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## WEEKLY DEMOCRATIC LETTER

### A SMILE WHICH RESEMBLES A CRACK IN LIVER.

Republican Leaders Are Wearing Something Like the Above—The Statute of Limitation Has Run and They Are Free.

To the Ardmoreite.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 10.—Many Republican leaders who, in the recent erstwhile, were going about wearing a worn, haggard and hunted expression are now walking the streets of the nation's capital wearing a broad and expansive smile that resembles a crack in a frozen liver. Wherefore? Simply because on the 31st of July last the statute of limitation ran and they are forever barred from prosecution for the misdeeds and peccadilloes they indulged in while holding positions of honor and trust under the national government three years ago. There are many men who ought to have been indicted and would have been had not President Roosevelt told Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow not to investigate any of the cases where the statute of limitation would run this year. It was known here also that Perry S. Heath, the secretary of the Republican national committee, would have been one of the first to be indicted, along with Maehen, if the Republican leaders had not stepped in and put a veto on the thing. Mr. Heath knows too much of the inside workings of the cog wheels and oiling that the different parts of the machine received in the last two national campaigns. He might as Rathbone threatened to do, "pull down the pillars of the temple," and that would be dangerous to many in high places and leave the Republican skeleton exposed in all its hideousness. The man who invented the statute of limitations should have a monument erected to his memory by the Republican leaders, for they know how much tribulation he saved them. The next convention of that party should pass the hat around and no one should be more liberal in his donation than President Roosevelt, for it has saved him a world of annoyance and publicity that might have jeopardized his political future. An excellent slogan for the Republicans next year would be: Vive la statute of limitations!

When President Roosevelt appointed L. P. ANDERSON, President. B. F. FRENSELY, Vice-President. C. L. ANDERSON, Cashier.

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ed "Ret" Clarkson surveyor of the port of New York there was a general gasp of astonishment by civil service reformers, and a good deal of surprise was manifested by the less truly good politicians. That Clarkson paid but little attention to the duties of his office, but was making secret trips to Southern states, with a strong inclination to confine society sought to "black-and-tans" and "lily-whites," who were known to be important factors in selecting delegates to the national Republican conventions, occasioned no amazement amongst politicians. They regarded him as the personal representative of the president, and on what might be called a secret service mission for him. Clarkson regards public office as a private snap and although President Roosevelt is supposed to have other and opposite views on the duties of public officers, he evidently does not disapprove of the Clarkson "graft" of drawing a good salary without much, if any, return to the people who are taxed to pay it. Clarkson is an old political pal of Postmaster General Payne; they have been mixed up in some similar deals—obtaining delegates on former occasions—so nobody will be particularly surprised at the information that "Ret" Clarkson is the man who furnished the revenue cutter for Postmaster General Payne and his family to take their late summer outfit. That revenue cutters were not intended for private use does not seem to have troubled the elastic political consciences of either Clarkson or Payne. It is through this loose idea of the private snap that high officials regard as their political perquisites, that the grafting and looting in the postoffice and other departments have grown to such serious scandals. Yet Mr. Payne is supposed to be investigating this sort of thing. When will the people awake.

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If President Roosevelt is elected next year it will be simply and solely because the voters of the country believe that he is helping them in their battle with the trusts. It is not strange, then, that the president is doing all in his power to give currency to the idea that he is fighting the trusts with might and main. Let us see how he is doing this. Let us see how much he is entitled to the distinguished consideration of the people for his efforts to curb the trusts. Mr. Roosevelt started in political life as a strenuous free trader, and was a member of the New York Free Trade club, yet recently, under pressure from the Protective Tariff League, he joined the "standpointers," and thus stands opposed to the most certain way of curbing the trusts and giving relief

