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Thursday, October 3, 1912.

If you haven't yet been to the State Fair, go today. And if you have been, it will do you good to go again.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson says a child should be allowed to do what it wants to. What a boom that would make in the crockery trade!

The growing college enrollment is cited in Eastern newspapers as a certain sign of prosperous times. And a very good sign it is, too.

Seventy marriage licenses issued by the clerk of this county in a single day is a record. It shows that the institution of marriage is yet popular.

A contemporary explains that Colonel Roosevelt's attitude on the tariff is being misrepresented. But Colonel Roosevelt has no attitude on the tariff to misrepresent.

Keir Hardie is quoted as saying that "from the time of Eden men have been hiding behind women's skirts." Ahem! What fashion plate of that early day shows Eve wearing a skirt?

"Pig Iron" Kelley used to say that when the smoke from the iron-smelting furnaces showed them to be in full blast, all was well with the industries of the country. And that's the condition of the United States today.

The St. Louis Globe Democrat well says: "The lawyers of the Bar Association who resent public criticism of judges should remember that the present era of criticism follows a long one of unquestioning respect. Why?"

Mayor Gaynor of Greater New York is a great stickler for dignity. But what possible dignity is there in being mayor of a city which shows such a criminal police record as the recent investigations disclose in New York?

That is a most extraordinary story which comes from Wyoming about the lynching of a prisoner by convicts in the State's prison. What kind of a penitentiary do they have in Wyoming, anyway? There surely must be some mistake; a lynching in a penitentiary is incredible.

Some time ago it was stated that Rogers, an American elephant hunter in Africa, had been killed in Belgium territory by a British armed force. Now it is said that he was killed by one of his own Sudanese. The best way out of a bad situation, evidently, but no doubt a fabrication.

Utah stands higher and Utah men are at the front in dry farm work, declares Prof. P. V. Cardon, expert investigator from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Which is precisely as it ought to be, showing that the men get the praise who are entitled to it, which isn't always the case.

The president of the Boise Commercial club is boastful about the fine fruit of the Snake valley; and he is justified in boasting about it. But it isn't any better than the Utah fruit, as Mr. Sinsell can see by a visit to the State Fair, which no doubt he has already made. In all these matters these mountain regions stand together, producing the best in the world.

Senator Dixon showed his usual impudence before the investigating committee yesterday. His charges were insolent and preposterous. He didn't claim, in fact, to know anything about the truth of them, but made them as he has made so many other unfounded charges during the campaign, from mere gossip or suspicion, and the committee was justly incensed with him.

The church organ continued its whine last night that President Joseph F. Smith "didn't mean nothin'" in particular when he put forth his Improvement Era editorial political boost for Taft; and anyhow nobody would have taken any notice of it (save only those for whose guidance it was intended) if that mean old Tribune hadn't called public attention to it. The pitiful straits to which the organ is reduced are evident in its whine; and it is as spiteful, false, and tricky as usual in its evasions and prevarications. The hope evidently was that the intrusive

and uncalculated editorial would be allowed to do its intended work upon the controlled vote of the church, without any one exposing its ugly and indefensible purpose.

### TAFT'S GREAT WORK.

The great work that President Taft has achieved in the Presidential office we have referred to from time to time, and the statement in yesterday morning's dispatches in The Tribune that President Taft is determined once more to bring to the front his great measure for peace, the arbitration treaties that were rejected by the Senate last winter, calls attention to the most striking measure ever projected for the benefit of mankind in insuring peace among the nations. President Taft is not content to let his arbitration treaties die without a further struggle to have them ratified by the Senate of the United States, so that there will be the enormously important beginning for permanent world peace through the arbitration compact between this country and Great Britain and between this country and France, Germany and Japan also announced their determination to apply for like treaties in case the arbitration proposed by President Taft were ratified by our Senate.

Another great achievement of President Taft, aside from the many that have been noted, is referred to by the St. Louis Times, in its comment upon this declaration of Colonel Harvey in the North American Review:

We yield to none in respect or regard for Mr. Taft. As true an American as faithful and honorable a man, as just a Judge, as conscientious and unselfish an administrator of laws as ever lived, is a register of failure.

