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MR. LOOMIS ON THE PANAMA FAIR.

In view of the fact that there has been some opinion expressed among the opponents to the national administration, of the possibility of something back of the desire on the part of this government to build a canal as the result of the outcome of the Panama incident, the address of Assistant Secretary of State Loomis before the Quill club in New York is of especial interest.

He declared that there has been no desire on our part to annex Panama and that "we have not done so and that the President has promptly executed the will of the American people with due regard to international law and rights."

Mr. Loomis showed that President Roosevelt gave the Colombian government every opportunity to ratify the treaty or to propose some other proper method of effecting the ratification.

Speaking with regard to the proposition that the President should have turned immediately to the Nicaraguan route, Mr. Loomis says: "In less than a week's time and before the President could be reasonably expected to turn to the grave consideration of the Nicaragua route, the long expected and inevitable revolution in Panama came to pass, the people arose as one man and in thorough accord, without the firing of a single shot, unresisted, they quietly established a government of their own."

Mr. Loomis treated the negotiations for the canal through the various steps and then said: "It has been disclosed by recent published official correspondence that if the treaty was postponed another year, the canal company's concession having expired by that time would be declared invalid and all rights and privileges of the company confiscated and disposed of to the United States for forty millions in addition to the millions as proposed and an annuity of a quarter of a million."

"Out of these possibilities come one of our strongest needs for prompt and courageous action when the opportunity was offered by the revolution in Panama-November 3. Had Colombia's plan been allowed to be carried out—if the revolution had not occurred, if we had waited until the renewal of the French company's franchise had been declared invalid what might have happened—France would have stood serenely by and witnessed the pillage of thousands of her people through an act which Bogota politicians devised for the looting of the French company of \$40,000,000."

As Mr. Loomis pointed out this danger and the results that would have naturally followed the expiration of the French company's rights and the confiscation of its property by the Colombian government, were things with which the administration had to reckon. They called for prompt and heroic action and it was well that there was a man in the executive chair in Washington that had the courage to seize the opportunity, and do a service of incalculable value to the United States and also a service that would preclude the danger of international complications.

**MIGHT BE SAVAGES.** The Cedar Rapids Republican calls attention to the statement made recently by a St. Paul Methodist preacher that "society can exist without churches and without schools, in a manner that should receive the careful consideration of American citizens. As a preface to this statement this man lays down the four following surprising and questionable principles: 1. 'Ministers of the gospel are parasites.' 2. 'Religion and the church are luxuries.' 3. 'Teachers and professors are leeches.' 4. 'Schools and universities are non-essentials.'"

Regarding these ideas the Cedar Rapids Republican offers the following able discussion: "This man is probably simply after notoriety, but there are those who seriously hold similar doctrines, believing or affecting to believe that all those who do not produce, as they call it, are parasites, leeches or non-essentials. But how absurd all this is. If you are going into the non-essential business you can bring things down to a mighty fine point. The people who used to inhabit this continent dwelt in tepees; their only food was the fish they caught in the streams or the game they hunted in the forest; they clothed themselves with the skins of the beasts of the field and thus lived, how many generations we know not. They may be said to have possessed the essentials. It is difficult to see how they could have maintained their existence with less, but no civilized human being would be contented with such limitations. Nor could you get any civilized person to agree that only

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these things which protect from the elements and satisfy hunger are the essentials of life. No man can set down a list of essentials that will be agreed to with anything like unanimity, and universities are non-essentials. Only the unthinking would refer to them as parasites or wish that they might be pushed out of the world. Religion and the church are not luxuries. Had they been such they would have perished long ago. Teachers and professors are not leeches. They are doing perhaps as much to make the world worth living in as any class of men in it. The schools and universities are non-essentials. The cultivated mind is the most conspicuous mark between the beast and man.

Evidently this Methodist preacher must regard the savage state as the ideal state. The world could very easily slide back into savagery and barbarity. A good deal of our civilization is forced. Blot out the things that he condemns and it would take but a precious short time to get back to barbarity.

The position of the Republican is well taken and it shows the utter fallacy of the stand taken by this St. Paul man.

**A COMMENDABLE PROPOSITION.** The proposition of the Ottumwa Commercial association, to put the city fire and police departments under civil service regulations, merits the careful consideration of Ottumwa citizens. In these two departments of city affairs it is desirable to secure the highest possible degree of efficiency. Not only is it desirable, but it is absolutely necessary if the citizens of Ottumwa are to receive the best fire protection and guard against lawlessness and crime.

