

The San Francisco Call

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ACCORDING to an article in the Washington Post, which has had general circulation by telegraph, former President Roosevelt has given unqualified indorsement to President Taft and his administration. According to the Washington Post's mystifying cocksureness, the former president, who was always in a row with congress when congress was not on its knees crying for mercy, disapproves of any present day opposition to congressmen who have mocked the people.

The same exclusive repository of the former president's confidences announces that Roosevelt will have no more of public life and consequently will refuse to talk politics. He will depart from that new rule of life long enough to make one or two speeches in the west. If one may accept the Post's forecast of those speeches they will surpass in skill anything ever done by Roosevelt. They are to be indorsements of Gifford Pinchot's conservation policies, of his work for the nation and of his decapitation at the behest of Secretary Ballinger.

The Post leaves none of the questions agitating the public mind unanswered. With one sentence it disposes of Roosevelt as a possible candidate for the presidency. With another it commits him to the renomination and re-election of Taft and to the return of the congressmen who have played ducks and drakes with his policies, as they dared not attempt to do while he was president. Nor is that all; the Post eliminates Roosevelt from the public life of the nation and then proceeds to accomplish the seemingly impossible by sealing Roosevelt's lips. As a sort of insurance against spontaneous combustion, it purposes to permit Roosevelt to indulge himself in some writing, but not on political subjects.

All this information, it is alleged, is culled from letters written by Roosevelt. As is customary with great matters of state policy, these letters are wrapped in a shroud of impenetrable mystery. Out of consideration for the feelings and expressed desires of Roosevelt, no excerpts are quoted.

The Washington Post is the property of John R. McLean. For reasons that are not altogether private, Mr. McLean's Washington newspaper always has been and for some time, at least, is sure to be the organ of the administration. Neither the personnel, the policies nor the partisan complexion of the administration would alienate the Washington Post from its service and defense.

Without doubt the public generally will take that fact into consideration before putting the demand for Roosevelt into perpetual cold storage at the Post's suggestion. That Roosevelt has taken the Post into his confidence or that he has committed himself to any course of action months before his return to this country is highly improbable.

That Roosevelt has promised to remain silent on vital questions will not be believed by the American public until it has heard it directly from Roosevelt himself. That the Washington Post should start a back fire is as significant as some of the promises it assumes to Roosevelt. There are those militant Americans who will construe the Post's story to mean that the popular cry for Roosevelt has been heard at the White House.

THESE are squally times in national politics. The standpatters are on the run, but full of wrath. Aldrich, Hale, Flint and Piles of Washington in the senate have read the message of popular sentiment and have announced their retirement from politics.

As things stand it looks as if the standpat element so long entrenched in power in the senate would be left without a leader of any force, standing or importance in congress, and by consequence Washington is noisy with speculation as to the political future.

The retirement of the big standpatters is by itself a portentous fact, but the rank and file of that faction is filled with rage and they are ready to pull down the temple about their ears if they can not continue in control. It is this fact that makes the future of national politics so uncertain.

The standpatters, or "regulars," as they like to call themselves, are threatening to oppose the re-election to the senate of the "insurgents" whose terms are on the eve of expiry. In Indiana and Wisconsin, for instance, the "regulars" have practically read themselves out of the republican party and are fighting the re-election of Beveridge and La Follette. Their wrath is so extreme that they would prefer the election of democrats to the success of either senator from these states.

The uncertainty is not confined to Indiana and Wisconsin and, as the Springfield Republican says:

Scanning swiftly the possibilities under present political conditions, the states of New York, Ohio and Indiana are certainly trembling on the brink of political convulsions, and in each of those states United States senators are to be chosen by the next legislature to succeed Dewey, Dick and Beveridge, respectively. If democratic governors can be elected next November in New York and Ohio, the bright prospect for democratic legislatures must be conceded. In Indiana Mr. Beveridge is in a difficult position, because he must win in spite of the indifference and possibly the antagonism of the regular republicans of the state, some of whom have not hesitated to proclaim their wish for his retirement, even at the cost of giving a second Indiana senatorship to the democrats. Insurgent republican senators in other states, indeed, who must now seek re-election, are threatened in the same way by the animosity of the regulars of the party. Mr. La Follette of Wisconsin undoubtedly will need support from the radical wing of the Wisconsin democracy if he is to be returned, for the republican stalwarts are so bitterly opposed to him that a democrat in his seat would seem preferable to the senator's re-election.

