

THE MOTH AND THE FLAME



in New York World.

TAFT IS FOR PRIMARIES

He Has Nothing to Fear From Popular Vote.

The Roosevelt campaign is making a strong bid for popularity by claiming that their side alone wants a popular expression on the Presidential candidacy. This contention is not well founded however, for there is no known instance where President Taft has opposed the Presidential preference idea, and he has always been willing to trust his own fortunes with the people.

He refused to advise the Republican National Committee what attitude to take upon this question and he even said it be known that he was willing to meet his opponents in any presidential primary where the voters would be sure of a fair vote and a fair count. Opposition to the primary in the Taft campaign is only based upon the absence of a law authorizing the primary in many states and the lack of any legal provision for the payment of expenses.

As the campaign develops, it appears that the more presidential primaries are held, the better it will be for Mr. Taft. This condition is now being generally recognized throughout New England. The Massachusetts situation is one rather favorable to the administration. Reports from that state are to the effect that Roosevelt filled himself by his Columbus speech. It was thought he would give Taft a strong fight in Massachusetts, but now it is doubted if he will get even a delegate.

The Taft campaign managers are not concerned because the Massachusetts legislature has passed a presidential preference law. It is the belief of those in politics that if the people were given a chance they would endorse Taft, not only in Massachusetts but throughout New England.

CANDIDATES AND COIN

Roosevelt Campaign will be Hampered by no Lack of Funds.

There is one advantage which is generally conceded to Colonel Roosevelt, and that is that his campaign will be hampered by no lack of funds, says a Washington correspondent.

Not only have his managers at their disposal the very liberal contributions collected to promote his boom by the committee headed by George W. Perkins and Frank Munsey, but the members of the Roosevelt executive committee are all "malefactors"—big parsons—men of great wealth. Alexander S. Revell is a millionaire furniture dealer; Truman H. Newberry is a millionaire manufacturer; Gifford Pinchot and his brother, Amos Pinchot, each inherited a million dollars; State Senator Film, of Pittsburg, is a wealthy man; Walter Brown, of Ohio, has made a comfortable fortune as the attorney for Dan Hanna, and Mr. Haney himself can contribute any amount of cash and not feel it; Cecil Lyon, of Texas, is the owner of large ranching properties, several banks and abundant capital, and the "old guard" committee man from New York, William L. Ward, is understood to be fairly well off.

All of which seems to warrant the assertion of one of the Roosevelt supporters, who said: "This is no piker's game. We've got the chips and the layoffs."



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PRESIDENT TAFT AT HIS DESK IN THE WHITE HOUSE

DIXON FACES BOTH WAYS

Hopes to Save His Political Neck by Jumping Fence.

Senator Dixon, of Montana, who is Roosevelt's campaign manager in the third term fight, is a shining example of Mr. Facing-Both-Ways in politics.

Last October President Taft passed through the state of Montana making stops at Butte, Livingston, Billings and some minor points. At each of these stops, Senator Dixon gave a fine imitation of a man whose loyalty to President Taft was unswerving, and he assured a Washington correspondent who accompanied the President's party that Montana would send a solid Taft delegation to the national convention and that the state would be found in the Republican column in November.

This was, of course, before the third term announcement of Mr. Roosevelt. It is of interest, however, to note that from many sources in Montana, even then, was heard the prediction that Mr. Dixon would fall of re-election.

These facts lend color to the statement recently made that a number of the strongest Roosevelt supporters throughout the country who are so firmly declaring for a third term are those who have no political future to sacrifice and who have everything to gain and but little to lose.

DID CAREY MAKE BLUNDER?

Wyoming People Believe He is on Wrong Side.

Governor Carey, of Wyoming, after hesitating for several days, finally declared himself for the Roosevelt third term. Many of his supporters in Wyoming regard this as a grave political mistake.

This view is held because it is recognized that the re-election of Colonel Roosevelt would restore Gifford Pinchot to power, probably to a place in the Roosevelt cabinet, and there is no man in Wyoming so little liked as the former forester.

A full stop was brought to the development of Wyoming under the Pinchot administration of affairs and only under the rule of Secretary Fisher have normal conditions been practically restored.

TAFT TO PROBE INDUSTRY

He Will Inquire Into Labor Conditions in America.

President Taft's recommendations for a commission on industrial relations to investigate existing labor problems and the relations between employers and their men are embodied in a bill introduced in the house lately by representative Hughes from New Jersey. The nine members of the commission are to be appointed by the president and to serve without salaries, being merely allowed traveling expenses.

In a message to congress on February 2 President Taft recommended prompt legislation creating such a commission as a means of bringing about peace in the industrial world. The Hughes bill provides that the commission shall report to congress at intervals, making a final report within three years. It directs that the commission shall investigate practically every phase of the industrial situation, the relation between employers and employes, general labor conditions, the growth of associations of employers and wage earners and the best methods of avoiding labor strikes and disputes.

LOOKS BAD IN MISSOURI

Roosevelt is Losing Ground There and Friends Desert.

The proposition of Governor Hadley of Missouri that the delegation from that state be divided equally between President Taft and ex-President Roosevelt is regarded by Mr. Taft's managers as an obvious confession of defeat.

The course of Senator Borah, who has announced that in view of the Columbus speech he cannot take part in the campaign to promote Mr. Roosevelt's ambitions, also constitutes a bitter disappointment to the third term advocates.

It will be recalled that after the Columbus speech was delivered Mr. Borah pronounced so much of it as referred to the recall of judicial decisions, etc., as "all bosh," and it is assumed that his legal sense has compelled him to take the stand that he cannot contribute to the renomination of Mr. Roosevelt.

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