Upon which the St. Louis Times has this excellent comment:

Here speaks the politician rather than the logician. The difficulties which have confronted President Taft have been of an extraordinary kind. It has been supposed that Col. Roosevelt "split" the Republican party when he bolted the Chicago convention. As a matter of fact he turned the trick when he occupied the White House. He established a following that was at first smiled at indulgently by the orthodox ranks of Republicanism, and later feared and condemned by them.

This division of the ranks was clearly marked when President Taft was elected. He was the extremely difficult task of steering a safe course between the two camps. He performed his duties regardless of the programmes of the two camps, and at one time or another he offended both. He was not progressive enough for the Progressives, he was too progressive for the Standpatters.

Now, however, he has achieved the tremendous victory of discrediting the Roosevelt influence and following. It has been his steady adherence to reasonable courses which has made possible the clear recognition of the Roosevelt menace. He has reached the point where his administration may proceed along more clearly defined paths.

The truth is that President Taft has been laboring all of his present term under the handicap of Rooseveltism. There seemed to be an extraordinary expectation in the minds of the Roosevelt men that President Taft would not conduct his administration as he himself desired to conduct it, but that he would undertake to carry out some of the policies of Roosevelt, and would allow Roosevelt to be the power behind the throne, dictating his every important act and his position on the chief public questions. The fact that President Taft has chosen to be his own man in the Presidential chair in place of Roosevelt's man seems to have given rise to the deepest resentment on the part of Colonel Roosevelt and his admirers.

### NOT A BID FOR NOTORIETY.

We note in the Topeka State Journal an editorial paragraph, which reads: Utah makes a strange bid for fame by permitting its convicted murderers, under sentence of death, to choose the route by which they will travel to unknown beyond.

Our Kansas contemporary is evidently unaware of the facts and the reasons. The idea of the Utah legislature in imposing the death penalty is so that a murderer should literally have his blood shed, in strict accordance with the original Biblical decree. Accordingly, at the first the law provided three modes for the execution of the death sentence: hanging, shooting, and beheading. The hanging was least favored of these, and beheading the most, on the theory that the blood should be shed for the remission of the sin. A number of years ago, however, beheading was taken out of the law; so that now we have only the hanging and the shooting. The shooting is preferred to the hanging, because it sheds the blood of the murderer, and so may go as far as it will toward the remission of his sins.

Utah made no bid for notoriety in this matter, but simply undertook at an early period in its history to follow as closely as possible the scriptural injunction for the shedding of blood, and it seems a little late to be waking up some fifty or sixty years after the en-

actment, with a charge that Utah is seeking notoriety through this form of execution.

### CONGRESS REFUSES TO MERGE.

We are glad to note that the Irrigation Congress refused to listen to its proposition to merge itself with the Dry Farming Association, the Transmississippi Congress, or any other body whatever. Thus refusing, the Congress repeats its history, since it resisted a number of years ago an effort on the part of the Transmississippi Congress to absorb it.

The truth is, that the Irrigation Congress has a greater display of achievement to its credit than any other association in the western part of the United States. It was through the efforts of the Irrigation Congress that the National Irrigation law was passed, through means of which the stupendous reclamation works have been put in by the National Government.

The policy of the Irrigation Congress has been to work for the reclamation of the public domain, and thus offer opportunities for American homes. There is no such thing as monopoly in the work of the Irrigation Congress. Everything is open, above board, and is for the benefit of the individual homemaker. It is impossible for any monopoly, any corporation, any trust, to get the advantage of a homemaker on reclaimed land, and this reclaimed land is now getting to be of such vast area, of such high importance, that the Irrigation Congress may justly point with pride to the results achieved as the fruition of its own excellent service.

