

The San Francisco Call

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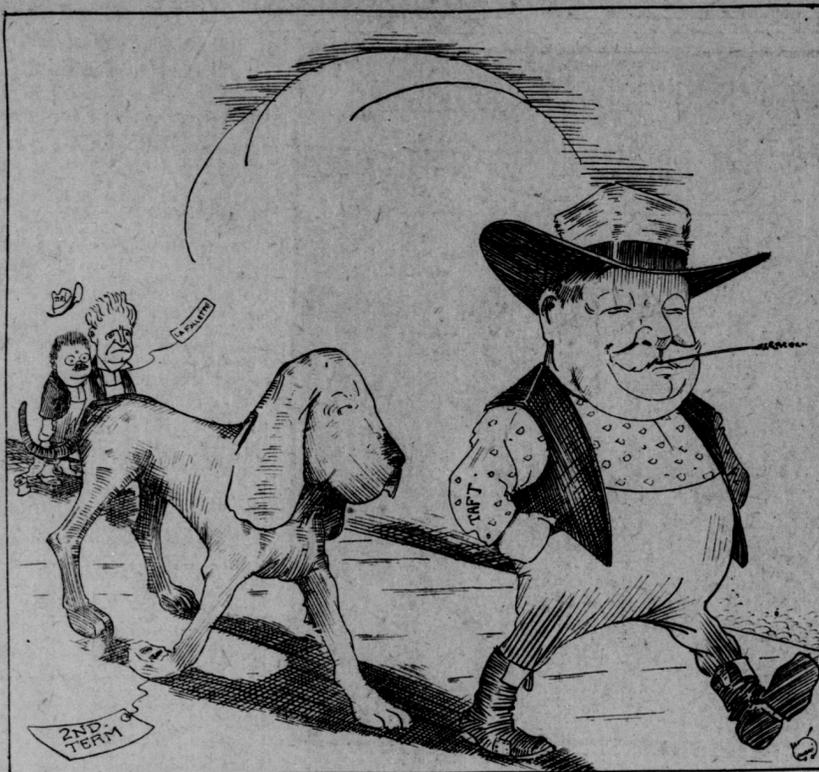
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Nobody's Kickin' His Dawg Aroun'



West Pocket Essays

By GEORGE FITCH

REFORMER is a man who insists on peddling recipes for the millennium to people who are much more interested in golf, automobiles, free lunches and appeals to the supreme court.



Reformers are more pestiferous and uncomfortable than mosquitoes, because they work both day and night, summer and winter, and can not be demolished by a mere slap of the hand. A man who has amassed \$1,000,000 by a nice little ward organization or a cozy little railroad or a comfortable corner in ice can keep mosquitoes and other nuisances out of his palace by means of screens and oil of wintergreen, but the reformer creeps in with the morning newspaper and the monthly magazine and stabs him in his easy chair with ever increasing vigor.

has to carry his week's salary down to the meat market in a wheelbarrow the reformers will not let us be happy, but keep on talking about pure food and conservation and revised home rules and popular ownership of senators and deodorized big business and other idle dreams until life is hardly worth living except for poor men.

Reformers are a nuisance because they are continually waking up happy people and calling their attention to their sorrows. They have never given us any rest. When a few self-sacrificing patriots elected our presidents for us a century ago the reformers yelled until a popular vote with all its annoyances was introduced. When the country became healthy and great under the protection of a fatherly old baron who would do our thinking for us and would hang us tenderly from his castle walls if we presumed to bother ourselves about it.

The only way to quiet a reformer is to give him what he wants, and this is only a temporary relief, for he soon figures out another reform and begins to shout for it.

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Progressive Republican Leaders Again Take the Field for Taft

THE most significant occurrence of an eventful political week in California was the formal organization of the Taft League of Progressive Republicans of California.

This leaguening of veteran reform republican fighters, effected at the Palace hotel on Tuesday, meant much to California, both from the partisan political and the governmental standpoints. It compelled the thoughtful attention of all men interested in California politics, as the policies of this state is related to the policies of national government.

Holding the principles for which they have unceasingly labored and the welfare of the nation dearer than any consideration of personal or factional political advantage, the men who have led the fight for a free party and for popular self government in California have organized to fight again for a California delegation instructed for President Taft.

