



WILL FORCE THE ISSUE

Democracy Will Make Republicans Face the Music.

ATTEMPT TO DIVERT THE PUBLIC

The G. O. P. in a Mess, Wants to Make It Appear That Honest Criticism of Its Course Is an Attack Upon the Army—Next House Must Be Democratic.

The Republicans are in a mess. They are unable to agree among themselves on the most important legislation. The exposure of the looting of the Cuban treasury to aid the sugar trust, the bribing of Gomez and the cruelties in the Philippines have put them on the defensive.

With admirable audaciousness they attempt to divert public opinion from their own sins of omission and commission by charging the Democrats with attacking the army. The president sets the pace by making a stump speech at Arlington, and the great trust controlled daily newspapers take up the refrain. The little organs edited by the postmasters give tongue in unison.

This effort to put the Democrats in the attitude of assailing the army will prove abortive. The common soldier is all right and most of the officers from General Miles down. They obey orders; that is the duty of the soldier. The Democrats do protest and will forever protest against the issuing and carrying out of orders to make "a howling wilderness" of any territory under the American flag.

They protest that to "kill all over ten," to kill prisoners, to torture by water cure or other Spanish method, is not war. It is vandalism. It is not American; it is barbarous. If not ordered by the highest authority, it would never have been perpetrated by American soldiers except perhaps in isolated cases.

The Democrats believe in keeping the military authority subordinate to the civil power. No republic can exist that does not do so. The Democrats intend to investigate these cruelties when they have the power and punish the guilty, however high in command. They will investigate the expense accounts both at home, in the Philippines and in Cuba. The transport service and the purchase of supplies will be investigated. They will find out who received the large sums that have been raised by extreme taxation and if the money was squandered on high living in Cuba and elsewhere; who was "fixed" to stay out of politics and who was aided to stay in; what secret intrigue set free the Hanna pets, Rathbone and Neely; why Buen Camano was ordered by the administration to come to this country to testify when the request of the Democrats for other witnesses was refused. A page might be filled with other details that will be investigated, and from the amount of evidence that has been forced to the surface there is a vast amount behind.

To do this the Democrats must elect a majority of the next house of representatives, and this they will do if the people agree with them that the curtain should be raised and the truth known.

No wonder the Republicans are on the defensive and are endeavoring to switch the thoughts of the people from their misdoings by claiming that the army is being attacked. They know, however, that the orders issued to the army are the main point, and the officers of the army for their own honor and reputation and the honor of the United States will welcome the change.

Small, but Strenuous.

President Roosevelt has certified in his late speech to the Harvard graduates that Senator Lodge is his highest ideal of what a Republican should be. There is no doubt that the president is right from his own standpoint, for Lodge is known in Massachusetts as the machine politician, the boss of the Republican party of that Commonwealth, as Quay is in Pennsylvania and Hanna is of the Republican party at large.

His personal friendship for Lodge has warped the judgment of the president. The Massachusetts senator is quite an ordinary individual, with the assurance and egotism that often go with it. Lodge, if sold at his own price, would be expensive, but if got rid of at his actual value it would not ruin a poor man to buy him. There are lots of small but strenuous statesmen at the helm these days.

TELLTALE FIGURES.

They Show How the Republican Party Has Broken Its Pledges.

While the expert mechanical trades and other bodies of workers closely united in unions have advanced their wage scales materially above the panic level of 1893, a compilation of the census figures reveals an extraordinary fact in regard to the manufacturing industries of the country, taken as a whole. It was brought to light in a speech in the house of representatives by Mr. Myers of Indiana.

The census figures for manufacturing have been completed for thirty-three states and territories. They show that the average wages for all laborers in the manufacturing industries were 8 per cent lower in 1900 than in 1890. In those thirty-three states and territories 1,004,500 wage earners received an average of \$418.48 each a year, or \$1.39 a day, in 1890. In the same states and territories in 1900 1,463,365 wage earners received an average of \$387.53 each a year, or \$1.29 a day. In some of the greatest manufacturing states where the trusts are most powerful the decline in wages has been greater. New Jersey's industries paid an average wage of \$2.24 a day in 1890 and only \$1.52 a day in 1900, the decline being 32 per cent.

On the other hand, the compilation of prices in Dun's review for last January showed that the cost of living now is nearly 7 per cent higher than in 1900 and more than 11 per cent higher than in 1890. The compilation includes food of all kinds, clothing, metals, etc.

The average factory worker, therefore, is receiving 8 per cent less wages than in 1890 and is spending from 4 to 11 per cent more for cost of living. The figures are a practical test of the operation of the trusts. In the last two presidential campaigns the apologists for the trusts claimed that they would increase wages and lower the price of their products. The census figures show that they have lowered wages and have increased the price of their products.

