

# THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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## PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER

Only a little more than three months until presidential candidates will be named. The republican national convention will assemble at Chicago June 7 and the democrats a week later at St. Louis.

President Wilson, without a doubt, will be renominated. This result is so certain that no other democrat is named in connection with the nomination. But the case is different with our republican friends. A half dozen or more prominent men are mentioned, either of whom, possibly, may be nominated. The opinion is general, however, that if Associate Justice Hughes would accept, he could easily be the nominee. But as Justice Hughes has twice refused to allow his name considered and as he is a man of firm convictions, he has generally been relegated to the rank of the unavailables. One of the principal reasons for his unavailability is, his candidacy would make another seat in the United States Supreme court vacant for President Wilson to fill and this does not suit republican politicians and big business a little bit.

Of all the other names mentioned as possible candidates, The Tribune believes Senator Cummins, of Iowa, is the strongest. His nomination would be reasonably acceptable to the Taft republicans and his known progressive ideas would be pleasing to the bull moosers. While he refused to follow the Roosevelt bolt at Chicago in 1912, he endorsed the progressive ideas in toto, except the bolt.

Within the past two weeks, the name of Roosevelt has been growing in prominence for the position—so prominent that most stand pat republican newspapers regard his nomination as possible, or even probable and intimate they will give him their support in that event.

Democrats will be glad to see Mr. Roosevelt the republican candidate, for they believe he is handicapped in so many particulars that Mr. Wilson would be sure to defeat him and regard him, nevertheless his great self assurance and unlimited confidence, as a weak candidate. Nevertheless Mr. Roosevelt would be eminently satisfactory to big business which would furnish any amount of money to finance his campaign, Taft republicans would not be very enthusiastic in his support. They will not so easily forget that Mr. Roosevelt wrecked the party at Chicago and made the election of Woodrow Wilson a certainty.

Then there are many republicans who believe the precedent established by Washington, of but two presidential terms, should not be broken. In their estimation the accident which placed Mr. Roosevelt in the president's chair to serve out the remainder of Mr. McKinley's term, constituted Roosevelt's first term. The fiction of its not being an elect-

ive term is nonsense and not in accord with the spirit of the federal constitution.

But the one great reason why Mr. Roosevelt should not be the nominee and if nominated should be defeated is the fact that a great European war is now on and will not probably be ended before March 4, 1917. With Mr. Roosevelt's known belligerent disposition, a large majority of the people feel that he would plunge the United States into war in a short time. The United States does not want to participate in that or any other war if it can be avoided without the sacrifice of national honor and the people believe that if avoidance of war is possible, President Wilson can be depended upon to bring about that result. They believe, as Abraham Lincoln stated, "It is a poor policy to swap horses when crossing a stream." Mr. Roosevelt might be trusted with the presidency when the world is at peace, but not when at war.

Any president is prone to make mistakes. President Lincoln made many of them in the conduct of the Civil war and his successors made mistakes in time of peace. Presidents Grant, Hays, Cleveland and McKinley all made mistakes. Even Mr. Roosevelt when president, made blunders, a fact which he never would admit. President Wilson, when mistaken, is honest enough to admit the fact and change his actions accordingly.

While Mr. Roosevelt is enthusiastically patriotic, his mental disposition is not just what the American people desire in their president. He is too assertative—too positive and in such perilous times as these, would be unsafe.

Let us hope our republican friends will nominate a candidate from among such men as Cummins or Borah, or men who are broad minded and progressive in their ideas; who are patriots in the true sense of the word; who, while avoiding war if possible with honor, will defend the American flag and all it represents.

## THE NATIONAL HONOR

The only blot on the national honor of the United States within the lifetime of this generation was put there by Theodore Roosevelt when he "took" Panama.

In this transaction the United States government played a part no less wanton, although less shocking, than the part Germany played in invading Belgium. We too reduced a sacred treaty to the status of a "scrap of paper" and we had no excuse of war, no pretext of national defense, no justification of military necessity. We were concerned in this matter chiefly with a tender consideration for money and not our own money at that, but the money of a foreign canal company whose paid lobbyist was helping to direct the foreign policy of the United States.