The organization of the Taft League of Progressive Republicans by the men who began the fight for progressive principles and have led every progressive fight in California proves that the Lincoln-Roosevelt league was organized in good faith and that it was a republican movement.

It proves that the sincere champions of progressive republicanism who have borne the brunt of the fight through long years are not wearied of the strife, that lust for power has not swerved them from their loyalty to principles or to the republican party.

It proves that to the veterans of the good fight in California and the thousands of earnest republicans who have followed them and will follow them in this campaign, progressive republicanism means something more than a hunt for public place.

It means that the thinking progressive republicans of California want progressive accomplishment and its fruits rather than progressive proclamation, its unrest and its penalties.

The men who participated in the launching of the Taft League of Progressive Republicans were the men who founded the Lincoln-Roosevelt league, whose names were a statewide guaranty of that body's republicanism and the honesty of its purposes. They can not be attacked as reactionaries or subservient machine men. They are the men who crushed the old machine and they refuse to surrender their principles to the political needs of any new machine.

They are the men who gave the progressive republicans of California their first representation in a national convention of their partisans. They are the men who waged the fight that made Hiram W. Johnson governor of California.

Four years ago these men led the campaign for a California delegation for Taft. That fight was made by and in the name of the progressive republicans of California and of the nation. It was made, not for the purpose of gaining political place in California, but because the progressive republicans of California believed that William Howard Taft most nearly represented their governmental ideals and was best equipped to secure the realization of those ideals.

Today they are fighting for the renomination and re-election of President Taft because he has justified their faith—because he has been true to the policies of true progressivism and because he has been true to the policies of the republican party, upon which the material welfare of California and the nation is dependent.

They are for President Taft because he is the president of greatest progressive accomplishment, because he has substituted works for words. They are for Taft because he has done more to make "big business" respect and fear the law than all his predecessors. They are for Taft because he has been unafraid to be the friend of California in its hours of need—because he has proved that he is in fact the greatest of progressive Americans.

The Taft League of Progressive Republicans is something more than a campaign name. It is the expression of the earnest convictions of thousands of the genuine progressives of California, who are both progressives and republicans. It has raised the banner under which those progressive republicans will wage a winning fight for President Taft.

MEXICO presents an awkward problem that appears to grow worse rather than better. The immediate policy indicated for the United States is to "sit tight" and wait for developments. No doubt strenuous efforts will be made by a variety of interests to compel intervention by the United States, but the temper and spirit of the American people do not favor any forcible meddling with the internal affairs of neighboring peoples. Invasion of Mexico by an American army must be the last resort.

It is true that the United States is not altogether a free agent in the matter. Diplomatic and international obligations must to some considerable extent control the course and policy of this nation. Of these obligations the Monroe doctrine and its logical corollaries are the most important in this relation.

If the United States objects to European interference with affairs of government anywhere on this continent, then it follows

that this country accepts an obligation to maintain order and protect the lives and property, not only of our own citizens, but likewise those of Europeans living in the disturbed regions. If we do not permit the European powers to protect their own people in Mexico, for example, then it is our duty to see that protection is afforded.

We do not believe that any European power seriously desires to make active interference in Mexican affairs, but they, or any of them, can force the hand of the American government by making a demonstration in that direction. The powers, in fact, would much prefer that Uncle Sam should step in to preserve order and establish a stable government in Mexico, so that the extensive European interests in that republic might be protected without engaging in a hazardous and costly adventure for themselves.

Then there is always the chapter of accidents which must be reckoned with when conditions are disturbed in a neighboring country separated from ours by a nominal boundary line. A stray shot or a drunken frolic may easily create a situation difficult to control.

Invasion of Mexico by an American army would be a tremendous undertaking. It is scarcely to be doubted that we should have to fight the whole population of Mexico. With an army of 100,000 men we could probably overrun the republic, but that would be only the beginning. A military government is an ugly business and order could only be kept by fear and force. We should need to maintain a garrison and a mobile force in every town in the 37 states of Mexico. The cost would be enormous and the task not congenial. It should be the last resort.

HENRY L. STIMSON, secretary of war, stands loyally by President Taft. Mr. Stimson was Roosevelt's candidate for governor of New York in 1910, and has always been and still is a warm friend of the former president. Yet he finds that he can not support Roosevelt in his candidacy.