to the people—by reducing the tariff duties. It was the president's voice that killed the Littlefield anti-trust bill in the last congress and caused the passage of two sham anti-trust bills—the Elkins anti-rebate bill and the department of commerce bill with its bureau of corporations to give publicity to trusts. His voice could have caused his attorney general to go after the coal trust that William Randolph Hearst had freed with his own money and solely in the interest of the people. His voice was silent. Instead of saying, "Sick 'em Knovy," he left Mr. Hearst to guard the tree alone. The facts that are slowly coming to light in regard to the new bureau of corporations in the department of commerce should open the eyes of the voters of the country to the real position of the president on the trust question. In discussing the "Present Statistical Outlook in Washington," the correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Advertiser, on July 27, said of this new bureau: "The work now laid out for this bureau is of a really thorough type, and if it is pursued with vigor on the lines now suggested there will be a good deal of complaint in the near future when the methods now contemplated are actually applied. Pressure of the most strenuous sort will undoubtedly be brought to bear at the white house. Just how soon the department will really begin to show its hand in the matter of trust investigation can not be certainly predicted, but those who are in a position to know say it will not be until after the next presidential election. As a matter of fact, a good deal of time is needed for the organization of the work and laying out special lines of investigation. All this will consume many months, and Secretary Cortelyou is too tactful a man to weaken his strategic position by opening fire in a presidential campaign if there would be any danger in hurting his party thereby. It will, therefore, be a good while before any definite results of the inquiries of the bureau of corporations." CHARLES A. EDWARDS.

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WOODFORD.

Special Correspondence.  
Woodford, I. T., Aug. 11.—Hitts, Roberts & Caldwell were here yesterday talking to the farmers in regard to hauling their crops to Germany rather than cross the Rio, as there is no bridge on the river for them to cross over on and the banks are so steep it is impossible to pull a load up them.  
Mrs. Emma Akers and May Jolly went to Tishomingo yesterday to attend the grand chapter of the G. E. S. Dr. Taylor is moving the Woods dwelling from the north part of town to his lot in the south part.  
The W. O. W. Camp aim to give a picnic here in the near future. All can "look well to the tall timber."

Ardmore camp No. 33 Woodmen of the World, will hold their regular meeting next Friday night, August 14. Important business will come up and all the members are requested to attend. J. N. MORGAN, C. C.  
ED SANDLIN, Cler.

## A HORRIFYING DISASTER

### RAILROAD WRECK IN TUNNEL. OVER ONE HUNDRED DEATHS

Paris the Scene of Awful Catastrophe Horrifying Details Amid Fire and Smoke—Heart Rending Scenes of Death.

Paris, Aug. 11.—Eighty-four bodies have been recovered and the death list will probably exceed one hundred in an underground railway disaster that occurred here last night. The accident, which occurred on the Metropolitan street railway, assumed the proportions of an awful catastrophe during the early hours of the day when more than four score bodies of burned and suffocated victims were removed from the subterranean passage. The work continues and indications are that the death list will perhaps exceed five score.

The scenes at the mouth of the tunnel where the victims were brought forth were of the most heart-rending description—crowds of weeping men, women and children struggled forward in an effort to recognize their missing relatives and friends. Most of the victims are from the middle and working classes, as the trains were carrying them home from their work.

Although the accident occurred at 8 o'clock last evening, officials and firemen were unable early this morning to descend into the tunnel, owing to the blinding clouds of smoke from the burning train. Frequent attempts were made by heroic volunteers, whom it was necessary to rescue half suffocated.

At ten minutes after 3 o'clock Sergeant Ahrens, wearing a respirator succeeding in making a descent. He remained seven minutes and brought the first information to the effect that corpses were strewn all about the roadway of the tunnel. Then the collapsed. Twenty minutes later firemen forced their way down through the tunnel station at Menil Montant and returned soon afterward with seven bodies. These persons had been asphyxiated, as their positions showed they had been groping through smoke that filled the tunnel, seeking a way to escape when they were overcome.

The work of bringing up bodies went on steadily after that, under the personal direction of the perfect of police who summoned a large reserve force to hold back the surging crowd, including relatives of the victims.

After daylight the crowds at the entrance of the tunnel increased to enormous proportions, obliging the police to perform a cordon through were admitted only those seeking to identify their relatives among the victims.

