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EXIT THE BIG STICK.

Business interests and the country generally look forward to a period of quiet under Taft. The restoration of prosperity is confidently expected to follow the retirement of Roosevelt. Too much of the strenuous life, too much beating of tom-toms, too much flourishing of the big stick, have wearied the nation.

It is too early to pass judgment upon Theodore Roosevelt, the president. He has been the most popular of men, the idol of millions. At the same time, with another class, the most unpopular. A reaction against him has set in during the past year, and the pendulum of popularity is steadily swinging away from him. But it may return, and that shortly.

An article by I. C. Norwood in the Outing for March, entitled "Exit Roosevelt the Dominant," tells how Roosevelt is regarded by Washington correspondents—and the newspaper man is a pretty keen judge of human nature:

"In Washington, where Mr. Roosevelt has been at home, officially, a greater part of the time for many years, he is at once the best understood and the worst misunderstood of men. He is praised and damned, lauded and cursed, almost at the same minute and in the same breath. His friends find in him things to detest; his enemies discover qualities they must admire. But all agree on one thing. He is in a class by himself.

"The man who denies that Theodore Roosevelt is the original big noise and dominant note, must be deaf. Even so, the vibration of his eardrum should be convincing proof. But he is more. He is the national powder magazine, the political view halloo, the press agent of reform, the inspiration of the uplift and the last word in the last chapter of the book. But it is as a big noise, a dominant note, that Roosevelt is unique.

"It is difficult to write an appraisement of Roosevelt from Washington which shall at the same time be an appraisement of the Roosevelt that is known "on the outside," as the newspaper correspondents say. These correspondents, and there are about a hundred and fifty of them who serve their papers, big and little, throughout the country, as members of the capitol press galleries, have no illusions concerning Roosevelt. They think and say, many of them, that he is the most successful four-flusher that ever drew the breath of life, that he is careless in his handling the truth, that he knows not the name of justice, that he distributes favors by fancy and not fairness, that he is as vain as a peacock, as confident as a god, as sensitive of criticism as a woman, as tenacious as a bulldog, nd as vindictive as a Malay. He is a good liker and a good hater and his blood is red and thick. And yet there are no same number of men in the United States who will admit more readily that Theodore Roosevelt is entitled in all respects to be called Roosevelt, the Dominant. Some of them have been laid across his knee and slippered, and from many of them he has withdrawn the light of his countenance for varying periods, usually for the most trivial of reasons."

MOVING PICTURE TRUST MAKES SHOWMEN YELL

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., March 3.—Nickelodeon and moving picture theater owners are appealing to independent companies supplying moving picture films to save them from what is termed an attempt by the so-called moving picture trust to force arbitrarily high prices on them. The proprietors allege they will be compelled to pay $70 a week for 13 films, $10 for the privilege of using each film. It is alleged that a merger has been effected whereby the Moving Picture Patents company, which controls the business throughout the United States and Europe, has secured control of the Pacific coast industry.

The syndicate, it is said, consists of the American Mutoscope and Biograph company, the Edison company, Pathe Freres, George Kleine, the Lubin Manufacturing company and the Vitagraph company of America.

Nearly all films of the independent companies are old and have been shown repeatedly on the coast. The endeavor of the small theaters to secure reels outside the so-called combine has been unavailing so far.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL TAKE NO STAND ON LOCAL OPTION

NEW YORK, March 3.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has taken a stand against the plan adopted by the unions in this city, which sent circulars to various central labor bodies urging them to pass resolutions against local option. The following reply was received from Mr. Gompers yesterday:

"I beg to advise you that the executive council has given the subject matter of this circular careful attention, but it is the opinion of the council that the endorsement you request will not be practicable or advisable at this time. The executive council is of the opinion that it would not represent the general sentiment of organized labor to endorse the proposition snow."