Dewey of New York and Dick of Ohio are standpatters, but they have been politically discredited in such degree that persistence in their candidacy is a distinct injury to the republican party. Julius Caesar Burrows of Michigan is in like case and the people of his state resent his recent confession that he acted in the senate as a sort of messenger boy and led captain for Aldrich. The recent defeat of Boss Aldridge in the Rochester district of New York is

A Woman of "No Occupation"



—Providence Sunday Journal

proof that this is not a year when a yellow dog can win because he happens to be the nominee of the dominant party.

It is this fact that party names and labels have ceased to bear any practical significance that makes the future of congress so uncertain.

IF only because of the prominence of the signers, public attention will be commanded by a memorial stating some objections against the proposed direct primary law in New York. Attached to the memorial are such names as Seth Low, Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia university and Jacob Schurman of Cornell. The bill under consideration is the one advocated by Governor Hughes. The opposition of the eminent signatories to the memorial is not explained in a satisfactory way by the reasons stated in the document because the objections urged have been refuted a hundred times, and, moreover, for the most part they do not rest on grounds of fact. The memorialists oppose the bill for these reasons:

Queer Objections to Direct Primary

First, that the two nominations of Governor Hughes are themselves proof that the convention system brings out an honest expression of the preference of the voters as to the head of the ticket.

Second, that the plan which Governor Hughes suggests is different from the primary plans of which trial has been made in the various states.

Third, that the abolition of the convention involves a tremendous departure from the conditions that have been recognized in the past.

It is not without significance that these objections are virtually the same as those so constantly urged by the professional politicians everywhere. The first objection, which has been paraded constantly in all the machine organs, completely ignores the political facts that compelled the nomination of Hughes in the face of the most determined opposition from the petty bosses of the republican organization in New York. Hughes was nominated the first time because it was obvious that, after disclosures of the life insurance investigation, he was the only man who could save the state for the republican party. In fact, Hughes was the only republican elected on the ticket. When Hughes came up for nomination a second time he had made himself so obnoxious to the petty bosses of both parties that they vowed he should not be the candidate. It was only on direct and positive orders from Roosevelt, conveyed through Root, that they yielded. The convention was absolutely in their control and nothing short of Roosevelt's intervention could have saved the party from a disgraceful nomination.

The second objection concerns details only and is altogether negligible. The changes of plan are made on the suggestion of Hughes and do not affect the principle of the direct primary.

Finally, the objection that the direct primary is "a tremendous departure" from the old practice scarcely does more than serve to amuse. If these learned advocates of a rotten system had any practical experience of the way conventions have been worked in the past they would understand that no form of departure could fail to be an improvement. If we suppose, for example, that these learned college professors had been around the purlieus of the California republican convention of 1906 they would not now be found objecting to any sort of departure, no matter how tremendous.

In view of Mr. Taft's early declarations in favor of an economical administration, the politicians in Washington are wondering what he will do with the river and harbor appropriations bill, which, in its present condition, provides fifty-two million dollars for public improvements. The fortunes of many statesmen hang on the fate of this bill. The money which they have been able to secure for their districts represents about the sum of their political accomplishment.

Appropriations Tremble in the Balance

There is no better way to spend national funds than in the improvement of rivers and harbors. The work is of direct and positive benefit to communities in need of help, but unfortunately this fact has been made the excuse for gross abuses and criminal waste of public money. In regard to the present bill Senator Burton of Ohio, who knows this subject thoroughly, pointed out that money was provided for projects that had been condemned by the army engineers. Other projects of undetermined merit were provided for in advance of reports from the army board. He showed the waste arising from the system of partial appropriations which postpones the fulfillment of some projects for as long as seventy-five years.

There is no question that a great deal of log rolling and trading of votes has gone to the making of the present bill. It has been a lavish allotment of "pork" of the sort so roundly condemned by Mr. Taft in one of his speeches. There is so much of this that the question is raised whether the really beneficial and meritorious features will outweigh the defects in the president's final appraisal of the measure.

If he should veto the bill, as President Arthur did with a corresponding measure in 1884, this congress would not dare to follow the example of overriding the president's will, as congress did in 1884 with such unfortunate results politically.

