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THE CONFESSION OF FAITH.

The writer has just finished a careful study of Roosevelt's "Confession of Faith." It is one of the best political documents it has been our privilege to peruse. It is exhaustive and sound. It deals fully and intelligently with national abuses, necessities and policies. It proposes sane remedies for economic and political abuses, and shows clearly wherein both the republican and democratic platforms fail to reach the core of the trouble.

This document proves, if such proof be necessary, that no other apostle of economics in this country has given the subject more careful and deep study or has arrived at so sound a solution or proposed more practical remedies for abuses, than Mr. Roosevelt.

The treatise is long, but no citizen interested in the future of his country can afford to not read it. It is the result of careful preparation and is so arranged that it deals with each phase under a distinct head, so that if printed in installments the reader may gain a good knowledge of its contents.

The Tidings is too small to allow space for the entire statement in one issue. However, in this issue we begin its publication and will print it complete, beginning with the first intelligent subdivision and proceeding consecutively until the statement is completed. We ask every Tidings reader to study it.

There will be much said during the campaign about the personal ambition of Mr. Roosevelt, about third term and monarchy, about his alliance with the steel trust and harvester trust. These accusations will come from his enemies. The same enemies who beat him out of the regular republican nomination by naked theft. The corrupt politicians who represent only the exploiting interests, and the newspapers which represent them. It has been proven time and time again that the interests and politicians are always ready to support those candidates who suffer supine subservience to them, and berate and vilify those who insist that the government should be administered in the interest of the whole regardless of the mighty greedy few who assume to dictate.

In looking for the cause of the bitter opposition of the interests to the candidacy of Mr. Roosevelt it should be borne in mind what Mr. Roosevelt proposes to do, if elected; what effect his proposals will have on the business of crooked trusts; what part crooked business has had in legislation in the past, and what unfair favors it received through political manipulation. When all of this is taken into consideration in the light of the courage of Mr. Roosevelt as exemplified while he was president in wading the "big stick" in the interest of wholesome legislation, it will be readily seen why these interests will fight him to the bitter end. Predatory wealth seeking unfair political advantage will stop short of no extreme to accomplish its end. Because motives can not be readily proven, his motives will be fiercely attacked. But the fair thing for honest men is to judge what will be done in the future by what has happened in the past. The Sherman law was passed in 1890. Shortly after its sting was drawn by the courts and the law lay powerless through the administrations of Cleveland and McKinley, but when Mr. Roosevelt came to the presidency he insisted that predatory wealth should be curbed, that if the Sherman law was not strong enough it should be vitalized and strengthened until it could be made to do the business. He set to work to get such legislation as would accomplish that. Before he had far proceeded he discovered that many senators and representatives were not in earnest about adopting effective remedial legislation. It was then that Mr. Roosevelt produced his "big stick"

and forced legislation which would make it possible to curb the trusts. The Sherman law was so strengthened as to make it effective. Through it the trusts have been theoretically dissolved. And here comes the rub. If the Sherman law is strong enough to dissolve the trusts theoretically, it is only necessary to properly administer that law so they will be dissolved practically. Up to this good hour the interests have so controlled administration that trust dissolution has proven the rankest fake. Mr. Roosevelt is thoroughly practical and fearless. The interests now in control of the administration, who are backing the political bosses in their fight against Roosevelt, well know that if Roosevelt succeeds the Sherman law will be no longer administered in such a way as that dissolved trust stocks will go up instead of down. When Roosevelt gets into power the Standard Oil and Tobacco trusts will be dissolved in practice as well as in theory. So will every other bad trust. It is that knowledge that sets the exploiting interests viciously and everlastingly against the candidacy of Mr. Roosevelt.

A careful perusal of Roosevelt's "Confession of Faith" will inform you as to what he proposes to do and how he proposes to do it. And his record and success in handling the "big stick" in the interest of the people in the past ought to be a guarantee as to what he will do in the future.

Crooked business and crooked politicians will fight hard, for the success of Roosevelt means the death of big exploitation through the powers of government.

THE ANIMUS.

Again the Mail-Tribune has the rabies. It says "Bowers et al. of Ashland" are preparing to enjoin the contractor from removing the old Medford bridge. Well, what do you think of that? "Benton Bowers et al." in their suit against the Medford bridge simply claimed that the bridge was a Medford city bridge and as such the county had no right to spend the taxpayers' money to build a new one. The court upheld the contention. Neither "Benton Bowers et al." nor anyone else has ever questioned the right of the city of Medford to build the bridge, or a dozen of them, so long as that city paid the bill. The charge that Mr. Bowers is contemplating any further action in the matter is mere vicious claptrap. The Mail-Tribune urges it for a purpose. It desires to convince the people of Medford that the opposition to the new bridge is altogether the outgrowth of a bitter antagonism of Ashland against Medford. It hopes for political advantage from this contention. In order to show the animus of the Mail-Tribune and what it is trying to do, a little history will need to be considered.

