

## EDITORIAL

### CURRENT EVENTS: THE DRIFT OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

The campaign is over, but neither Congress nor the Legislatures are in session; and if it were not for the Russo-Japanese War the news pages of our dailies would be very dull. As it is, a large part of the space is devoted to speculation as to what Congress or the President will do in regard to certain public matters.

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#### President Roosevelt and the South.

There is especial interest in President Roosevelt's future policy as to the negro in the South. Immediately after the election it was announced in several papers that the President would come to Atlanta and make a speech addressed especially to the white people of the Southern States, but this has now been denied. It is evidently true, however, Mr. Roosevelt feels he has been misrepresented by our campaign orators, and in an interview with the Washington correspondent of the New Orleans Times-Democrat last week, he expressed himself quite freely on this point. Speaking of the interview, this Washington correspondent wrote his paper as follows:

"Regarding the negro, Mr. Roosevelt holds to the opinions of Abraham Lincoln. He believes that as there is no discrimination in business because of religion, there should be none in politics because of race or color. The President thinks that the test of qualification for voting and holding office should apply to black and white alike. He considers that that which disqualifies a negro from the exercise of the elective franchise should disqualify the white man also.

"The President feels especially keenly the charge made by a portion of the press that he favors social equality and miscegenation. The President has said that he who would advocate either of these would be an enemy to both races. His views on the negro question coincide fully with those of Judge Jones, former Governor of Alabama, a Confederate soldier and a Democrat."

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#### Roosevelt, Confederate Soldiers, and Booker Washington.

It is undoubtedly true that the mass of people in the South have a distorted idea of President Roosevelt's attitude toward them. A great many people have heard that he called Confederate soldiers anarchists, while as a matter of fact, his indefinite reference to anarchy can be made to convey this impression only by putting it in the worst possible light; and against such a construction there stands his very definite language in his biography of Benton: "The world has never seen better soldiers than those who followed Lee, and their leader will undoubtedly rank as the very greatest of all the great captains whom the English-speaking peoples have brought forth, and this although the last and greatest of his antagonists himself stands as the full equal of Wellington and Marlborough." Mr. Roosevelt has also declared himself as extremely proud of the fact that he had an uncle who served as admiral in the Confederate Navy.

Similarly, the Booker Washington dining incident has been much exaggerated. Most people have come to believe that the negro educator sat down with the Roosevelt family in a social meal; but we have been informed on good authority that it was only a lunch eaten while the President and Washington talked over some business matters. Of course, this was bad enough; but the case was not so bad as it has been represented, and it will be observed that never once since has the President eaten dinner with any negro.

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#### The South Hopes for Better Things.

We hold no brief for President Roosevelt; and we believe he has done infinite harm by his med-

dling with the negro problem. But he is now the President of the whole country, and it can do the South no good to misjudge him or misconstrue his motives. And there is danger that his political opponents by their cartoons and speeches have made the negroes believe that he would like to put them over the white people. Really, of course, he holds no such views; and the political necessity, which is responsible in large measure for his policy, is thus set forth by the Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post:

"It is much to be regretted that the North and South cannot agree upon a common policy regarding the colored man before the law. The fact that he does vote in the North and does not in the South, makes it necessary for Republican Presidents, who have been helped by his vote in the North, to recognize to some extent his aspirations in the South. No Republican President could carry out the policy on which South Carolina insists in its resistance to the Crum appointment, and hold the colored voters of the North. This is a point which the critics of President Roosevelt often overlook. There is a Northern colored vote large enough to hold the balance of power in many close States, which demands a certain recognition."

Mr. Roosevelt will insist on the nomination of the negro Crum as Collector of Customs in Charleston, and will again present his name to the Senate in December; but the indications are that the demand for reducing Southern Congressional representation will not find favor with the Executive. With the heat and passion of the campaign fresh in our memories, such language sounds strange, and yet it will do us no harm at least to hope that the editor of the New York Outlook, a personal friend of President Roosevelt, spoke not entirely without reason when he declared a few days ago:

"We make the prediction that before he leaves the White House the South will learn it has never had a warmer or more consistent friend in the Presidential chair than Theodore Roosevelt."

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#### Booker Washington's Advice to the Negroes.