DIVERSIONS OF SMARTSET MANY

Variety Evident in Events of Younger People

WITH the wedding news and the round of informal dances, not to mention the occasional luncheons that have a place in the order of society events, the days are not lacking in diversion for the younger people. One of the luncheons of yesterday that was a pretty affair was in compliment to Miss Agnes Tobin, who has lately returned from abroad and has been feted at many delightful parties. The luncheon yesterday was given by Mrs. James Farrell at her home in Octavia street and was enjoyed by several of the older friends-of-the-hostess. The table decorations were in the hands of gold effect, with the same color scheme used in the place cards. Among those at the table were: Mrs. Henry T. Ferguson, Mrs. Joseph Oliver To, Miss Elizabeth Zane, Mrs. George Cameron, Mrs. Bert Holladay, Mrs. M. Kirvin, Mrs. Samuel Holladay, Miss Katharine Farrell, Mrs. J. R. Hanify, Mrs. James Shea, Mrs. John Galway.

The wedding of the week that will be an event of Wednesday evening and will be attended by 100 guests is that of Miss Constance Cummings and Ensign George Joerns of the navy. The ceremony will take place at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. M. E. Cummings, and the officiating clergyman will be Rev. William Rader. The bride will be attended by her two sisters as matrons of honor, Mrs. Harry Child and Mrs. George Alexander Knox. The bridesmaids will be Miss Madeline Cummings and Miss Louise Mooser. The best man will be Shelby Cummings. The ceremony has been hastened on account of the leave of absence that Ensign Joerns has just received, the wedding having originally been planned for June. The bride elect has been entertained frequently in the last fortnight, the most recent affair being a shower party given by Miss Louise Mooser. Miss Mooser, by the way, is the fiancée of Shelby Cummings.

The wedding of Miss Genevieve Harvey and Ward Barron will be an event of Wednesday, June 1, and probably will be a church affair. The plans for the ceremony are not complete and the attendants have not been chosen, but the ceremony will be one of the memorable ones of the season in a social way. The reception for relatives and the members of the bridal party will be held at the home of the bride's grandmother, Mrs. Eleanor Martin.

Another navy wedding of note will take place Wednesday afternoon, June 1, when Miss Margaret Thompson will become the bride of Ensign, Charles Conway Hartigan. The wedding will be celebrated at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon at St. Mary's cathedral. The bride will be attended by Miss Elsa Hinz as maid of honor and will have as bridesmaids Miss Laura Benet and Miss Dorothy Draper. There will be an informal reception after the ceremony at the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. E. B. Thomas. There will only be relatives and a few friends at the home reception. The young couple are going on a brief honeymoon and expect to reside at Vallejo for the late summer.

There will be at least two dances this week that will be a revival of the gayety of an earlier season. The first will be the Presidio hop that is ever of immense interest to the service set and to the young folk in town. The hop will be given at the Officers' club and was postponed from last week on account of the tragic death of Lieutenant Hatfield. The second dancing event is the informal party to be given by Miss Agnes Tillman. The latter affair was to have been very informal, but has grown in proportions until it will be one of the most notable of the late season parties. There will be a playlet preceding the dance.

Society has given its patronage this season to the series of studies presented by Miss Margaret Kemble at the St. Francis, but the final lecture of the series given yesterday was the greatest success of the number. The talented young musician has been giving these interpretative studies of modern operas one Monday afternoon in each month and each has attracted a large and fashionable audience. The lecture yesterday was a study of Claude Debussy's opera of "Pelleas and Melisande" and the story of the quaint heilions was told by Miss Kemble with selections from the opera. The same lecture was given last Friday by Miss Kemble at the residence of Mrs. John Galen Howard in Berkeley and attracted a number of society women and musicians of the college town.

On Saturday and Sunday two score or more of the Sequoia club's members made holiday at the Montara inn down on the Ocean Shore road. Aside from a most enjoyable dinner Saturday night, the event of the outing was the planting of a baby sequoia in the great-planting of the club. Walks, drives, surf bathing and a country dance helped to make the picnic so much of a success that the Sequoians are already planning more affairs of the same kind.