The Mail-Tribune has always bitterly opposed the candidacy of George Duan for county judge. It used every means, foul and vicious, to defeat him in the primaries. It was instrumental in launching the candidacy of Mr. Merrick in the hope of defeating Duan. Until it became apparent that Mr. Merrick would not prove strong enough to defeat Mr. Duan but one democratic candidate, Judge Neil, was in the field. As soon as the defeat of Merrick became so plain that whoever ran might read the finish, Mr. Putnam cast about in the frenzy of despair to find some candidate against Judge Neil whom he could depend upon. Mr. Tou Velle was a close friend of the Putnam family. He was a frequent visitor at the Putnam home. George Putnam knew Tou Velle and felt that if he could induce him to enter the race in the primaries he not only could defeat Judge Neil, but that Tou Velle would afford him a candidate in the general election against Mr. Duan, one who, if elected, Mr. Putnam could depend upon to carry out his "progressive" policies just as Judge Neil had carried them out during the past four years. So Mr. Tou Velle was induced by Mr. Putnam to enter the candidacy in the democratic primaries against Judge Neil, and became the hand-picked candidate of Mr. Putnam. It was generally believed that the defeat of Mr. Merrick was largely induced by the support of the Mail-Tribune. Mr. Tou Velle felt the force of that fact, and having defeated Judge Neil without the aid of the Mail-Tribune, hoped only to defeat Judge Duan in the general election if he could make it appear that he was not the candidate of Mr. Putnam. So, it is understood, upon the occasion of one of his frequent visits to Mr. Putnam, at the home of the latter, that situation became a subject of discussion. Mr. Tou Velle expressing the opinion that he would have a better chance of winning if the people were not apprised of the close friendship of he and Mr. Putnam. So the Mail-Tri-

bune has been silent as the sphinx in regard to Tou Velle's candidacy since his nomination, but it has lost no time in keeping influences at work which it hoped would militate against the candidacy of Mr. Duan.

With this view it has worked sectional jealousy to a finish. Its whole comment on the Medford bridge episode has been with a view of further prejudicing Medford voters against the candidacy of Mr. Duan. The Mail-Tribune credits the residence of Mr. Duan to Ashland. It says the action of Benton Bowers and associates against the Medford bridge is an Ashland move. Its hope is to so arouse Medford feeling against Ashland as to solidify the Medford vote against Mr. Duan. That is all there is to it.

Putnam wants Tou Velle as county judge, not Mr. Duan, and he will use every subterfuge at his command to accomplish that end.

Can any woman, married or single, have her just say in matters that concern her, without a vote? Suppose a certain woman school teacher thinks Brown should go to the legislature because he is zealous about safe and sanitary school houses, and her brother thinks Jones should go, because he is pledged to Robinson for the United States senate. Have not both equal rights to their opinions, and equal right to have them taken into account in deciding whether Brown or Jones should go? The present way is to take it for granted, beforehand, that the sister will always be wrong and the brother always right, so that we can count his judgment only and refuse to listen to hers. Can any just way be offered, except to let every sane grown person speak for himself or herself at the polls, and then count the votes? Then we shall be certain that the majority really rules. Now a minority may often carry an election, defeating the wish of the majority.

FROM ROOSEVELT'S "CONFESSION OF FAITH."

(First Installment.)

To you, men and women who have come here to this great city of this great state formally to launch a new party, a party of the people of the whole Union, the national progressive party, I extend my hearty greeting. You are taking a bold and a greatly needed step for the service of our beloved country. The old parties are husks, with no real soul within either, divided on artificial lines, boss-ridden and privilege-controlled, each a jumble of incongruous elements, and neither daring to speak out wisely and fearlessly what should be said on the vital issues of the day. This new movement is a movement which proposes to put at the service of all our people the collective power of the people, through their governmental agencies, alike in the nation and in the several states. We propose boldly to face the real and great questions of the day, and not skillfully to evade them as do the old parties. We propose to raise aloft a standard to which all honest men can repair, and under which all can fight, no matter what their past political differences, if they are content to face the future and no longer to dwell among the dead issues of the past. We propose to put forth a platform which shall not be a platform of the ordinary and insincere kind, but shall be a contract with the people; and, if the people accept this contract by putting us in power, we shall hold ourselves under honorable obligation to fulfill every promise it contains as loyally as if it were actually enforceable under the penalties of the law.