For the Irrigation Congress to merge itself in any other concern would be to give others a share of the great work already done which they have not earned, and by that much to dim the brilliant record of the Irrigation Congress itself. The Irrigation Congress is unique; it has done its work in splendid fashion, and when the time comes for it to dissolve, we trust that it will go to its death with dignity, with the calm consciousness of magnificent work fully performed, and secure in the fame which the history of American progress will surely award to it. But in the meantime it has a great work yet to do; its work is right to its hand, a specialty of its own. And its duty is to keep right on with that work until it is completely done.

### ENORMOUS EXPENDITURES.

The enormous expenditures of money in behalf of Col. Roosevelt's candidacy, both before the National Republican Convention in Chicago on June 18th and afterwards, have been the cause of much speculation and challenge. Col. Roosevelt has been insistent that the expenditures of other candidates should be specified; but he has diligently withheld any account of his own. This is no doubt partly because he does not know what the expenditures have been, his friends taking care of that part of it for him, and Mr. Perkins being the treasurer of his political activities. But the accounts that come from the Senate Investigating Committee are rather startling in their showing of the amount of money that has been spent for Col. Roosevelt this year. When it comes to the point of one man, Boss Flinn of Pennsylvania, putting up more than \$100,000 for the Roosevelt campaign, it must be admitted that the expenditures are running beyond all precedent so far as known. It has been surmised that the Hanna expenditures in 1896 for the nomination and election of President McKinley were the greatest ever known. Perhaps they were up to that time, but it is a clear case that the expenditures in behalf of Roosevelt this year largely overtop those famous expenditures by Mr. Hanna.

It is an evil sign for the Republic when such vast sums as these can be obtained for a piratical campaign such as the Roosevelt campaign is this year. The worst of it is, however, that there does not seem to be any way to stop this expenditure; for it has been voluntary, spontaneous in many States, and even Col. Roosevelt probably knew little about the amount of money that was being spent in his cause. When money is raised voluntarily and expended in this manner, it is impossible for the law to control it; for men have as much right to put their money into a political campaign as into any other venture, and the law cannot prevent it, neither can it punish such expenditures in any other way than by declaring that the person in whose behalf the money is spent shall not take the position to which he is elected. But that would inevitably work injustice, also, because, in many cases, as that of Representative Catha of St. Louis, in whose behalf considerable sums were spent by his father without his knowledge, the candidate is not really responsible for the money spent and has no possible evil intent with regard to it.

The vast expenditures of money in Col. Roosevelt's behalf means two things. First, that he has come to terms with the trusts and agreed not to prosecute them if elected. This, indeed, he has openly announced when he said that the anti-trust law was never meant to be enforced, and his open programme is that the trusts shall not be dissolved, but shall be taken in hand by the Government, recognized, and regulated. And second, that a good many pushing politicians who have not been able to get what they wanted in the past see in his movement a fresh chance to get into office, and these men having become wealthy under the old system of public contracts, are now using the money unjustly extorted from the public to advance their own political interests and their own claims for official position. It would be eminently desirable

if the expenditures in political campaigns could be minimized by law or otherwise, and if it is found impossible to regulate them altogether by law, then the drastic provision may become necessary which will shut out from office all in whose behalf more than a fixed sum has been expended on pain of forfeiture of the office.

### OPPRESSIVE ELECTION LAWS.

It is clearly a public outrage that in this popular government large numbers of electors are, or may be, deprived by law from voting for the candidate for President whom they prefer. Thus, in Kansas and California, it appears that Taft electors cannot be put upon the official ballot because of the usurpation of the name and place of the Republican party on the ticket by the Roosevelt grafters, who, for their own party advantage, insist that Roosevelt electors shall occupy the place of the electors on the Republican ticket. And the courts cannot interfere, for the law allows it.

We have commented heretofore upon the tendency of legislation of recent years to compel voters to vote straight party tickets. That is the tendency in all official ballots, and it is especially the tendency in the use of voting machines, for in the voting machines, while persons who are familiar with their operation can manipulate the machine so as to vote scratched tickets and to prefer candidates, the masses of the voters are afraid to tamper with the little pointers for fear they may do something that will vitiate their votes. Accordingly, they consider it best to vote the party ticket straight.