The failure of many men, women and children to return home during the night gave many the first news of the catastrophe. Fathers and mothers came hurrying to the mouths of the tunnel to try to find their absent ones.

At the second descent the firemen found a great number of bodies mass-

ed near the ticket office of the station where many had evidently been overcome while seeking their way out. Some escaped but others had been trampled on.

In addition to the blinding smoke the tunnel belched forth terrific heat, as one of the trains was slowly burning within. The firemen succeeded in throwing several streams of water in the direction of the wreck, while some firemen and military engineers, at great hazard, pushed on inside the tunnel. They brought out five bodies. These were the passengers of the burned train. They had leaped from the coaches when the fire broke out and, groping through the suffocating clouds of smoke sought exit at Les Charonnes street station. But the tunnel makes a sharp turn near the scenes of the disaster and at the angle the entire mass of humanity apparently became tightly wedged. The panic which took place at this point within the dark subterranean passage must have been terrible.

Many of the victims had handkerchiefs stuffed in their mouths, they having evidently tried to keep out the asphyxiating smoke. The faces of the dead were red and congested. Some women held their children tightly in their arms. As firemen brought out the bodies agonizing cries went up from women and children who recognized their dead husbands and fathers. Most of the victims were second class passengers. The body of one of the women, however, was handsomely dressed, while two young male victims were evidently persons of importance.

At 8:30 a. m. the total of bodies lying in the morgue had reached forty and the total at the barracks of the municipal guard forty-four, making eighty-four altogether. The number of bodies was unofficially estimated at above one hundred.

### WOMAN GOT FORTY LASHES.

#### Inhuman Treatment Reported From a Georgia Prison.

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 11.—Governor Terrill has ordered an investigation of the whipping of Maurie De Crist, the "Diamond Queen," at the state prison camp at Milledgeville. The investigation is expected to result in revelations of the most shocking character. The whipping has aroused so much indignation at Milledgeville that citizens are making threats of lynching the officers who whipped the woman.

Miss De Crist was the hospital stewardess. The wife of Warden Alagood took offense at her and had her husband take a negro in her position and send Miss De Crist out to work in the field.

Miss De Crist protested and Mrs. Alagood flew into a passion and persuaded her husband to have the woman whipped. Warden Alagood did so and called two guards to assist. They took Miss De Crist into a room, strapped her, and while the guards held her the warden applied the stinging lash to her back. Forty lashes were applied and finally, after Miss De Crist had exhausted herself by screaming, she fainted away and was not revived for two hours. The woman's back was beaten raw and several blows landed on her breast, inflicting cruel bruises.

## COLLAPSE OF POPE PIUS X

### EXCITES WILDEST ALARM IN THE VATICAN DURING MASS.

The Pope Has Been Over Exerting Himself Throughout His Recent Coronation Ceremonies—Physicians Gave Relief.

Rome, Aug. 11.—Pope Pius X. had a fainting fit this morning while celebrating mass. His holiness was revived.

The pope has been over exerting himself to such an extent that his naturally strong constitution was unable to bear the strain put upon it by the coronation ceremonies. Such has been the effect upon his nerves that he has been unable to sleep for whole nights while numerous receptions yesterday made matters worse.

Last night his holiness was very much agitated; still he insisted upon admitting this morning to hear his mass all Venetians who had journeyed to Rome purposely to attend the coronation. They numbered about 300 when mass began in the Pauline chapel and the air was vitiated with a temperature above 90 degrees. Pope Pius was seen to grow paler and paler, finally throwing out his hands as though seeking support. He would have fallen had not Monsignor Bressan, his private chaplain, been quick to catch him.

It is impossible to describe the confusion and alarm among worshippers while the pope lay motionless and unconscious, his eyes closed. Fortunately among the Venetians present was Dr. Davenesia, who for nine years has been the pope's attending physician at Venice. The physician gave the pontiff immediate assistance, while messengers telephoned Dr. Laponi. The latter rushed to the Vatican, but did not arrive until after the pope had been restored to consciousness and taken to his own apartments.

The W. C. T. U. will meet at the First Presbyterian church Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock.  
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