custom with foreign affairs, perhaps in recognition of the current belief that this country has become "a world power" instead of an isolated and negligible item in the list of nations.

A very significant statement in the message is that "the apprehension which gave rise to the Monroe Doctrine may be said to have nearly disappeared" and that neither it nor any other American policy "should be permitted to operate for the perpetuation of irresponsible government, the escape of just obligations, or the insidious allegation of dominating ambitions on the part of the United States."

Upon the matter of tariff revision, the President has appointed the new Tariff board, with instructions "to secure information as to the cost of production of such goods in this country and the cost of their production in foreign countries." This is the information which should have been secured by the Congressional tariff-revising committees, but was not. The President states that if such information shows "that the rates of duties imposed by the present tariff are excessive" under the Republican protective principle formulated last year—that is, more than the difference in cost of production, with "a reasonable profit"—he will not hesitate to invite action by Congress. But he anticipates that the work of investigation "will take two or three years."

The President considers "economy in expenditures and sufficiency of revenue" as "perhaps the most important question" pending. He states that the estimates for expenses for the year ending June 30th next aggregate \$42,818,000 less than the appropriations, and that the Treasury anticipates a surplus of \$35,931,000. Departmental estimates, he says, "have been cut to the quick," while "projects and improvements" have been postponed.

He advocates the dismissal, with pensions, of "old employees who have outlived their energy and usefulness" as "indispensable to any proper system of economy."

In the matter of probing the sugar frauds, the President deprecates an investigation by Congress as it "might by giving immunity and otherwise prove an embarrassment in securing conviction of the guilty parties." Can the President mean that a Congressional committee would knowingly permit "those higher up" in the Sugar Trust to escape punishment by calling them as witnesses and granting immunity in exchange for evidence? If so, he has become distrustful of "the powers that be," in Congress, and in our judgment, with good reason.

With regard to the maximum and minimum clause of the tariff act, President Taft cites the words "unduly discriminatory" and interprets them as meaning that the maximum rates are not to be imposed unless he finds discriminations that are "without good and fair reason." He does not expect any tariff war on account of the clause in the tariff act, and says: "No one is seeking a tariff war or a condition in which the spirit of retaliation shall be aroused." This assurance will quiet Canadian apprehensions and perhaps check Canadian threats of retaliation.

In the interest of economy, the President has ordered a reduction of \$48,000,000 in War Department estimates, by "cutting off new projects and suspending for one year all progress in military matters," including therein non-recruiting of the army up to its present authorized strength. He recommends the retirement of officers who "do not show such aptitude and skill and character for high command" as to justify their eventual promotion.

Of our coast defenses, the President thinks that "in some respects they are rather more elaborate than under present conditions are needed to stop an enemy's fleet from entering the harbors defended." He suggests, however, the erection of a fort at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, and the establishment of "an extensive naval base of Pearl Harbor, near Honolulu, and not in the Philippines."

He has cut down the estimates for naval appropriations by \$38,000,000, and for new naval construction to two first-class battleships and one repair vessel. This indicates that he sees no necessity for this country to take part in the British-German competition over the construction of great fleets of dreadnaughts.

The President classes as "the greatest need in our American institutions" a "change in judicial procedure, with a view to reducing its expense to private litigants in civil cases and facilitating the dispatch of business and final decision in both civil and criminal cases." He recommends a commission of investigation, which shall "make recommendation with a view to simplifying and expediting the procedure as far as possible and making it as inexpensive as may be to the litigant of little means."

With regard to injunctions, the President recommends the enactment of a law forbidding the issuance of any injunction without previous notice and hearing, unless the court finds from evidence that otherwise "immediate and irreparable injury is likely to ensue," and in such case the injunction shall expire in seven days or less.

Suggestions of amendments of the Anti-Trust and Interstate Commerce laws are promised, to appear in a special message.

Referring to the annual deficit in the Post Office Department, the President suggests the imposition of a higher rate of postage upon magazines and periodicals, they being "much heavier than newspapers" and containing "a much higher proportion of advertising to reading matter," while "the average distance of their transportation is three and a half times as great."

"The real necessity and entire practicability of establishing postal savings banks," is urged by the President. He believes that "they will be productive of the utmost good," and he does not approve the Aldrich plan of postponing action until after the report of the Monetary Commission. He does "not see why the one should be tied up with the other," from which we infer that he does not favor making postal savings banks mere subsidiaries of a great central bank.

He advocates ship subsidies for lines between our Atlantic seaboard and the eastern coast of South America, as well as lines from the west coast of the United States to South America, China, Japan, and the Philippines.

He promises an early special message on the conservation of na-

tional resources, including improvement of waterways, reforestation, and preservation of water-power sites.

He recommends that candidates for Congress and campaign committees be required to file statements of contributions and expenditures, a point not covered by the existing law. Presumably the recommendation refers to candidates for the Senate as well as the House.

In conclusion President Taft predicts "a substantial business expansion," and attributes the high cost of living to the increase in gold production and "the more expensive mode of living," but refuses to accredit the tariff with any responsibility. Upon the latter point, his new Tariff board may throw a light to change his opinion.

As compared with his predecessor's messages, President Taft's deliverance is brief. It contains no pyrotechnics and does not even remotely refer to "malefactors of great wealth"; possibly, this omission will be remedied in the promised special messages. Its most praiseworthy feature is the reference to the necessity of economy. We recommend its careful consideration; possibly, readers will reach the conclusion that the Rooseveltian policies here indeed been abandoned.

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