

The River Press.

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FOUND A MARE'S NEST.

A sensational story regarding an alleged heavy contribution to republican campaign funds has been spoiled by testimony given in a New York court. It was recently announced that a mysterious disbursement of about \$500,000 appeared upon the books of the Metropolitan street railway company, of New York, and as there was no information as to the purpose for which this large amount was paid out, several partisan newspapers made the accusation that it was contributed to the republican campaign fund by officials of that corporation.

The incident became the subject of more or less vigorous editorials in democratic newspapers, in which the acceptance of such a large donation by the republican committee was represented as evidence of a corrupt bargain. In a column or more of editorial space, a Montana democratic organ expressed its horror that such relations should exist between the republican party and corporate interests. It argued that a contribution of \$500,000 from one corporation indicated the payment of millions by other corporate interests, and that the enormous campaign fund provided from these sources was sufficient to affect the result of a presidential election.

But now comes Thomas F. Ryan, president of the Metropolitan street railway company, as a witness in a damage suit in a New York court, during which he was questioned regarding the disappearance of that \$500,000 from the funds of his company. Mr. Ryan's evidence was a shock to the authors of the story that it was donated to the republican campaign committee, his sworn testimony being to the effect that it was paid to William C. Whitney, a democrat of national reputation, by whom it was to be applied to the purchase of a ferry franchise.

It appears from Mr. Ryan's statement that the campaign boodle story printed by partisan newspapers was a mare's nest, but none of them have yet acknowledged their mistake.

WOULD NOMINATE ROOSEVELT.

An interesting contribution to current political literature has resulted from the offer of a prize of \$1,000 by Senator Jonathan Bourne, of Oregon, who insists that President Roosevelt should be re-nominated and re-elected—*notwithstanding his statement that under no circumstances will he accept another nomination.* Senator Bourne offered a prize of \$1,000 for the best argument in support of another term for Mr. Roosevelt, and the award has been made to Judge Norcross, of Nevada, whose paper is in part to this effect:

Mr. Roosevelt has not declared that he will decline the office should he receive the electorate vote of the nation. We need not fear that he would think of refusing it. He is too good a soldier and too patriotic an American to refuse to obey the command of the people to stay in the harness until he finishes the good work he has inaugurated.

If the American people will stop to think for a moment they will realize that, "barring death or serious illness, President Roosevelt must and will be selected and elected for a second elective term." The people are with him in the great work he has undertaken. They have the utmost faith in his honesty of purpose. They appreciate his transcendent ability to deal with the great problems now confronting the state. They realize his courage, his initiative, his vast experience, his tremendous capacity for effective work. They believe in his purpose to enforce the law impartially, without respect to person, wealth, or station. They have an abiding faith in the ultimate good that will result to this nation from his persistent campaign against legal and moral wrongdoing. They comprehend the value of having such a man as Chief Executive.

No other man has such a hold upon the confidence of the people. No other man can gain such confidence without years of trial. The people know what Roosevelt is; they do not know what some other man may become. The policies of Roosevelt are in course of execution. Few, at this time, have reached ultimate conclusion. To place another man at the head of this government would mean, for some time to come, delay, uncertainty, if not possible disappointment in the successful carrying out of the problems of government the President has essayed to solve.

For President Roosevelt to be permitted to give up the reins of government at the end of his first elective term because of such illogical and paltry reasons as have been offered, against the wish of the great mass of the people, in the present condition of governmental affairs, would be worse than folly.

There is but one logical and reasonable thing to do under the circum-

ABOUT TIME.



—Briggs in Chicago Tribune.

stances, and that is for the Republican national convention at Chicago to nominate Mr. Roosevelt as the choice of the Republican party for President. It might not be so logical, but it would be the sensible thing for the Democratic convention to take a similar course. If Mr. Roosevelt feels that he cannot consistently accept another nomination, the people will not insist that he do so. They will, however, insist that he be on hand when the time comes for his inauguration.

STATE RAILROAD COMMISSION.