This question was presented to the members of the association in a letter from E. T. Edgerly presenting reasons for the adoption of civil service rules for the regulation of the fire department. This letter is given to the readers of the Courier in another column. After the presentation of this letter among the first speakers was Mayo T. H. Pickler, who stated that while he favored the plan he did not think it went far enough, and that when any action was taken it should also include the police department.

With this suggestion the members of the association continued the consideration of the matter. It was shown that both departments would undoubtedly be greatly improved by their removal from politics and that the attainment of the highest degree of efficiency should be the one end sought in those departments of the city serv-

ice. Action was taken by the appointment of a committee to investigate the question of the right of the city to inaugurate such a system and should a course not be found in accordance to the laws of the state, to confer with the members of the legislature from this county, looking to the securing of any needed change in the law.

The Courier believes that this is a move in the right direction, that the people of Ottumwa will receive better service by the removal of police and firemen from the transitions and uncertainties of politics. It is certain that the investigation of the committee will disclose the course to be pursued by the city. The matter should be pushed until the city is able to establish its police and fire departments on the practical basis of civil service.

**DEMOCRATS FAIL TO AGREE.** Senator Gorman, the reputed leader of the democratic forces in the senate is having difficulty to make good his leadership. In fact it has thus far been impossible for the members of the minority to agree on any general legislative policy. The attempt of Mr. Gorman during the special session to arrange some method for a minority attack on the administration on account of its Panama policy, failed.

It failed because the people of the United States had decided in favor of a trans-isthmian canal. They realized that President Roosevelt had faithfully observed the law in his action in this matter and endorsed him therefore. Because of this feeling especially in the south, the democratic senators of that section could not support any attack on the administration for in so doing they would have been working in direct opposition to the wishes of their constituents.

It is generally expected that during a session immediately preceding a presidential election the minority will endeavor to embarrass the party in power and to make capital for themselves. However, since the convening of the special session the democratic members of congress have failed utterly to accomplish anything that will prove their advantage in the coming campaign.

That there is a pressing necessity for harmony in democratic ranks is apparent, but the members of that party in the senate continue at cross purposes. It now appears that one of the reasons for this disagreement is jealousy of Mr. Gorman. It is reported that there is a bunch of ambitious democrats in the senate who are anxious to manage affairs and that they look with disfavor on any proposition that will enhance Mr. Gorman's reputation as a leader. It was evidently this feeling that caused the failure of party discipline to charge against Gorman in a caucus binding on all members of the minority. A number of democratic senators positively refused to sacrifice their rights to individual action and some have intimated that they are tired of being paraded before the country as Gorman proteges.

Unless the regular session is more conducive to harmony than have been the past weeks, the democratic will come to the campaign next fall with no advantage gained in congress and no harmony in the ranks of the party.

**THE WOOD INVESTIGATION.** Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, who recently testified before the senate committee investigating the charges against General Wood, has addressed a letter to Secretary of War Root, complaining that the reports sent out to the press of the country were directly opposite to the testimony he gave. Regarding the admission of the silver service, purchased by the Jai Alai for presentation to General Wood, General Bliss states that he testified most positively under oath, that neither directly nor indirectly, verbally, nor in writing, personally through General Wood nor through any subordinate nor from any person whatsoever, "had I received even an intimation as to the remission of duty upon these articles; that I ordered the omission of duty because I believed then, and believe now, that it was in accordance with the law; that if any mistake was made, I was solely responsible for it. I further testified that I served directly under the orders of General Wood as military governor of Cuba, I know of no action of his that was not consistent with the character of an honorable officer and a man of integrity."

This statement of General Bliss shows the utter fallacy of the reports that were sent out at the time his testimony was taken by the senate committee, and gives ground for the belief that some one is undertaking to report the affairs of the committee to the detriment of General Wood, and with a desire of prejudicing public opinion against him. This is the view taken of the matter by Secretary Root, who in a communication to the senate committee regarding the statement of General Bliss, says: "It is evident that some person is undertaking to convey to the press representative information of what goes on in the committee, and is taking advantage of the fact that the evidence is not published to state it falsely, for the purpose of injuring General Wood in the public estimation so that while your committee will act upon the evidence actually before it, the public judgment as to how you ought to act will be based upon an entirely different and erroneous idea of what the evidence is."

