

Medford Daily Tribune

A LIVE PAPER IN A LIVE TOWN.

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"THE KING CAN DO NO WRONG."

In days of old the doctrine of divine rights of kings held well nigh universal sway. Today, in the minds of many good American citizens, Theodore Roosevelt, like the monarchs whose glory has long since faded, can do no wrong.

Perhaps never before since the days of Washington has any American been so immune from criticism as the president. What would shock the nation to the verge of hysterics under another executive is now passed by unnoticed, or commended.

Everyone who quarrels with the president, he calls a liar, and the public believes him, despite proof to the contrary. He swings his big stick, righteously and unrighteously, and the people applaud. He uses the immense power and prestige of his position to dictate his successor, and, forgetting his dignity as chief magistrate of all the people, wallows in the mire of partisan politics to force the election of a personal favorite. His friends are discreetly silent, and his enemies have learned the futility of protest.

The country is witnessing a curious condition of politics. In the west both Taft and Bryan claim to be rightful heirs of the Roosevelt policies. Taft is now all but lost sight of in the wrangles in which the president of the United States is the chief squabbler. Taft is running on an anti-Roosevelt platform, dictated by the president's enemies, which does not contain a single policy favored by Mr. Roosevelt, yet is noisily supported by the executive, who is hostily swinging his big stick. Bryan, who was the original advocate of the Roosevelt policies and whose platform endorses them, is as vociferously opposed by the president on purely partisan grounds.

In the east, the tide of popularity has turned against the president. Taft is making his campaign on the anti-Roosevelt platform, and is strong because it is felt that he will abandon the president's policies and join the reactionaries. Bryan is gaining strength principally because Roosevelt is opposing him. The attitude regarding the president was thus expressed by a New York banker: "If it came to a choice between Theodore Roosevelt and Harry Thaw, we would choose Thaw."

Roosevelt is evidently preparing to break another precedent and to take the stump for Taft in the middle west, hoping by his personal effort to stem the Bryan tide. It will be rather startling to see the president making stump speeches, but it need surprise no one, for the father of civil service reform has already dictated a presidential nomination by means of the federal office holders, and his cabinet has spent more time doing politics than looking after their business.

Many people will agree with Bryan in regarding the president's acts as "a violation of the obligation that the president owes to the whole people to use the office that belongs to the whole people as a party asset for the advancement of a personal friend and political protégé," but the vast majority will not criticize, for to Roosevelt has fallen the legendary mantle of the king who could do no wrong.

SPEEDY ACTION DESIRED.

Engineer Roberts will make his report to the city council upon the various water propositions within a few days. Whether his recommendations are followed or not, speedy action by the council is desirable, for it is high time Medford's source of water supply was determined.

For several years the city has been agitated over the problem of securing an adequate water supply. This agitation culminated on April 3 in the voting of \$300,000 bonds for the acquisition of such a supply.

The bonds were voted upon the water committee's report and recommendation that the long hunted for and desired source had been found in Wasson canyon springs. The committee attested over its signature that the flow of water throughout the year was from 350 to 500 miners' inches, or from five to eight million gallons a day.

When investigation and inquiry showed that the committee had overestimated the flow in Wasson canyon and that instead of 350 miners' inches minimum flow there was but 160 inches in summer time, Wasson canyon received a severe jolt in the minds of the taxpayers, who loudly protest the purchase of an inadequate supply.

The demand that other sources be also considered became so universal that the council ordered the engineer to report upon them. It is this report that is nearing completion.

Speedy action by the council is desirable, so that the uncertainty that hangs over the city's future, which is dependent upon its water supply, may be dispelled.

What Papers Say

WATTERSON'S FORECAST

(Louisville Courier Journal)
The result in Maine clearly presages the triumph of the national democratic ticket in November.

Never yet has the outlook for the republicans looked so gloomy, for the democrats so bright, at this mid-period of a presidential battle. The whole trend of public sentiment is Bryanward. We shall sweep the country in 1908 precisely as we swept it in 1892.

The people from Maine to Texas, from Sandy Hook to the Golden Gate, are sick of republican waste and false pretenses, of republican double dealing and extravagance, of republican assumptions of patriotism in the interest of the preferred classes, honest wealth too often making common cause with dishonest and lawless wealth, in short, of republican masquerading as a "friend of business" in the east and a friend of humanity in the west, still holding the south at arm's length and in abeyance.

