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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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### A ROOSEVELTIAN DYNASTY.

CAN IT BE POSSIBLE that President Roosevelt, down deep in the innermost recesses of his heart, thinks to establish a ruling class—a Rooseveltian dynasty—in this "Land of the Free and home of the Brave?" While there is no positive evidence that such is his intention, still there are events which may be interpreted as straws pointing in that direction.

The fact cannot be disputed that Mr. Roosevelt has set himself up as a political boss or dictator; in comparison to whom all other modern political bosses fade into insignificance. Attribute, if you will, his political activity relative to this campaign to his zeal to have the so-called "Roosevelt policies" perpetuated, the fact still remains that the President is establishing a precedent which is dangerous to our political institutions and subversive to the form of government established by our Revolutionary sires. Let us see if there are any straws pointing towards the establishment of a reigning dynasty.

Nearly two years ago, when the first speculations were rife as to who the candidate might be, who should step into President Roosevelt's shoes, several members of his cabinet as well as a number of other eminent gentlemen were thrown into the lime light. Several weeks or months elapsed before the choice seemed to have fallen upon Secretary Taft; and as he was the choice of President Roosevelt from the first, this fact was, no doubt, responsible for the turning of political eyes Taftward. After the President had decided that Mr. Taft was the man to succeed him, the famous trip around the world for the candidate to be, was planned. Ostensibly this tour was to be a mission in the interests of governmental business. But as it partook more of the aspect of pleasure than business, the opinion is warranted that business was not the real purpose of the tour. Mr. Taft hobnobbed with the kings and potentates of the old world until, it was feared, the real purpose of the tour might become patent; when the order was given for him to hurry home. If the purpose of the tour was not to give the big secretary a lift—to have him talked about and made prominent, such a conclusion was permissible.

A few months after Secretary Taft's return, Mr. Hitchcock, the present chairman of Republican National committee and then an official of the post office department, was dispatched on a mission throughout the South. His principle purpose seemed to be to manufacture sentiment favorable to Mr. Taft among Southern Republicans. Later developments indicate that his purpose was to organize a Taft machine throughout the South. Let us not forget that Mr. Taft, on his junket around the world and Mr. Hitchcock through the South, were drawing salaries from the Government and traveling at government expense during their tours.

The effect of Mr. Hitchcock's work in the South, was manifest in the Republican National convention, at Chicago, some months later. The Southern delegation, made up of Federal office holders and men elected at the dictation of Federal office holders, came to the Chicago convention in solid phalanx for Mr. Taft's nomination. Why not, when the order had gone down there from the President? Why should not every postmaster down there shout for Taft, after Mr. Hitchcock their superior officer, had given the command? Mr. Hitchcock did his work well. A solid South became an asset for Mr. Taft. Both President Roosevelt and Mr. Hitchcock knew that there was not even a remote possibility that the Republican nominee, whomsoever he might be, would get an electoral vote in the South. But they knew that the Southern delegation, which would compose more than one-fourth the convention, would be a powerful asset in Mr. Taft's favor. This was a master political move. To the Southern delegation in the Northern Taft strength was added. The convention was simply overwhelmed with Taft sentiment. Mr. Taft was nominated weeks before

the convention met. His nomination was simply ratified by the convention. It would be nonsensical to assume that this unanimous nomination would have been made without the President's order and Mr. Hitchcock's splendidly organized machine.

New York is regarded as a pivotal state in presidential elections. Indeed, as goes the Empire state, so goes the election, generally. Governor Hughes is very popular among the masses of the people of that state; but he is off color with the politicians and bosses. President Roosevelt conceived that if Hughes should be renominated, his popularity would carry Mr. Taft through in that pivotal state. So the President, in a mild way, ordered the renomination of Governor Hughes. The politicians and bosses laid down and obeyed the President's order. It remains to be seen if the goods will be delivered on November 3.

President Roosevelt may not have sinister intentions. His zealousness may be accountable for his extreme partisan activity. But the above recited acts, coupled with son-in-law Longworth's speech at Rock Island, Ill., gives a different color to his motive. Longworth, whose discretion seems to be nil, asserted, substantially, that Taft would be elected for eight years, then Roosevelt would follow, ascending the throne in 1916 and reign for eight years, and then—but modesty forbade his extending the succession further.

A large percentage of our American citizens is composed of foreign born. They left the old world to escape kingcraft. They came to America because of the superior political freedom we are supposed to enjoy. Is it reasonable to suppose that our adopted citizens will assist in forging fetters upon the citizens of the United States, which they forsook their native land to escape?

The safest and easiest plan in which to correct an evil is to smother it—snuff it out in its incipient stages.

Imperialism is manifesting itself in the garb of reform—President Roosevelt seems imbued with the idea that "The king cannot do wrong." In order to carry out his scheme, otherwise known as the "Roosevelt policies," he has selected his successor; forced his party to accept his selection as their candidate; dictated the nominee of the Republican candidate for governor of New York, and is now bringing all the influence he can wield, as president, to elect his selection as his successor. Is there not sufficient cause for the people to become alarmed?