The people of the United States have been inclined to look upon the charges against General Wood as the outgrowth of prejudice, and are slow to accept the reports that have been sent out regarding the investigation. They prefer to wait until the evidence is all in, and the verdict has been rendered by the senate committee before passing judgment, believing that this capable and efficient commander will be fully vindicated.

Uncle Sam is going to say how-de-do to the whole world at midnight New Year's night. The message of greeting will be flashed to all countries and all climes wherein the electric current reaches, and around the world. It will be the first time in

history that every country on earth is in sympathetic and actual touch simultaneously. It is believed that new possibilities in international communication will be evolved out of the extraordinary new year's greeting of Uncle Sam to the world. —Burlington Hawk-Eye.

It is impossible to conceive of the developments that will occur during the coming year.

There are two rooms in the Courier's new building that are freely opened to the public at all times during the day and evening. These are the reception room on the first floor opening off of the business office, and the library and committee room on the second floor. The latter is furnished with library table and a dozen and a half chairs, and is thus able to accommodate a large committee. Committees of all kinds and for every proper purpose are cordially invited to use these rooms without expense.

The appointment of W. I. Buchanan as the first minister to the new republic of Panama is a matter of gratification to the people of Iowa, inasmuch as Mr. Buchanan first attained success and prominence in the Hawkeye state. This announcement was received in Ottumwa with especial gratification by a large number of citizens personally acquainted with Mr. Buchanan.

Senator Hoar did a most commendable thing when he helped the members of that body out of a tangle over the election of a chaplain by proposing the name of Edward Everett Hale for that office.

Orders will shortly be issued by the war department for the return to the old system of military divisions with several departments in each as the result of a recommendation recently made by Chief of Staff Young.

State Superintendent-elect J. F. Riggs has arrived in Des Moines, and will begin at once to familiarize himself with the duties of the office of which he will take charge on January 1.

The Iowa republican delegates will go to Chicago, loaded for the nomination of President Roosevelt. They will take a prominent part in the affairs of that gathering.

The New York Herald refers to Congressman Lacey as "the scholar of the house." Citizens of the sixth district agree that the position of the Herald is well taken.

It is reported that the Romans look upon Pope Pius X. as an enigma. It is difficult for the citizens of Rome to keep track of all the policies of the new occupant of the vatican.

It seems apparent that France needs a course of training in the "Roosevelt anti-race suicide policy." Last year there were nearly 28,000 more deaths than births.

Congressman Hill, of Illinois, always holds the trump card when it comes to a discussion of our foreign relations.

It now begins to appear that the democratic party will be robbed of an opportunity to attack Attorney General Knox by way of campaign thunder.

Chicago will have to furnish a mighty big band wagon for use during the republican national convention.

The next Chicago platform will not experience a like fate to that of the one which last bore that name.

Attorney General Knox is delivering a few of that species of knock-out blows that count.

Law enforcement has been one of the principal characteristics of the Roosevelt administration.

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than half left of the total expenditure. These three items amount to \$100,000,000, which is just about one-half of the estimated national expenditures for the next fiscal year and a little more than one-half of the expenditures for the present fiscal year. Of this \$308,000,000, almost one-half, or \$138,000,000, is for pensions.

As far as the next gubernatorial contest in Iowa is concerned, the Cedar Rapids Republican points out that there may be many and important developments in Iowa politics in two years. A civil war veteran may be chosen in response to a patriotic revival, the Republican says, and, again, there may be younger aspirants in the race and the veterans may be too old that they have had their day in politics.

"What ever the inspiration of the anti-Roosevelt crusade," says the Des Moines Register and Leader, "it is a piece of insane political folly. It will not outlast its first exploitation. Its promoters will take to cover very shortly when the rank and file of the party begins to be heard from. Theodore Roosevelt \* \* \* will be nominated by acclamation and be elected by the vote of substantially every state north of Mason and Dixon's line."

"If Roosevelt is to be the issue in 1904 it will be pretty tough on the politicians and the democratic party," says the Low State Citizen. "The people are with Roosevelt."

The Knoxville Journal thinks the time of supply and demand should be taken into consideration when it is proposed to boost the salaries of the state officers. "What's the use trying to make the plums look like great, big, juicy bunches hanging on a tree when the people are shying sticks at 'em as they are?" the Journal suggests.