COMPLETING GRADE ACROSS THE SWAMP

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., March 3.—One of the dredges has completed the cut across the marsh and the second one, which is throwing up most of the embankment for the railroad grade, will finish its work in the next few weeks. A few weeks will be necessary for leveling the embankment and when this is completed the road can be extended to this city as the grade between the depot site and the edge of the marsh is practically finished. It is probable that the construction trains will be running into the city of Klamath Falls by the latter part of April.

200,000 BUSHELS OF OATS FROM ARGENTINA

BOSTON, Mass., March 3.—What is said to be the first cargo of oats to arrive at any port in the United States from abroad is carried on the steamship st Quentin, which reached here yesterday from Buenos Ayres. There are 200,000 bushels of the oats, which will be delivered this week in New York. Neither the consignee nor the consignor was known here, as the grain was shipped "to order."

BUCHANAN PRAISES THE RULE OF GOMEZ

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 3.—"The situation in Venezuela has improved since Castro left," declared W. I. Buchanan, special commissioner to that country, in an interview today on Venezuelan conditions. "President Gomez is doing everything to dispel the impression created by Castro and harmony will be re-established soon."

SUNDAY BASEBALL MAY BE KILLED IN MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., March 3.—The committee on criminal jurisprudence of the house of representatives of the general assembly today reported favorably a bill prohibiting baseball on Sunday.

COMMUNICATIONS

LESSON DRAWN FROM TELEPHONE ARTICLES

Mr. Editor: I notice a communication, per E. A. Marsh, in the Medford Daily Tribune, speaking of the telephone companies. Mr. Marsh says:

"People can not fix an intelligent opinion without first knowing or having the actual facts in the case."

If Mr. E. A. Marsh is correct in his premises, and I certainly think that he is, I shall like to ask Mr. Marsh, and also all others, if the same opinion will not hold good, not only concerning the telephone companies principal working, but will hold good on all other great questions of importance?

Is Puzzling.

I often find myself wondering how it is that people in general allow themselves to fall into such a powerful lethargic state as that they allow other people to do their thinking for them.

To illustrate: Suppose a stranger comes into a neighborhood to introduce some new kind of seed. He assures the farmer that they can easily double their present income, as soon as he has created their curiosity they call a meeting to talk this matter up. They send for books and papers, treating on the subject.

Consider Politics.

But let a man approach them on the financial question or on the political outlook of the country. I do not think that I am putting it too strong when I say that nine out of every ten will tell you that politics and finance is something they don't understand; that they don't bother themselves any about those things. They leave that to the politicians. And yet those questions are of more importance than any other questions of the day. Speak to them about socialism and nine out of ten will give you the same answer; that the moneyed power man, the "politician," tells him to say. Their answer is like this: "Yes, socialism is all right, but it cannot be made to work," or "I like part of socialism, but I can't do it all." Perfectly satisfied to let the other fellow think for them and tell them what to say. Ha! The moneyed power are compelling everybody to divide up with them; that all are ashamed to throw that false hash at a socialist any more.

Show Their Ignorance.

But frequently they will show their ignorance by trying to explain socialism without first acquainting themselves with any part of the great principles of socialism. Again, Mr. E. A. Marsh is right. No one should try to come to a conclusion on any subject without first studying all the points or facts thereto.

Respectfully D. B. REAME.

The Mail Order Route.

An exchange moralizes as follows over the results of the inroads of the city department stores into the business of local tradesmen:

"People who send out of town for baby buggies usually start out their children in life the mail order way. He grows up and wears Sears Roebuck pants, rides a Montgomery Ward bicycle, takes his girl out riding in somebody else's buggy, lives on paying taxes, strands the grocer off, beats the butcher down on his bill, owes the printer for his newspaper, gets all the credit at home he is allowed, pays all his cash to Chicago merchants, and then wondering as he lies stiff, cold and stark in his final sleep that he is not resting place, why he is pauperized and his tombstone is unadorned with fresh wreaths, while the widow has married the grocer and promises to pay up the butcher and printer. Life is a funny proposition for the mail order man."

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