There is not an argument, not an epithet, used by the republicans against Bryan which was not used by them against Tilden, against Hancock and against Cleveland. There is not a republican abuse against which democracy trained its guns in 1876, in 1880, in 1884 and in 1892, which is not yet alive and crying to heaven for reform. The republicans themselves admit this and join in the call for the reform of their own abuses. Thus their platform is two-faced and their ticket is two-faced. If Taft be not Roosevelt, he is sailing under false colors. If he be Roosevelt, he ought to get off a ticket carrying "Sunny Jim" Sherman and supported by Aldrich, Cannon and company, trust builders and grafters in ordinary, preaching socialism to the socialist, prohibition to the prohibitionist, promising what they have no power or intention to give, withholding the simplest remedies, protectionism—the father and mother and wetsure of monopoly—their single cure-all.

The trick is worn out. It will not work any longer. They have shrieked "wolf" too often—even "man overboard" will not suffice. The public intelligence is affronted and is tired. It wants a change for the worst of a change. It knows that it is not in the nature of parties to reform themselves in power. They need to be licked into it; to be reminded by defeat that there is an institutional system, commanding the allegiance of man, that there are a people and a God.

That the election of Bryan means business disaster, or stagnation—it is a lie—a plain, barefaced, palatable lie—a lie out of the rotten old cloth which has been worn by republican politicians and editors until it can scarcely hold together and was long ago greasy, dirty and disreputable.

That Taft is Roosevelt, and Roosevelt is Taft—it is a trick, a sham—to serve its purpose in the west, whilst "Sunny Jim" keeps the boys quiet in Wall Street—the Roosevelt flag waving from the foremast, Taft and Roosevelt making signals from the bridge, whilst under the gunwales, are crouched in concealment, but ready to spring, all the pirates of high finance and all their grafters of high protection, from Harrison to Cannon, from Rockefeller to Aldrich.

Even in Maine they see it, Rock-bound, iron-clad, they are yet able to distinguish betwixt hawk and buzzard. As in the olden days when

"Maine went Hell-bent For Governor Kent," the "pointer" is unerring—one lonely "straw" may show which way the wind blows—and once again, as in 1840 "as goes Maine so goes the Union"—for, taking the percentage of the republican losses and the democratic gains in last Tuesday's election, and apply this to the debatable states, and we carry all before us; only the percentage in our favor will be much greater in New York for example, than in Maine, increasing as we come westward, insuring us Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

The republican managers see death staring them in the face. Before the middle of October as their last desperate resort they will have Theodore Roosevelt upon the stump vainly trying to stem the torrent. Nothing can avail them. They have been tried in the balance and found wanting. The taxpayers are weary unto death of billion dollar Congresses with nothing to show for them. They are weary unto death with promises to reform abuses, each and every one of them of republican origin.

The devil is sick—the devil is full of penitence—let him die, the wretched old son of a gun—let him die and be born again, say the voters of Maine, and "as say we all" will be the confirming voice of the nation the coming third of November.

STEAMER SAILS, NEVER MORE TO RETURN HOME

WINNIPEG, Man., Sept. 29.—Alarm is being felt today over the whereabouts of the steamer Wolverine, which is one trip overdue at Selkirk, 25 miles from here. The boat was on the way down last night, Winnipeg from Warren's landing, which is many miles from Selkirk, when all trace of her was lost. As a very heavy storm has been raging on the lake recently it is feared that the passengers and crew, numbering 20, are in trouble.

POWDER EXPLODES IN HANDS, BUT STILL LIVES

ROQUIAM, Wash., Sept. 29.—That John Benson, a laborer, is still alive today to tell of his experience when a can of blasting powder exploded in his hand yesterday, is considered remarkable by the physicians attending him. Benson's hands were terribly burned and in some places the flesh was almost stripped from the bone. His face is swollen frightfully and his clothes

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COLONISTS' TICKETS will be on sale during SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER from the East to all points in Oregon. The fares from a few principal cities are

From Denver.....\$30.00	From Louisville...\$41.70
From Omaha.....30.00	From Cincinnati...42.20
From Kansas City 30.00	From Cleveland...44.75
From St. Louis...35.50	From New York...55.00
From Chicago...38.00	

TICKETS CAN BE PREPAID.

If you want to bring a friend or relative to Oregon, deposit the proper amount with any of our agents. The ticket will then be furnished by telegraph.

A. S. ROSENBAUM, Medford, Or., Local Agent.
WM. M'MURRAY, General Passenger Agent, Portland, Or.



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By order of the

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September 21, 1908.

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