In the next presidential campaign the complete census figures for all the states and territories will provide arguments which the party responsible for the trusts will have difficulty in answering to the satisfaction of the factory workers.—Rocky Mountain News.

And That is Statesmanship.

Secretary of the Navy Moody and Congressman Boutell, speaking at the banquet given by the Republican club at Detroit, glorified the deeds of their party, especially the large surplus in the treasury and that the public debt was less now than in 1898. One would think, to hear these ardent Republican talk, that they alone paid all the taxes. It is well to remember that every dollar that goes into the United States treasury is wrung from the people through the tariff or internal revenue taxes. If the collection of the most taxes is the great credit mark of statesmanship, then the Republicans have achieved it. The good old Democratic plan of the least taxes possible with due regard to the efficient administration of the government has been superseded by the collection of vast sums not required by the government, which can be stored up in the treasury vaults or loaned to favored banks, for which not a cent of interest has been or is being paid unless it be the donation by the bankers to the Hanna campaign fund of 1896, 1898, 1900 and probably another liberal advance to the same corruption fund this year.

Taxpayers Foot the Bills.

The fondness for military display of our strenuous administration will cost the taxpayers of the nation a pretty penny. Not only are great military maneuvers to be inaugurated which will cost a large sum for transportation and thus be a bonanza for the favored railroads, but a barrel of money is to be spent fitting out all the available ships, which, the navy department says, "will participate in the most extensive fleet maneuvers ever attempted by the navy in the West Indies."

His Sight Threatened.

"While picnicking last month my 11-year-old boy was poisoned by some weed or plant," says W. H. Dibble, of Sioux City, Ia. "He rubbed the poison off his hands into his eyes and for a while we were afraid he would lose his sight. Finally a neighbor recommended DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. The first application helped him and in a few days he was as well as ever." For skin diseases, cuts, burns, scalds, wounds, insect bites, DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is a sure cure. Relieves piles at once. Beware of counterfeits.

KNOX AND THE TRUSTS

The Attorney General Must Act or Get Out of the Office.

SO SAYS THE ANTITRUST LEAGUE

An Open Letter to President Roosevelt That is Couched in the Plainest of Anglo-Saxon Words—A Defender of Trusts Instead of Champion of the Law.

An open letter was mailed on July 10 to President Roosevelt by the executive committee of the Antitrust League of America. The letter is couched in the plainest of Anglo-Saxon words.

The committee relate in detail the treatment they received from the attorney general when they visited him, by instruction of the president, to lay before him their case against the Eastern Railroad association. The officials of the league assume that the president is not informed of the summary manner in which they assert the matter laid before the attorney general was dismissed.

Referring to the president's speech at Pittsburg and his discussion of the subject of trusts, the committee say:

"We presented to you, Mr. President, in person a cord of incriminating evidence against the Eastern Railroad association at the White House, in Washington, Dec. 21, 1901, which you personally assured us would be by you called to the attention of the attorney general. On your recommendation communicated to us April 5, 1902, through your secretary we, on May 21, called at the office of the attorney general and found him absent. At the White House an hour later we were informed by the secretary of Mr. Knox that the attorney general had stated that he 'would not take up the case,' even though we had informed him that we presented the matter to him by your direction.

"This was an open defiance of your orders by a subordinate official, the toleration of which by you we do not understand, for on May 27 we had written you fully as to the facts in the case, and when unable to see you delivered the letter with our own hands to your messenger at the White House.

"Such action on your part forces us to the conclusion that some of your subordinates and advisers are keeping back from you full knowledge of the most reprehensible action and inaction of Attorney General Knox, which has become so culpable and notorious that an eminent jurist and member of congress (Mr. Wooten of Texas) deliberately and after full investigation of all the facts in the case openly in the house of representatives charged the attorney general with 'corrupt complaisance toward the known violators of the law.'"

The text of Mr. Wooten's speech is quoted. Attention is called to the absence of all denial of his statements by any official until the Fourth of July speech of the president. Of this the letter says:

"We have a right to insist that a bare denial, even by the president of the United States, of these well proved charges is no sufficient defense for Mr. Knox."

It is alleged that the evidence in the case submitted to the attorney general was filed with the president. The statement is made that if the president has knowledge of the facts and evidence and still continues to uphold the attorney general, then, referring to the president, "your conduct is equally reprehensible with his and will be even more severely condemned by the people of the United States."