Montana citizens who seek the aid of the state railroad commission in transportation matters that require attention, must observe certain rules and regulations recently adopted by the board. The method of procedure is described in instructions which state that it is a rule of the commission that all complaints must be made in writing and addressed to "The Railroad Commission of Montana, Helena, Mont." The commission does not require of those appearing before it a compliance with technical rules of pleading or of evidence, its object being to get the substance of complaints, answers, requests or evidence to the extent that it is bound thereby.

Before any hearing is had upon a complaint both parties will be notified and notice given, as may be directed, of the time and place thereof by the secretary. Before causing notice to be issued to the party complained of, the commission may notify the party against whom complaint is made, and in order to avoid the expense and inconvenience of a formal trial or hearing before the commission, request such party complained of to comply with the request, or invite them to an informal conference with relation thereto.

Any person, firm, company, corporation, association, society body politic, city or municipal corporation may complain to the commission and be heard either in person or by counsel at the commissioner's office or at public hearings as the commission may direct, upon any question or questions within the commission's authority to investigate, remedy or regulate.

Persons or carriers not made parties to any proceeding may petition or request to be heard therein, and upon showing sufficient interest to entitle them, may be allowed to appear, and when allowed to appear shall have equal rights with the parties thereto. All parties served by mail with any paper must at once notify the secretary and the opposing party of the receipt of the paper served.

The carrier or party complained of must answer within ten days from the date the complaint was received, but the commission may in any particular case shorten or lengthen the time as they may see fit.

Witnesses appearing before the commission, or wishing to be heard by giving testimony, must be sworn before their testimony will be considered unless the commission otherwise directs. This rule shall apply to all persons who offer to give any testimony before the commission; provided, that any attorney making a statement of his case, as attorney, shall not be required to be sworn, for the purpose of giving such statement.

All witnesses shall be subject to cross-examination within the limits of the purpose of the hearing at which they are testifying, either by the opposite party or their or its attorney, and by the members of the commission or their attorney.

Fronting the coast of north Australia is the Great Barrier reef, the largest coral reef in the world. It is over 1,000 miles long and thirty miles wide.

Opposed To Tariff Tinkering.

Kansas City Journal.

Nobody ever accused the present speaker of the house of representatives of being a "trimmer." He has never placed himself at the head of any "Illinois idea" for the sake of truckling to popular clamor, and it is not surprising to find him unfavorable to the present agitation for tariff tinkering. In the first place, this sudden fervor for immediately lowering the tariff is merely one of the clap-trap "demands" which usually preface a presidential campaign. Few people will deny that the tariff schedules might be revised advantageously, and there is little doubt that at the proper time and in the proper way the schedules will be adjusted to the changing industrial conditions. But the proper time is not now and the proper way is not in the haste and confusion of a campaign.

The elimination of the entire tariff question from partisan politics is the only sane solution of the problem. The tariff is not a legitimate subject of political controversy, but the fight was forced upon the republican party, or, rather, inherited by it, and for half a century it has been the champion of American commerce, foreign and domestic. The present law has remained unchanged longer than any other in the history of the country, and it is easy to believe that inequalities and inequities have been brought about by changing industrial conditions. But the protection of home industry and home labor is an orthodox American principle, and the republican party will see to it that this principle is maintained.

Wasted Labor.

A candidate for parliamentary honors found himself in front of a house near which a number of children were playing.

"Madam, I may kiss these beautiful children, may I not?"

"Certainly," replied the mother. When he had finished his wholesale contract he turned to the woman and said:

"Seldom have I seen lovelier children. Yours, madam?" The woman blushed deeply.

"Ah, of course they are," gallantly suggested the politician. "The little treasures, from whom else could they have inherited those limpid eyes, those rosy cheeks, and those musical voices?" But still the lady blushed.

"By the way, madam," said he, "may I impose upon your good nature to the extent of asking that you tell your estimable husband that Mr. Cockrell called upon him."

"Excuse me, sir," said the woman, "I have no husband."

"But these children, madam—surely you are not a widow?"

"I fear there's some mistake, sir. This is an orphan asylum."

Brief and Pertinent.

Siberia contains one-tenth of all the land on the globe. Great Britain and all Europe, except Russia, together with the whole of the United States, could be inclosed within its boundaries.