The essential facts in the case are all matters of record. It is a matter of record even that the Hay-Herran treaty which Columbia refused to ratify was drafted neither by John Hay nor by Senor Herran, but by William Nelson Cromwell, the lobbyist of the New French Panama Canal Co. It is a matter of record as well that the "revolution" in Panama which President Roosevelt refused to permit Columbia to suppress was bought and paid for, and that the money that purchased this treason in the open market was sent to the Isthmus from New York City.

No estimate can be made of the damage that our good relations with the Latin-American states have sustained by reason of this wretched exploit of the Roosevelt administration. Until this stain is erased from the national escutcheon, those relations can never be what they should

be, for the faith of the great republic will be under suspicion.

The treaty of reparation to Colombia was reported out by the senate committee yesterday by a vote of 8 to 7. The compensation is reduced from \$25,000,000 to \$15,000,000 and the expressions of regret are made mutual. It is rumored in Washington that the treaty cannot command the necessary two-thirds vote, largely because of political conditions in the senate. Be that as it may, this matter must be settled soon or late, and if the senate is unwilling that the United States should voluntarily render justice to Colombia, the controversy should be submitted to arbitration with as little delay as possible.

It would be wiser if the record was not subjected to the cold scrutiny of a high international tribunal for there is no more unpleasant chapter in the diplomatic history of the United States. But it is essential to the honor of the nation and to our permanent friendship with Latin America that we make reparation to Colombia for a wrong that a great and powerful nation wrought to one that was weak and defenseless, whatever be the process by which this reparation is made.—New York World.

## WHO IS WRONG?

In Mayor Prill's report of the city's financial condition and budget of the probable expense for the city during the present year, the public was told that when the December bills were audited, the floating or warrant indebtedness was between \$400 and \$500 and if the warrant for the chemical engine be added, the city's warrant indebtedness would total near \$1000.

In last week's Santiam News ex-Mayor Ewing, seemingly, would have the public believe the city was practically even, with a balance of \$10 cash on hand.

These statements differ so widely that it is very evidently Scio has a very prominent candidate for Mr. Roosevelt's Annanias club. It is said figures won't lie but liars can figure.

The Tribune does not know anything about this matter other than what the city officials state. Recorder Sticha now has something over \$400 in city warrants which he has cashed from his own funds—debts incurred during Mayor Ewing's administration and there is no money in the city treasury with which to way them. Consequently they have been endorsed "not paid for lack of funds."

There ought not to be so wide difference in these statements. The city has money with which to pay these warrants, or it has not. Mr. Ewing ought to have known what the city's financial condition was when he stepped down and out of the mayor's chair. He evidently knew whether or not F. T. Thayer had been paid for furnishing auxiliary power for the light plant—a debt of his own contracting. The new city council, when it had the December bills to audit, soon found out whether there was money in the city treasury with which to pay these bills. What a grave mistake Mayor Ewing made when he vetoed the city tax ordinance over one year ago.

## Should Take Their Own Medicine

In 1861 two Confederate emissaries were taken from the British mail steamer Trent by Captain Wilkes in command of an U. S. war ship. England demanded their release and, at once, commenced to make preparations for war, even going so far as to send troops to Canada. The United States then had a good sized man's job on hand in the war of the rebellion and

President Lincoln concluded that it would be wisdom to surrender the Rebel emissaries to British authorities.

A few days ago a British war ship took 27 Germans from an American vessel, making a case exactly synonymous with that of 1861. Wonder if Great Britain will live up to the precedent she estab-

lished during the first year of our Civil war? When one reads of the detestable conduct of England during the first years of our Civil war, it is a wonder that American sympathy is not with Germany at the present time. And it would be if Germany had not resorted to such awful cruelties to Belgium and to non-combatants in general.

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