Mr. Stimson has always been an advanced progressive, and as such was strongly supported by Roosevelt in the New York campaign of 1910. Mr. Stimson is still a progressive and he finds that, notwithstanding his continuing friendship for the colonel, the natural logic of the political situation compels him to support Taft, who, he feels and knows, measures up to the best progressive standard. As he said in Chicago: "To refuse Mr. Taft a renomination would be a blow to progress and would put a premium upon hasty and unfounded criticism."

Mr. Stimson declares that the present contest is purely personal, dragging in issues that have no relation to the great national policies identified with Roosevelt's name and carried out with so much steadfast purpose by his successor. The campaign is, in effect, a grave injury to the republican party. Mr. Stimson states the case for Mr. Taft:

He deliberately renounced more striking methods of reform, and set himself to the undramatic and inconspicuous public service which leaves out all thought of a man's own aggrandizement.

The results of this deliberate self-abnegation are shown in the great legislative and constructive accomplishments of his term.

Taft's standards of administration, like those of Roosevelt, have been constantly toward purity and elevation in our public service and our public life.

It is a striking fact that all the members of Colonel Roosevelt's cabinet, with two exceptions, are against him in the present campaign, not because they fail in admiration for their former chief, but for the reason that they are convinced that Taft has earned a second term. The two exceptions are Jimmy Garfield and Truman H. Newberry.

LOS ANGELES will elect a board of freeholders on May 14 to frame a county charter, as permitted by the constitutional amendment recently ratified. San Bernardino county is taking the same course and some of the other southern counties are preparing to follow the example.

Presumably the scope of these charters will be confined to the regulation of county affairs, in the same way that city charters are confined to municipal affairs.

The chief advantage of the new plan lies in the grant of home rule and the elimination of interference by the legislature in county affairs. On the other side, it is urged that the system will create a multiplicity of laws and divergence of practice, so that when you cross a county line you may have to learn a new code. The objection does not appear to have much weight, and it applies equally to municipalities, which have been making their own charters for 30 years without any public inconvenience.

The new plan should have a most useful effect if it promotes the sentiment in favor of consolidation of cities and counties under one municipal government, as in San Francisco. In counties like Alameda and Los Angeles, where there is a large urban population, such consolidation would effect a material saving by cutting off the cost of dual government. One reason why taxes in San Francisco have always been comparatively low is that the city and county governments have been consolidated for half a century. Los Angeles city has been working for consolidation for a score of years, but local jealousies have stood in the way.

JUDGE REMINDED FAME IS FICKLE

Girl Remembers Celebrated Railroad Man Because of Merger Rumor

FAME is a fickle thing and it plays strange pranks even with the greatest. This much Judge Robert S. Lovett, dictator of the Harriman lines, has discovered since his arrival here. At a dinner party to which he was bidden he was presented one by one to the guests as they arrived. Each in turn had a pleasant word of greeting. As one young girl of dazzling beauty was introduced she mumbled a formal salutation.

"Of course you know who Judge Lovett is," volunteered the party who had introduced them.

"Now, to be perfectly frank," she said with a smile at the Judge, "I haven't the least idea."

"You don't know who Judge Lovett is?" exclaimed the astonished host.

The young lady hesitated, looked fixedly at the judge for a moment, and then burst forth, "Why, to be sure, aren't you the man who once merged something or other?"

The Chicago harbor and subway commission on February 21 submitted to the local transportation committee of the city council plans for a subway system of four routes, extending from the central loop district to Lawrence avenue on the north side, Sixty-third street on the south side, South Fortieth avenue and West Twelfth street on the southwest side and North Central Park avenue on the northwest side. The plans include approximately 100 miles of track to be constructed by the city at an estimated cost of \$102,200,000, in connection with a system of downtown loops for which plans were reported within the last year.

The Wells Fargo Express company, which runs two solid express trains daily from New York to Chicago, and one from Chicago to Kansas City, is preparing to run a similar train from Kansas City to the Pacific coast over the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe.

W. G. Lerch, assistant to the president of the Chicago Great Western, in an address before employees of the transportation department at a general meeting of the Chicago Great Western Station Agents' association, held at Oelwein, Ia., on January 27, pointed out a variety of ways in which employees may assist the company in promoting economy.

