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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
Editor and Owner.

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A BOON FOR TAFT.

President Taft's campaign for nomination in June has been entirely different from the campaigns conducted by other candidates. While the president has made two speaking tours, he has not used press agents to the extent that some of the others have found necessary in order to boost their candidacy. President Taft's attitude and that of his supporters has been one of calm, dignified, non-political action to bring the nomination of the president about. But a change is noted. Charles D. Hilles, secretary of the president, has undertaken something of a press agent nature in the issuance of a

statement in which he predicts the nomination of the president in June and his re-election in November.

It is the first move of the kind in the Taft camp and indicates that a change in policy has occurred. It is credited to President Taft that he does not believe it becoming to the office of which he is the occupant that any undignified scramble should be made to seek the office. While this sounds well and is a credit to him, it is bad politics and is not likely to assist him in gaining the nomination. He must have an organization and some campaign enthusiasm else his chances will decrease with every day. Apparently, the Taft supporters have realized the need of agitation and Secretary Hilles' statement may be accepted as the first open move to combat the La Follette and Cummins movement and to defeat the Roosevelt boom, the latter being especially formidable at the present time.

TODAY HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT.

Sixty-six years ago today congress passed a resolution giving notice to Great Britain that the conventions of 1818 and 1827 for joint occupation of Oregon, then comprised of more territory than at present, should terminate 12 months from that date. This important historical date is often overlooked yet it was on February 9, 1846, that the resolution was passed.

BLIND "BILLIKEN" IN NEED.

The town of Summit, N. J., is wondering what's going to become of "Billiken," a blind baby a little more than 12 months old, who is entering into his second unseeing year—after remarkable adventures—in the home of the International Sunshine society. If sufficient money is contributed "Billiken" may be brought up and trained by the society. If no one offers aid, it is hard to say what may become of him.

A member of the society journeying in the west a few weeks ago ran across the tiny boy in Kansas City, Mo. He had been abandoned by his parents. Kansas City, Mo., declared that he belonged to Kansas City, Kan., and sent him over there. The latter town said it had no place for him. The Sunshine member said, "Well, then, I'll give him a temporary home, anyhow," and brought him east. Because his mouth turned up and he grinned in spite of his afflicted, she christened him "Billiken."

The society's home in Brooklyn was filled, so he had to be sent to Summit. There his upbringing, nursing and training will cost \$1.00 a day, for which no provision was made; but the society authorities are hoping that kind-hearted child lovers may come to his aid and send checks to the society at No 96 Fifth avenue, that city. Jersey can't help him. The town of Summit has no funds. The society is not equipped to care for him free, and so "Billiken's" future belongs to the charitable.

President Emeritus Elliot, of Harvard, while at Kandy, Ceylon, submitted to an operation for appendicitis. Not trying, of course, to break into the Wolgast class as the "Kandy Kid."

New York society has O. K'd the grizzly bear dance, but New York society will stand for a lot of things the police won't.

Of course, it's a small matter, but who sharpened the pencils in the election booths at Los Angeles where the women voted?

Statistics show there are 13 fewer daily newspapers today than there were one year ago. Another instance of a survival of the fittest.

Gov. Wilson admits that his mind is a one-track road, while Champ Clark's is popularly credited with being a three-ring circus.

It is seldom, however, that a man is driven to drink by "chasers."

Might as well dust off your Teddy bears.

Agricultural note: President Taft has been in Ohio repairing his fences.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

February 9.

1773—William Henry Harrison, ninth president of the United States, born in Berkeley, Va. Died in Washington, D. C., April 4, 1841.

1795—John Penn, grandson of William Penn, and governor of Pennsylvania 1773-76, died. Born in Philadelphia in 1728.

1826—Gen. John A. Logan born in Illinois. Died in Washington, D. C., Dec. 26, 1886.

1841—Union of upper and lower Canada.

1846—Congress passed a resolution giving notice to Great Britain that the convention of 1818 and 1827 for joint occupation of Oregon should be terminated at the expiration of 12 months.

1865—Gen. Robert E. Lee made commander-in-chief of the confederate forces.