The NEWS believes the great masses of the Republican party are patriots and true lovers of the government established by Washington and defended by Lincoln. And it does not believe that they will bow down supinely, and receive the yoke of Imperialism from the hands of even a man who has made himself popular by championing the causes of the people.

President Roosevelt may be actuated by what he deems, as the purest of motives. He may think his political activity necessary to protect the interests of the people. If so, he is grossly deceived. He is taking himself entirely too seriously. Our government existed and prospered more than a hundred years before he became a public man, and it will probably exist another hundred years after the grass is green o'er his grave; unless the precedent he is establishing, shall become the accepted policy of the Nation.

The NEWS believes that this new phase of imperialism is, and ought to be, the leading issue of the campaign. In comparison, all other issues are insignificant. Mr. Taft is a man of imperialistic tastes. With President Roosevelt's precedent as a guide, in four years imperialism will have secured a lodgment in our governmental affairs, which nothing less than a second revolution will remove. Now while it is in its incipient stages is the time to strangle it.

The NEWS does not wish to assume the roll of alarmist. But when we consider the strangle hold which predatory wealth has secured in National affairs together with the imperialistic trend of the President's action, we think it high time to sit up and take notice.

### THE NORMAL SCHOOL MUDDLE.

AGAIN THE NORMAL school muddle bobs up. It was thought when all of these schools were placed under the control of one Board of Regents, there would be peace upon this vexed question. While the people, many of them, knew that the whole business was a graft—born through a graft and nurtured and sustained by graft, they silently submitted to be fleeced of a large sum annually to maintain these schools, hoping the graft would grow no larger; and that the vexed Normal school question would no longer be a bone of contention in the legislature. But all hope, in this direction, has gone a glimmering.

At a late meeting of the Board of Regents, it was found its members could not agree as to the management and support of these institutions, a y better than the legislature. Adjournment without agreement was the result and the question will again be threshed out by the legislature.

Reports at the Board meeting show that there were less than 300 students attending all three of the schools. The proposition to reduce the number of the schools, was voted down. Now, as the salary list of each corps of teachers, amounts to \$20,000 or more for each school, the opinions of, at least, two of the Regents were, that we were pay-

ing too dear for the whistle. More than \$200 for each student per year for teachers salaries alone, was considered too much. To this must be added the cost of proposed improvements, making not less than \$250 per student, yearly. Now, when this amount could be reduced by two-thirds, yet not impair the service, these two Regents rightly concluded that the people would object. Let us hope that our next legislature, knowing the temper of the people about the matter, will be brave enough to settle the matter once for all, and settle it aright.

Oregon is paying entirely too much to maintain a state college system. If we add the number of students attending all of these institutions, we will have a total of about 1800 students. Then add the amounts appropriated or asked for by each college and we reach a total of probably \$350,000 to \$400,000. Divide this sum by the number of students and we ascertain just what we are paying per student. For this expenditure, the state gets not one cent in return. She is educating lawyers, doctors, teachers, civil engineers, druggists, blacksmiths, carpenters, printers, housekeepers, etc. Does it appear that anybody, who reads these courses at the expense of the state, ever do anything in return for the state? Not at all. They are fitting themselves so that they can command a higher salary—so that they can escape the drudgery of being mere laborers. Not one cent is returned to the state for the educational facilities furnished them. Each student who graduates, represents a cost to the state of \$100. In view of the fact that but \$4 per public school pupil is supplied by the state to maintain our public schools, the most liberal appropriations for the colleges does not appear quite fair.

The most expensive of our colleges, is the State University. For maintenance alone the cost is \$250 per student. Then comes the Normal with a cost of \$200 per student. The Oregon Agricultural college is the cheapest per student of them all. But this is not counted for in that quite a snug sum is received annually from the Federal government. For maintenance alone, O. A. C. costs the state \$50 per student. In addition to this amount, special appropriations for building, will double the amount. We are, also, informed that the legislature at the coming session will be asked to appropriate \$400,000 in a lump sum for the farmers college.

It can be seen that the state is over-loaded with colleges. They have been gradually pushed onto the taxpayer under the aegis of sacred name of education. That they do some good cannot be disputed. Neither can it be disputed that each one of these colleges is made the subject of graft in various ways. At Corvallis, for instance, so we understand, the state is running a book store, and, of course, is paying a man to take care of it.

The NEWS believes the state made a grave error when she embarked on the college business. Every one of these institutions was built in violation of constitutional law. However, this defect has been remedied by amending the constitution. But knowing that these institutions were illegally established and that salaries are being paid teachers that are entirely without reason, for just as good men and women could be obtained for less money, one feels at liberty to criticize them freely.

Let us hope that the legislature next winter, will look to the peoples, taxpayers—interests rather than to that of the colleges. Give more money to the public schools and less to the colleges, would suit the people of every county, except those wherein a college is located. Those counties, of course are well content to have the state expendable the money within their borders but they pay to the state. Just think of it! Last year the state treasury had a little over \$50,000 yearly. The state says back \$125,000 yearly. Why should not Eugene prosper? The rest of the state is paying for it.

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