**MR. WATTERSON AND MR. CHOATE.** Rochester Post-Express.—Marse Henry Watterson has been seeing things again. This time it is not a fight among the politicians in Washington to seat Mr. Tilden in the presidential chair, nor is it a ship canal goblin with glaring eyes and legs twisted in the similitude of a dollar mark. Marse Henry's latest bugaboo is Ambassador Choate. Mr. Watterson dined a little too heavily the other evening, and drank perchance, a julep too many—the result being that he saw Ambassador Choate deliberately conspiring to make his own existence a misery to the people of England in order to help the republican party in the United States; for, according to Marse Henry, the more Mr. Bryan cuts over there, the more likely he is to have influence in the democratic party at home when he returns; or, as Mr. Watterson gloomily expresses it, "well the republicans will strengthen him (Bryan) they prepare a handicap for the democracy."

Mr. Watterson is obsessed by the "terrors of nightmare" for every day he fires a charge in the Courier-Journal at Ambassador Choate, whom he regards as a veritable Machiavelli.

**A LABOR LEADER'S VIEWS.** John Mitchell, in a public address at Denver.—If there is one question in the world today which is receiving and which is deserving of great study, that question of others is the relation between capital and labor. I represent labor. I am against no man. I stand for union labor, for higher wages and shorter hours, but against no man and between no man representing capital.

There is no fundamental difference between labor and capital. Both have their virtues and their vices, and both at times have asked too much. I feel very much that much of the labor troubles which have been experienced could have been averted if both sides had gotten together for a conference and talked over their difficulties. Most of the conflicts of today grow out of a misunderstanding and misapprehension and failure to understand the justice and the claims of each.

"I believe it is the high duty of every citizen to bring about reconciliation. I can not see a condition in America where there will be a continual conflict. It is the duty of every man in the interests of our common country to do all he can to bring about a condition of peace."

It seems to me that in your western country an organization similar to the Civic Federation would be of great benefit. An organization composed of the representatives of capital, labor and of the public would result in great good to the citizenship of Denver. The scheme has been tried and is not one of speculation. It is in force in New York, and such an organization is now being formed in Boston.

Wages and wealth and prosperity are intrusted by the man who works with his hands, and neither would the country be happy and contented without the man who works with his brain. Of course there are trade unions and trade unions, I believe that the Uni-

ROOSEVELT AND HANNA.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.—It is significant that all the stories about the alleged disagreements between President Roosevelt and Senator Hanna come from the democratic papers. The democrats have a partisan interest in making the country believe that the republican party is not as harmonious as it seems to be. This is the principal reason for the gossip about the clashing of the ambitions, of these two republican chieftains.

Neither of the two has ever personally given any color to the stories of disagreements. Both of them have denied the stories when questioned about them. There are excellent reasons for saying that reports have not the slightest foundation.

Senator Hanna has said half a dozen times in as many months that he has no ambition to be the presidential nominee, and that he is in favor of the candidacy of President Roosevelt. This ought to be conclusive as to the senator's position in the matter. He ought to know more about his aspirations than do any of the democratic gossips, and the chances are that he does know more. He is a truthful man, as even his enemies would admit if he had any expectation of getting it, he would say so. Frankness is a virtue that is not common among politicians.

The senator believes and says that President Roosevelt will be nominated in 1904. Every other republican believes this. A few of the agents of the trusts who belong to the republican party, would be glad to see the President defeated in the convention, but not one of them has the slightest objection to the nomination of Roosevelt for next year, and the masses have a way of controlling the party which they have asserted in every important election.

They are afraid of Roosevelt. They know that against him they will make a poorer show in the electoral college than they have made in the past. They only get all the republican votes, but he will get the votes of many democrats who are disgusted with the cowardice and imbecility of their own party, and who want a man in the presidency who grasps opportunities and does not wait for opportunities to grasp him. No political event in the near future is more certain than the nomination and election of Theodore Roosevelt in 1904.

**MINISTER BUCHANAN.** Sioux City Journal.—The former Iowa man, and a former Sioux Cityan at that, has been named as the person of W. I. Buchanan, who has just been named by President Roosevelt to be the first minister to Panama.