PERSONS IN THE NEWS

- W. BUNDY COLE, formerly manager of the Bank of California, departed Sunday for a three months' tour of Europe.
ADJUTANT GENERAL J. B. LAUCK came down from Sacramento and is staying at the Palace.
J. E. EMMONS, a merchant of Santa Barbara, and Mrs. Emmons are at the Colonial.
W. B. GOODWIN, a capitalist of Cleveland, is at the Fairmont with Mrs. Goodwin.
COLONEL ROLAND HARTLEY, major of Everett, Wash., is staying at the Palace.
J. R. RICHEY, a mining man of Reno, is among the recent arrivals at the Argonaut.
E. W. ROGERS of the United States coast survey is registered at the Argonaut.
MR. SHAW, a traveling man of England, and Mrs. Shaw are at the Normandie.
W. A. AVERY, a manufacturer of Pleasanton, and Mrs. Avery are at the Turpin.
E. M. CROMIN of the United States navy yards, and Mrs. Cromin are at the Dale.
LAURENCE MAYNARD, a book publisher of Boston, is staying at the Palace.
J. A. EDWARDS, a prominent real estate man of Modesto, is at the Stanford.
H. H. STEVENS, an attorney of New York, is in town for a short sojourn.
W. J. JONES, a wholesale grocer of Portland, is staying at the St. Francis.
H. S. GRAVES, chief of the bureau of forestry, is a guest at the Palace.
C. J. MARTIN, a prominent jeweler of Denver, is at the Belmont.
CAPTAIN J. D. BRICE, U. S. N., retired, is at the Stewart.
M. E. EINSLEY, a Vallejo druggist, is at the Dale.
REV. J. H. VAN SMITH of Ohio is at the Turpin.

SANITATION NOT INGLIS' FORTE

Throws Away Watchman's Eats, Then Fools the Bill

T cost "Jack" Inglis of the Union Pacific just 40 cents to become a sanitary inspector yesterday morning. And it was early yesterday morning, too.

Every one around the Flood building knows of Inglis' custom of reaching his office before the sun has risen—or even before the comet has disappeared for the current 24 hours. Every morning for a week "Jack" has reached the office at about 4:30 a. m. As he passed through the hallway he noticed three packages of lunch on one of the window sills.

The packages were varied, and after noting them for a week he decided yesterday morning that it would not be long before the rats would be attracted. He figured that the janitor had not noticed them, so threw the entire bunch into the center of the court, where the janitor couldn't fail to notice them.

He had just settled himself in a chair in the Union Pacific offices and was reaching for his copy of The Call when he was interrupted by a loud knocking at the rear door. He opened the door and was met by a man of very large proportions.

"Good morning. What can I do for you?"

"Say, are you the guy wot threw my breakfast away?"

"Threw your breakfast away? Who are you?"

"I'm de night watchman."

"Why I threw a couple of packages away that have been on the window sill for a week."

"For a week say, wot'che's givin' me? It was my breakfast and 'ud only been there about five minutes. You're s' de only guy wot gets around here dis early, wot'che' figured it must a-been you wot done it."

"So I had to take him across the street and pay 40 cents for his breakfast," said Inglis, in telling the story yesterday.

B. P. Waggener was made general solicitor of the Missouri Pacific for Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado, yesterday, with headquarters at Atchison, Kan.

The latest circular of the Denver and Rio Grande is a list of hotels and boarding houses for travelers through the Rocky mountains. Everything a traveler would desire to know, rates, distance from depot, etc., is all contained in the pamphlet.

George W. Boshack, chief engineer of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation company, is in the city for a few days.

Among the series of entertainments and outings planned by the Transportation club for this year is a trip up the Sacramento river on May 14. The new passenger steamer Navajo of the Southern Pacific, Netherlands route will be in operation on the Sacramento this city at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 14th. Sacramento will be reached at 6 o'clock in the evening; the railroaders will be the guests of the Southern Pacific on the occasion, leaving run railroads and will be taken to Poisson prison in automobiles on Sunday.

Assurance has been obtained from the office of the governor that none of the transportation men will be detained at Poisson, although many of them may have violated the interstate commerce laws within the last year or so. The return to the city will be by train. It is expected that at least 100 members of the club will make the trip.

R. M. Duffy, depot passenger agent of the Santa Fe in this city, and a brother of James B. Duffy, general agent in this city of the passenger department, died Saturday morning, after an illness of only a few days. The funeral was held yesterday morning.

Charles G. Krueger, recently with the West coast steamship company, has been appointed city passenger agent of the Rock Island lines, with headquarters at Los Angeles.

W. H. Cundy, general agent of the passenger department of the Denver and Rio Grande, with office at Colorado Springs, is in the city on a visit.

Frank M. Jenifer, assistant to the traffic manager of the Tonopah and Tidewater, is in the city.

Phil K. Gordon, Pacific coast passenger agent of the Washington Sunset route, returned yesterday from a trip to Portland.

W. F. Herrin and Paul Shoup returned yesterday morning from Los Angeles, where they were in conference with H. E. Huntington, relative to the interests of the Southern Pacific in the Pacific electric company.

The Male—Heavens! That's the third person we've hit.

The Female—Control yourself, Richard. Do you want every one to know you're not accustomed to motoring?—Puck.