"Economic Revolution" Surging.
The prime need today is to face the fact that we are now in the midst of a great economic revolution. There is urgent necessity of applying both common sense and the highest ethical standard to this movement for the better economic conditions among the masses of our people and not one of revolution. It is, from the standpoint of our country, wicked as well as foolish longer to refuse to face the real issues of the day. Only by so facing them can we go forward; and to do this we must break up the old party organizations and obliterate the old cleavage lines on the dead issues inherited from 50 years ago. Our fight is a fundamental fight against both of the old corrupt party machines, for both are under the dominion of the plunder league of the professional politicians who are controlled and sustained by the great beneficiaries of privilege and reaction. How close is the alliance between the two machines is shown by the attitude of that portion of those northwestern newspapers, including the majority of the great dailies in all the great northeastern cities—Boston, Buffalo, Springfield, Hartford, Philadelphia and, above all, New York—which are controlled by or representative of the interests which, in popular phrase, are conveniently grouped together as the Wall street interests. The large majority of these papers supported Judge Parker for the presidency in 1904; almost unanimously they supported Mr. Taft for the republican nomination this year; the large majority are now supporting Professor Wilson for the election. Some of them still prefer Mr. Taft to Mr. Wilson, but all make either Mr. Taft or Mr. Wilson their first choice; and one of the ludicrous features of the campaign is that these papers supporting Professor Wilson show the most jealous partisanship for Mr. Taft whenever they think his interests are jeopardized by the progressive movement—that, for instance, any electors will obey the will of the

majority of the republican voters at the primaries, and vote for me instead of obeying the will of the Messrs. Barnes-Penrose-Guggenheim combination by voting for Mr. Taft. No better proof can be given than this of the fact that the fundamental concern of the privileged interests is to beat the new party. Some of them would rather beat it with Mr. Wilson; others would rather beat it with Mr. Taft; but the difference between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Taft they consider as trivial, as a mere matter of personal preference. Their real fight is for either, as against the progressives. They represent the allied reactionaries of the country, and they are against the new party because to their unerring vision it is evident that the real danger to privilege comes from the new party, and from the new party alone.

"Bosses" Not to Be Trusted.

The men who preceded over the Baltimore and the Chicago conventions, and the great bosses who controlled the two conventions, Mr. Root and Mr. Parker, Mr. Barnes and Mr. Murphy, Mr. Penrose and Mr. Taggart, Mr. Guggenheim and Mr. Sullivan, differ from one another of course on certain points. But these are the differences which one corporation lawyer has with another corporation lawyer when acting for different corporations. They come together at once as against a common enemy when the dominion of both is threatened by the supremacy of the people of the United States, now aroused to the need of a national alignment on the vital economic issues of the generation.

Neither the republican nor the democratic platform contains the slightest promise of approaching the great problem of today, either with understanding or good faith; and yet never was there greater need in this nation than now of understanding, and of action taken in good faith, on the part of the men and the organizations shaping our governmental policy. Moreover, our needs are such that there should be coherent action among those responsible for the conduct of national affairs and those responsible for the conduct of state affairs, because our aim should be the same in both state and nation; that is, to use the government as an efficient agency for the practical betterment of social and economic conditions throughout this land. There are other important things to be done, but this is the most important thing. It is preposterous to leave such a movement in the hands of men who have broken their promises as have the present heads of the republican organization (not of the republican voters, for they in no shape represent the rank and file of republican voters). These men by their deeds give the lie to their words. There is no health in them, and they cannot be trusted. But the democratic party is as little to be trusted. The Underwood-Fitzgerald combination in the house of representatives has shown that it cannot safely be trusted to maintain the interests of this country abroad or to represent the interests of the plain people at home. The control of the various state bosses in the state organizations has been strengthened by the action at Baltimore, and scant indeed would be of Messrs. Barnes, Penrose and Guggenheim for the scorpions of Messrs. Murphy, Taggart and Sullivan.

They are calling Indiana "the mother of vice-presidents," and she has to grin and bear it.—Atlanta Constitution.

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JUDGE GEORGE GRAY.

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FUR SEAL POLICY URGED.

Taft Asks Appropriation to Carry Out Three-Nation Agreement.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft Thursday sent to congress a special message urging it to appropriate \$400,000, half to be paid to Great Britain and half to Japan, to carry out the agreement under the fur seal convention, ratified by the senate last December.

He suggested that congress outline a policy to be pursued by the United States with reference to fur seal herds in its jurisdiction and advised against a policy of prohibiting seal killing on land while it also was prohibited at sea.

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