Mr. Buchanan was disposed to claim that geographical considerations had anything to do with Mr. Buchanan's nomination for this position of international responsibility. Indeed if geographical claims had been given serious consideration the fact might have proved a handicap for a man with Iowa connections. Iowa is not entitled to much more on that ground. But it is quite clear that Mr. Buchanan was named purely on the basis of merit. During his incumbency as United States minister to Argentina, Mr. Buchanan proved himself a master of the intricacies of South American diplomacy and left that position secure in the esteem and confidence of practically all of the South American statesmen with whom he had come in contact. Later Mr. Buchanan found use for his popularity in South America as director of the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo. It is quite apparent that President Roosevelt has now called upon Mr. Buchanan to take up the tangled threads at Panama, a position that he is the right man to handle the delicate situation. No diplomatic appointment in recent years has carried with it more of honor and compliment.

Sioux City will be particularly pleased at this new and flattering recognition of Mr. Buchanan's ability, because it was Sioux City that started the man on the road to greatness. It was his brilliant executive work in connection with the famed Sioux City corn palace that gained for Mr. Buchanan an international reputation and opened the way to his appointment as chief of the agricultural department at the World's Columbian exposition in Chicago. Since that time Mr. Buchanan's distinguished ability has carried him along, but Sioux City will

continue to claim credit for furnishing the first opportunity which led to the transformation of a good business man into a distinguished public man.

STORIES RETOLD.

Many humorous stories are told of "green" reporters, in the various press clubs of the country, but often they are too full of journalistic technicalities to be appreciated by those outside of the professions, says Success. But one that ought to be clearly understood is told of a young man from Indiana, who came to New York city and secured a position on the American. It was his first attempt at reporting, and it was so necessary to send him out of the office until nearly midnight when the city editor learned that a famous British scientist had arrived on a boat from London, he was staying at the Holland house.

"Call on him tonight and get a good interview," said the city editor, and the new reporter started out with glowing hopes. In about an hour he returned to the office and found a seat at a vacant desk. As he made no attempt to write the city editor called him to his desk and asked: "Where is your interview with Mr. A—?"

"I didn't get it," he replied rather pertly. "And why?"

"Well, he said he had told everything to the Herald reporter and had nothing more to say."

AN IMPOSSIBILITY.

Philadelphia Press.—If Judge Parker doesn't define his position pretty soon he's given many democrats won't support him, and if he does define a great many other democrats won't have anything to do with him. The fact is that no democrat can carry in stock a newspaper critics say of opinions to satisfy demands of the whole party.

WHY SHOULDN'T HE STICK?

Lincoln Star.—President Roosevelt promptly sends in to the senate again the names of General Wood and other army officers for promotion. Some carding newspaper critics say he "sticks to General Wood." That is true, and what is more he probably will continue to stick to him until there is some good reason why he should not do so.

THEY DON'T KNOW.

Cedar Rapids Republican.—Just what the tariff rippers mean about worrying about the extension of our foreign trade is hard to make out. Our foreign trade has been expanding rapidly, and it is not bound to stop and bound. This year both our imports and exports are above the billion dollar mark.

SOLEMN CONFAB OF "HAS BEENS."

New York Tribune.—Bryan and Croker's heart to heart talk brought together the biggest "has been" and the biggest anywhere to be found outside of Egyptian mummy cases spattered over with "has been" telling what their occupants did in old times when political luck ran their way.

NOT A BLACK PROBLEM ALONE.

Chicago Chronicle.—Booker T. Washington's accurate observations are not always applicable to the negro exclusively. He says the problem for the colored parent in the north is not getting an education for son or daughter, but employment after the diploma. White parents can sympathize with Booker's people under that head. There is more higher education in the north than there are higher jobs.

WHY NOT?

Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.—Why not give Colombia a pound or two of radium and make Panama's \$10,000,000 look like 30 cents?

JUS' KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON.

If the day looks kinder gloomy as you chances kinder slim; If the situation's puzzlin' An' the prospects awful grim, An' the perplexities keep pressin' An' all hope is nearly gone, Jus' bristle up an' grit your teeth, An' keep on keepin' on. Funnin' never wins a fight, An' frettin' never pays; There ain't no good in broodin' in These pessimistic ways— Smile, frown, or grin as you please, When hope is nearly gone, Jus' bristle up an' grit your teeth, An' keep on keepin' on. There ain't no use in growlin' An' grumblin' all the time, When music's ringin' everywhere, An' ever'body's cheerin' as Jus' keep on smilin' cheerfully, If hope is nearly gone, An' bristle up an' grit your teeth, An' keep on keepin' on. —New Orleans Times-Democrat