The carnauba palm of Brazil is said to be the world's most useful tree. It furnishes everything from medicine to cattle food. Its roots make a valuable drug, a blood purifier. Its timber takes a high polish and is in demand among cabinet makers for fine work. The sap becomes wine or vinegar, according to the way it is prepared, and starch and sugar are also obtained from this sap. The fruit of the tree is a cattle food, the nut is a good coffee substitute and the pith makes corks.

Fine Book and Job Printing a specialty at the RIVER PRESS office.

Want Ten Thousand Men.

SEATTLE, April 14.—A special cable to the Post-Intelligencer from Fairbanks says: At the annual meeting of the Mine Owners and Operators' association, held here last night, it was decided immediately to wire John Ronan, the outside representative, authorizing him to contract for an additional 10,000 men in Seattle at terms of \$5 and board per day for ten hours to come to Fairbanks upon the opening of navigation.

VICTORIA, April 14.—With every berth occupied and men sleeping on shakedown spread about the saloon and elsewhere, the steamer Princess May left tonight for Skagway and Prince Rupert. The departure of the steamer was reminiscent of the days of the Klondike rush. Most of the travelers are bound to Prince Rupert, where the contractors expect to have 6,000 men to work by the end of May.

American Fleet is Welcomed.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., April 14.—Fete days for the American battleship fleet began this afternoon when the sixteen armored cruisers of the navy's most notable cruise cast anchor in the waters of the Pacific off Coronado Beach—two miles from San Diego as the crow flies. San Diego is crowded with visitors and sightseers and never before in the history of the city has there been such an elaborate decoration of streets and buildings.

Governor Gillette was here officially to welcome the fleet and his call upon Rear Admiral Thomas, commanding in the absence of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, who took the fleet out of Hampton Roads last December, was repaid during the afternoon. Local committees also went to the Connecticut to tell Admiral Thomas and through him all the men of the fleet how glad the people of the state are to see such a splendid representative of the American navy as the "battleship fleet" constituted.

Opposed Big Expenditures.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—By a vote of 190 to 83, the house of representatives today decided against the president's program for four battleships, and adhered to the recommendation of its committee on naval affairs, for two vessels of that type. This result was reached after a debate which lasted for four hours, and was received with applause.

Chairman Tawney of the committee on appropriations pointed out the danger in which the treasury is being placed by the immense increase made in the appropriations authorized in the several supply measures. He compared the appropriations in various countries in preparation for war and on account of the wars, and said the startling fact was developed that the United States was spending more than any other nation in the world.

"We are this year," he said, "expending \$89,975,238 more than England; \$138,067,838 more than Germany and \$152,859,936 more than France."

Tigers Well Welcome Democrats.

DENVER, April 15.—Monster tigers constructed of papier-mache, located at the principal four corners of the city, will welcome the delegates to Denver when they come to the democratic convention July 7. This emblem has been selected instead of the prosaic donkey, as the striped king of the jungle lends himself more readily to the purposes of ornamentation. A special committee of citizens is at work devising plans for the suitable decoration of the city during the convention. The decision is to erect a mammoth figure of a tiger at the junction of Sixteenth street and Broadway, as the central piece of decoration, as the first step in the work of the committee. Thousands of electric lights will be strung on wires across the streets and flags and bunting will be freely used in the decorative scheme.

For Enlarged Homesteads.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Provision for an enlarged homestead in semi-arid states was made by passage of the Smoot bill in the senate today. Amendments were adopted by which the bill applies only to Colorado, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Arizona and New Mexico. It authorizes the taking up of homesteads of 320 acres of "arid," non-irrigable lands.

Minnesota Republicans For Taft.

MINNEAPOLIS, April 16.—The Minnesota republican state convention today elected four delegates at large to the national convention at Chicago, and instructed them to vote for the nomination of Secretary of War Taft until he is "selected by the convention."

The action of the convention today insures that the 22 votes of Minnesota in the national convention will be cast for the secretary of war, as all the 18 delegates are under Taft instructions.

In addition to naming delegates at large, the convention named four

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alternate at large, nominated 11 presidential electors, adopted a platform endorsing the administration of President Roosevelt and "especially his efforts for the establishment of a sound financial system, the enforcement of the laws and proper regulation of corporations," and declared for revision of the tariff by a republican congress.

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