Booker Washington, too, has made an address to the negroes of Alabama in which he gives them some advice which the leaders of the race in every section would do well to take up and repeat.

"Not a few have predicted," he says, "that on account of the recent election many members of our race would lose their heads, would become unduly pompous, self-assertive, and generally offensive. With all the earnestness that I can command, I want to urge our people in every part of the country to disappoint those who have made such predictions by leading a life of increased usefulness, soberness and simplicity, remembering, as I have often exhorted before, that in the long run it's to the certain and fundamental ideas of growth in property, intelligence and high Christian character, friendly relations with our neighbors of all races, that we must look for our ultimate success.

"The masses of our people are to dwell for all time here in the South, and here it is that our destiny must be worked out and we can only succeed when we have the confidence and co-operation of those about us."

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#### Post-Election Notes.

When our review of election results was written last week, nothing had been given out as to the strength of the minor parties—Populist, Socialist and Prohibitionist, neither one of which carried any State. Now Mr. Watson is out in a call to his followers, saying that he received about a half million votes. In Georgia he received more votes than Roosevelt. Bryan cannot control the Democratic Party, and the only place for reform voters is in the Populist Party, declares Mr. Watson. Eugene Debs, the candidate of the Social-

ist Party, it is asserted, received a total of 600,000 votes; while the Prohibitionist Party seems to have made no gains over its vote of four years ago.

It is very significant of the growing independence of the American vote that four States which voted for Roosevelt elected Democratic Governors—Douglas in Massachusetts, Johnson in Minnesota, Folk in Missouri, and Adams in Colorado. In fact, for all that has been said of the Republican landslide last week, more States now have Democratic Chief Executives than before. Three Democrats were elected to succeed Republicans, and only two Republicans to succeed Democrats. We commented last week on the success of Messrs. Folk and Adams; but the election of Douglas in Massachusetts was the most surprising to the politicians. Douglas, of course, is known everywhere as the maker of the \$3.50 shoe; and it astonished the natives when the election returns showed a majority of 35,000 for this Democratic candidate, while all other offices were captured by the Republicans, Roosevelt carrying Massachusetts by 85,000. But Mr. Douglas had made a brilliant canvass, and the following comment on his campaign makes interesting reading:

"Mr. Douglas made his arguments specially applicable to New England. He held that no corporation was entitled to protection so long as it sold a portion of its product abroad at a less price than it sold the same article at home. He showed that a recent purchase of leather which had cost him \$550,000 had paid \$55,000 duty, and this had to be added to the price of shoes. He held that the tariff and trust questions were the same. He claimed to have demonstrated that the people of Massachusetts paid six dollars for protection per capita for every dollar they gained per capita, and that the 650,000 homes in the State contributed \$650,000,000 a year to the protected trusts. In addition to this argument, his record for fair treatment of labor, reinforced by his rise from the ranks of wage-earners, made him strong with the labor men of the State, with whom his opponent, Governor Bates, for several reasons, was unpopular. The vote in Massachusetts shows not only how large a number of voters were ready to cast their ballots independently, but also how large a proportion of such voters are to be found, not among people of wealth and intellectual culture, but among the 'plain people.' Mr. Douglas's victory is a caution, if not a rebuke, to such as are infected with the pride of culture. In view of the National issue involved in Mr. Douglas's campaign, many Republican leaders are recognizing the force of sentiment in favor of tariff revision."

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#### The Russo-Japanese War.

It is now safe to say that the fall of Port Arthur is only a matter of time. The outer garrisons have been captured by the Japanese, and there is no relief in sight for the besieged Russians. Yet they are holding on like grim death. "Only when the last biscuit is eaten and the last cartridge fired, will the garrison surrender the fortress. This I can state positively," is the declaration of a high Russian official. "Port Arthur shall be my grave," declares General Stoessel, the commander. For some time no fresh meat save horse-flesh has been obtainable; and a war correspondent, who recently dined with General Stoessel, complimented the steak, only to learn that it was horse!

"So many men were killed on both sides during the last assault," says a press dispatch, "that many bodies lay unburied for days, and in some instances dogs which had been driven from the town assuaged their hunger by eating the dead. In a few cases where this was seen the horror-stricken Russian sharpshooters killed the dogs. Some months ago the Russian authorities ordered that all dogs seen in the streets should be shot,