We believe that in a popular government the election laws should have as little as possible to do with parties, but should leave the individual voter untrammelled. The right of the voter to cast his ballot without irksome prescriptions in the law, and without cut and dried programmes for party tickets, is unquestionable. The law should recognize this personal right to the fullest possible extent. There is no reason why we should have an official ballot, or voting machine, or anything of the kind. Every voter has a right to prepare in the privacy of his home the ballot that he wishes to vote, and go to the polls and vote it. In that way alone is the perfect freedom and independence of the voter assured. The fact that there is a blank on the machines and that on the Australian ballot there is a blank space for the voters to write in the name of any candidate he wishes to vote for, by no means meets the case, for the guidance, the inevitable tendency, we might almost say the necessity, of a voter to vote what is there on the machine or on the ballot already prepared is, in most cases, controlling.

The idea that voters by the tens of thousands in Kansas, California, or any other State, can be deprived of the opportunity to vote for Taft, Presidential electors except by the extraordinary means of having petitions to put the names of those electors on the official ballot is an imposition upon the people, and a travesty upon popular rule. The people need more independence, and not more party guidance. They need more personal initiative, and less machine usurpation; and we cannot but think that all of the restrictive election laws that have been passed for many years past are devised in the interest of the bosses and of political machines, and to the injury and affliction of the free voter throughout the United States. A voter who wishes to cast his ballot without regard to any official preparations before hand, has just as much right to do so as another voter has to vote the machine ticket. Evidently the next reform—and it will be a real reform, curing many evils—should be the throwing out of all official ballots, of machines, and allowing every voter to vote as he chooses without regard to officially prepared lists of candidates, either printed or designated, or on a machine. Throw the obstacles out of the way, and let the voter cast such ballot as he pleases, without having anybody prepare for him beforehand an official ticket which he necessarily will feel almost constrained to vote. The fact that these ballots print all of the official party tickets cuts no figure in the case. There is getting to be an increasing number of voters all over the United States—may their tribe increase—who don't want anything to do with prepared tickets of any kind, official or otherwise, but want to be left entirely free to vote as they please, without any guidance, restraint, or political or other machine-made restrictions.

### AS TO PARTISAN JUDGES.

The New York Republicans, in their State platform, declare: "We favor a separate ballot for judicial officers without party designation."

It appears, therefore, that the Republicans of the great Empire State dissent fundamentally and entirely from the position taken by the so-called Republicans of this judicial district, who demand that judges shall be partisans first, last, and all the time, "radiating a constant influence in favor of their party."

The voters of this Third judicial district in Utah will have an opportunity this year to declare whether they want that sort of judiciary, or whether they want non-partisan judges. We have confidence enough in the good judgment and common sense of the voters to believe that they will declare for a non-partisan judiciary and will elect their judges accordingly. For it would manifestly be a cloud upon the courts of this district to have judges elected on the basis that they must "radiate a constant influence in favor of their party," such influence radiated, of course, from the bench as elsewhere. The New York Republicans are evidently very far behind the times, or else the Republicans of this judicial district are so belated as to be distinguished in the progress of judicial choice.

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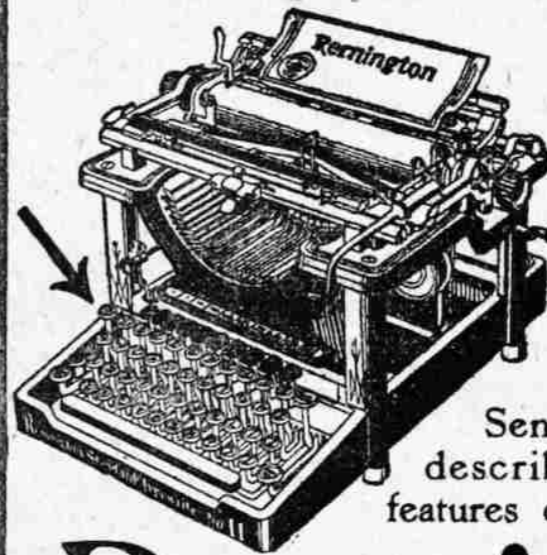
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