Continuing, this open letter says: "An honest enforcement of the law is now prevented by the collusion existing between the attorney general and the criminal trusts. If Mr. Knox is permitted longer to prostitute the department of justice to such base uses, the people will hold you responsible, for it is within your power, Mr. President, to retire him to merited disgrace and fill his place with an attorney general who will enforce the laws equally against the rich and the poor without fear, favor or hope of reward."

The letter states that the suit against the beef trust was a vote getting affair, and that the "brazen assurance" of the anthracite coal trust only "deepens the feeling of the people that the trusts have a friend at court in the person of the attorney general." The open letter concludes:

"Your assumption, Mr. President, that the cure for the oppressions and robberies of the trusts is to come from some future congress enacting a new antitrust law does not come with good grace from the chief executive officer of the government, whose main duty is to execute the laws now on the statute books.

"But three courses are open to you—either you must compel your attorney general to act, you must remove him from office and appoint one who will, or you must stand convicted as endorsing his corrupt complaisance toward known violators of the law."

"The menace to the people's rights and to the safety of the republic from the gigantic and lawless power of the trusts fully warrants us in using plain language in this letter, and we feel that we are entitled to plain and prompt action on your part."

Another Boomerang.

The attempt of the junior senator from Indiana to besmirch the character of General Miles has, like most of the political moves of this exuberant young man, proved a boomerang to his own party.

UNCLE MARCUS IN TROUBLE

He Has a Hard Time Running Away From Greater Honors.

It has been a long, long time since the American people have gazed upon a more pathetic national figure than Uncle Marcus Aurelius Hanna of Ohio, says the Atlanta Constitution. He is being forced by a concatenation of circumstances that he vainly struggles to control into a position that pains him, evidently, from the back of his neck to the horny place on his heel. According to his despairing testimony, he is having all sorts of trouble in fighting down the popular notion that he is or ought to be a candidate for the presidency of these United States.

We think it is one of the saddest things on record that the people will not believe that Uncle Marcus is in politics from the sublimest of unselfish motives. They do not seem to catch on completely to the fact that he left the delights of private citizenship only because he saw the country drifting to the demitition bowwows. It was a pure piece of patriotism on his part when he caught it by the tail and yanked it back from perdition and planted it safely on the rock of prosperity.

Incidentally it was necessary for him to have a president to do the official chores of the salvation scheme, and yet more incidentally it became a matter of precaution to get John Sherman out of the United States senate and get himself in, just to see that none of the Democratic scabs in that power house monkeyed with the dynamo or crossed the feed wires. And all went well until anarchy stepped in and changed the whole face of affairs.

Since the Roosevelt accession the position of Uncle Marcus has been one of uncertainty. It is true that he has professed the largest loyalty to the president, but somehow the presidential coterie has not accepted the tenders at par. There is a large, rank suspicion in administration circles that "the old man" is playing Foxy Grandpa in the political game, and the way in which he holds on to the loyal regard of the moneyed magnates of the party and keeps in touch with the southern delegate makers and takes to himself the indorsement of the Ohio Republican machine that he might have turned to Roosevelt if he had chosen to do so are symptoms that the White House party views with alarm.

Still Uncle Marcus protests that he is not an aspirant for the presidential nomination of his party. And why should he not be believed? The administration ought to help him establish the fact, especially if it wants a chance to get the nomination again and try for a re-election, because if Uncle Marcus is forced to be the candidate in 1904 the licking the Republican party will get from the people will be a plenty for a long period in the future.

The Coal Trust and the Public.

The coal trust operators are persistent in their position that they own the coal mines and can do as they please with their own—work them or remain idle. This argument fits closely that of the railroad magnate who said, "The public be d—d." But the coal operators must remember that while as corporations they have no soul they also have no endless life, but are subject to the law of forfeiture of their franchise, which would at once end their existence.

This position is well maintained by the New York World when it says: "The coal mines of this country are not the coal operators' 'own property' in an unqualified sense. They only hold and work them under public franchise, charters and other grants of public privilege, all of them conditioned and all of them revocable. The first condition is that they work the mines and supply the public with coal. They are not doing it. They say they cannot because the men on strike will not do them, and they cannot or are not prepared to put other men at work in their places. If that is all true, then there is something to arbitrate. If it is not true, then they should mine coal and are violating their franchises every day they keep their plants idle."

Discouraging Testimony.



Give Us a Show at Home.

A report from London says Whitelaw Reid, our special ambassador, is bitterly disappointed at the postponement of the coronation. If Reid will come home and appear on Broadway or Fifth avenue in the regalia he had prepared for the London ceremonies, he will attract all the attention he desires and will discount Barnum's circus as a crowd drawer.

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