1870—United States weather bureau organized by act of congress.

1872—Expedition of the Royal Geographical society started for Africa to search for Dr. Livingstone.

1890—Schnectady, N. Y., commemorated the 200th anniversary of the massacre by French and Indians.

1891—Ten thousand miners in the Connellsville coke regions in Pennsylvania went on strike.

1911—Rt. Rev. Ozi W. Whitaker, P. E. bishop of Pennsylvania, died in Philadelphia. Born in New Salem, Mass., May 10, 1830.

"THIS IS MY 69TH BIRTHDAY."

Nathan Goff.

Nathan Goff, federal court jurist

and for many many years a republican leader of national prominence, was born in Clarksburg, Va., February 9, 1843. In 1861 he quit his studies at Georgetown college to enlist as a private in the union army. He was a prisoner for some months in Libby prison and at the close of the war was mustered out as a brigadier-general of volunteers. After the war he began the practice of law at the town of Clarksburg, W. Va. He served as a member of the state legislature in 1867, as United States attorney for West Virginia from 1868 to 1881, as secretary of the navy in the cabinet of President Hayes for a short time in 1881, as a member of congress from 1882 to 1889, and since 1892 as judge of the United States district court. In 1876 and again in 1888 Judge Goff was the republican candidate for governor of West Virginia.

Congratulations to:—

Anthony Hope, the noted English novelist, 49 years old today.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell, the English actress, 47 years old today.

George Ade, author and playwright, 46 years old today.

Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, of the British army, 74 years old today.

Lincoln Dixon, representative in congress of the Fourth Indiana district, 42 years old today.

TAFT CAMPAIGN QUARTERS

(Continued from page one)

of the Indiana Lincoln league. In Colorado, also, the anniversary of the birth of Lincoln promises to be a banner day for the republican party. Republican leaders of all factions have been invited to meet in Denver on that day for a grand "harmony" conference. The state committee will meet to discuss plans for the state convention, a conference is to be held by the republican editors, and the gathering will close with a Lincoln banquet at which former Senator Beveridge of Indiana is to be the star speaker.

Aside from the Lincoln Day jubiliations the chief event of the week on the republican calendar will be the state convention of Georgia republicans, which is to meet in Atlanta on Wednesday to name delegates to the national convention at Chicago. Recent reports from the south give evidence of considerable activity on the part of Roosevelt adherents in Georgia and it is reported that they will make an effort to have a Roosevelt man elected chairman of the state committee. The Taft people however, do not appear worried over the situation, and the general opinion is that about the best that the Roosevelt followers can hope for is an unimportant delegation to Chicago. A solid Taft delegation is the prediction of the president's friends.

A straw to indicate the way the wind is blowing in Oklahoma will be furnished by the the state committee meeting and Lincoln banquet to be held in Guthrie Monday. James A. Harris, chairman of the state committee, is the leader of the Taft forces in Oklahoma and there is little doubt that the roundup at Guthrie will show that the president can count upon the support of the Oklahoma delegation in his fight for re-nomination.

On the democratic side, the most interesting news of the week probably will be furnished by Governor Woodrow Wilson, who will make a hurried trip to Chicago to deliver one or two addresses on Lincoln Day and to confer with some of the prominent democrats in the west. Also of interest will be the democratic presidential primary in St. Louis to select 216 delegates to the democratic state convention at Joplin. The Joplin convention will determine whether former Governor Joseph W. Folk or Speaker Champ Clark shall have the Missouri endorsement for president.

G. O. P. Pow-Wow at the Capital.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 9.—The arrangements completed for the annual banquet of the League of Republican State Clubs at the New Willard hotel tomorrow night give promise of one of the most notable affairs of the kind that the capital has seen this winter. Six hundred prominent party leaders will attend the function. President Taft will be present during the evening, and addresses will be delivered by Charles W. Fairbanks of Indiana, Governor Hadley of Missouri, Governor Goldsborough of Maryland, John Hays Hammond of Massachusetts, Job Hedges of New York, D. D. Woodmansee of Ohio and J. Hampton Moore of Pennsylvania.

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