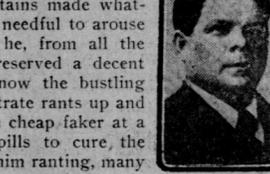
In urging train crews to exercise care in the picking up and setting out of cars and the loading and unloading of freight at stations so as to cause the least amount of breakage and loss, he showed that during the last fiscal year the amount of loss and damage claims on freight amounted to \$127,124 for his road, a sum equal to more than the company's yearly taxes in the states of Minnesota and Missouri. A saving of one-third of this, he said, would more than pay the combined taxes for a year in the states of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. He estimated that 40 per cent of this sum was paid out on account of careless handling of cars by train crews, improper loading and stowing of freight and checking in and out. What are termed "avoidable" accidents, resulting in property damage amounting to \$50



Uncle Walt THE POET PHILOSOPHER

JARRING THE WELKIN

The candidate for president, when I was younger, never went cavorting up and down the land-a-babbling words to beat the band. His captains made whatever noise was needful to arouse the boys, and he, from all the clamor free, preserved a decent dignity. But now the bustling candidate for office of chief magistrate rants up and down and paws the air like some cheap faker at a fair; like charlatan dispensing pills to cure the nation's grievous ills. I've heard him ranting, many a time; I've seen him, hoarse and gray with grime, stand at a railway coach's door and fill the air with squawk and roar, imploring people for their votes—a spectacle for gods and goats. Our presidential candidates should do like other peddling skates and take some sidishow freaks along to play the bones or sing a song, and have a monk collect the mon when all the noisy show is done. Alas, alas! The good old days, the sober men, the quiet ways!



WALT MASON

and over, cost the company in the fiscal year \$20,750, not considering delays to trains and consequent overtime for crews. One-half the total cost of these accidents would equal an amount nearly sufficient to operate the Oelwein terminals for one month.

Office and station employees were instructed to be economical in the use of stationary and supplies of gas and electric light and in the sending of commercial telegrams. He placed the aggregate cost of these items for one year at \$10,775, or two-thirds of the amount received by the road for carrying United States mails for one year. One-fifth of the amount, if saved, would have been sufficient to pay the premium on one year of the insurance carried on the property of the company.

He showed that the effort to practice economy is carried into the general offices. He said that the use of envelopes for sending mail between the various general offices and of printed letterheads for correspondence among the officials has been almost entirely discontinued. Instead of envelopes a collapsible canvas package, with the names of the different offices stamped on the folds, is used. This permits them being sent back and forth indifferently. Plain, inexpensive paper is used for letter writing.

To illustrate how a unit of saving may represent a very large sum if applied to the operations of the entire line, Lerch showed that one of the company's G-3 engines between Oelwein and Stockton burns about 13 tons of coal, or approximately 1,615 shovelfuls each trip, and if by careful and expert firing two shovelfuls per mile could be saved this would amount to an economy of 456 shovelfuls on a round trip and 586.8 tons in a year, representing a money value of \$1,343.77.

ROBERT E. STRAHORN, who is associated with the management of the Harriman lines in Oregon and Washington, is at the Palace. Strahorn makes his home in Spokane, Mrs. Strahorn, who accompanies him, has written an entertaining book of her travels in the northwest before the advent of the railroad.

M. L. HOLBROOK, vice president of the Merchants' National bank and a prominent real estate operator of Los Angeles, is here on a business trip and is registered at the St. Francis.

A. E. FOLEY, an attorney of San Jose; S. L. Mahaffey, a tea and coffee merchant of Red Bluff, and J. D. Champagne and J. A. Kelley, mining men of Arizona, are guests at the Argonaut.

ALFRED L. BLACK, an attorney of Bellingham, returned from a trip to Honolulu yesterday with his family. They have apartments at the Stewart.

JOHN L. KAUL, president and treasurer of the Kaul Lumber company, is at the Palace. He is also president of the park commission of Birmingham, Ala.

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W. LAWRENCE, a real estate operator of Portland, is at the St. Francis with A. M. Cronin.

WILLIAM C. HUNTER, a Chicago newspaperman, and Mrs. Hunter registered at the Sutter.

C. G. YOUNG, an engineering contractor of New York, is at the Palace with H. A. Bolden.

H. E. SCHAFFNER, an oil operator of Bakersfield, is registered at the St. Francis.

ALEXANDER WAGNER, a capitalist from Portland, is a recent arrival at the Baldwin.

H. E. BURR of Los Angeles is at the Colonial.