

TAFT THE BUILDER

His Directing Hand Has Insured Success of the Mammoth Project.

Raised Wages of Isthmian Laborers by Longevity Order While War Secretary.

The Panama Canal is one of the greatest achievements of any Republican administration.

As Secretary of War, Hon. William H. Taft personally assumed the responsibility of inaugurating the work and systematically shaping up the practical operations until a degree of efficiency has been reached that may well astonish the nations of the earth.

Mr. Taft has applied to this world project and history making enterprise those same qualities of careful, thoughtful investigation, penetrating judgment and absolutely fair dealing, which have made him so signally successful in the performance of all those duties of state which have brought him to the high eminence he now occupies as one of our greatest living Americans.

Must Know Personally.

Like the Philippine project and other great work laid upon him, he has studied the situation at Panama at close range and trusted to no second hand information with which to insure his success. There has been about ninety million dollars expended on the work to date and Mr. Taft has had to approve every dollar of this expenditure. He has not been satisfied with a single visit to the isthmus, but has made the long journey every year so that he might direct the work more economically. The result is that he has changed the situation there from an inhospitable region to a locality where Americans can live in healthful security without the fear of plagues or dread of contagious diseases. The rate of mortality on the isthmus is about the same as it is in our American cities.

Stages of the Work.

Work on the canal has passed through two stages, those of planning and preparation. It is now in the third and final stage, that of construction. Both of the earlier stages required the presence of a large working force, necessarily quartered in temporary and make shift accommodations. Because of these conditions, inevitable at the outset, early critics of the enterprise mistook the initial and temporary outfit for permanent equipment.

Thoughtful About Labor.

Mr. Taft's chief concern has been the proper care of the laboring man on the isthmus. Under his patient and approved methods the terrible scourge of yellow fever, against which the French struggled in vain, the filthy and pest breeding state of the principal Panamanian towns, the rough labor camps, and other pioneer hardships of the two first eras, have been eliminated. He has accomplished these things through the activity of the Department of Sanitation, the Department of Municipal Engineering and the Building Department. To-day we find yellow fever driven from the isthmus, the deadly stegomyia mosquito thus rendered innocuous, malaria and pneumonia greatly reduced and a high average of health prevailing.

Mammoth Construction Project.

President Roosevelt appointed a special commission to examine the Isthmian situation last spring, and it reported Aug. 6, 1908. According to this special report there were at work at the Isthmus April 30, 1908, 26,118 men for the Isthmian Canal Commission and 7,075 at work for the Panama railroad, a total of 33,193 men all told. Housing this industrial army in quick time, with due attention to sanitation and hygiene, was a problem which would have been beyond most men. But Mr. Taft did it successfully.

To keep the machinery and tools in condition, three large machine and repair shops, two shipyards and numerous warehouses are maintained. When we recall that this enormous plant is operated at a distance of 1,382 miles from its nearest base of supply, New Orleans, and 1,975 miles from its main base of supply, New York, we can estimate with more justice and accuracy the magnitude and complications of the undertaking Mr. Taft has conducted so well.

Workmen Appreciate Taft.

He has succeeded in impressing labor on the isthmus with his kindly interest in its behalf. On this point the special commission's report says: "From the outset we were strongly impressed by the spirit of good will and loyalty of the employees. . . . The general sentiment of the workers was expressed in the words of a mechanic, in one of the conferences which we held with representatives of different trades. Said he: 'We want it understood that we are American citizens and that we are proud to have a share in this great work. We believe the government is treating us right, and we are as much interested to see this thing a success as anyone.' This spirit of loyalty and interest in the work was evidenced on many occasions and should be accounted as an asset of the highest value to the government in the accomplishment of its colossal task."

Taft Raises Wages.

On May 1, 1907, as Secretary of War, Mr. Taft issued a longevity order mak-

ing liberal and appreciate increase in the wages of various classes of workmen, as follows:

"All employes not native to the tropics who occupy the positions herein designated shall be granted the following increases in pay for length of continuous service on the Isthmus: Five per cent of the basic or class rate for the second year, with accumulative addition of three per cent of the basic rate for each subsequent year; provided, however, that such cumulative increase shall not exceed a total of 25c of the basic rate."

In other words, Mr. Taft made it possible for every American laborer on the Isthmus, by remaining there and working, to increase his wages 25 per cent and at the same time have a permanent position. These men also get four weeks' vacation with pay, every year and Mr. Taft favors making the vacation six weeks with pay.

Change Would Be Disastrous.

In the performance of this work the United States is under the scrutiny of the entire world, especially of our neighbors in Central and South America, before whom we must make good our profession of high social and industrial ideals. It would be a national calamity to jeopardize the present liberal progressive policy that is so successfully constructing the Panama Canal. Mr. Taft is the one man to continue this great work to the end.

COUNTRY NEEDS A REPUBLICAN CONGRESS.

President Roosevelt Points Out Importance of Electing Legislators to Support Taft.

President Roosevelt, in a letter to William B. McKinley, chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee, appeals to disinterested citizens to join with the National Republican Committee and the Congressional Committee in a movement to elect William H. Taft as President and a Republican Congress to support him, saying, in part:

"It is urgently necessary, from the standpoint of the public interest, to elect Mr. Taft, and a Republican Congress which will support him; and they seek election on a platform which specifically pledges the party, alike in its executive and legislative branches, to continue and develop the policies which have been not merely introduced, but acted upon during these seven years. These policies can be successfully carried through only by the hearty co-operation of the President and the Congress in both its branches. It is therefore peculiarly important that there should obtain such harmony between them. To fail to elect Mr. Taft would be a calamity to the country; and it would be folly, while electing him, yet at the same time to elect a Congress hostile to him, a Congress which under the influence of partisan leadership would be certain to thwart and baffle him on every possible occasion. To elect Mr. Taft, and at the same time to elect a Congress pledged to support him, is the only way in which to perpetuate the policy of the government as now carried on. I feel that all the aid that can be given to this policy by every good citizen should be given; for this is far more than a merely partisan matter."

APPEAL TO LOYAL REPUBLICANS

To Middle West and Rocky Mountain States Republicans.

You want Mr. Taft and Mr. Sherman elected and they cannot be elected unless the Republican National Committee has sufficient money to pay the legitimate expenses of the campaign. It costs money to perfect an organization. It requires money to pay for printing, postage, salaries of stenographers and clerks at headquarters, traveling expenses of speakers and numerous other details that go to make the campaign end successfully. Congress, as you know, has passed a law making it unlawful for us to solicit money from corporations. We must depend upon the contributions of individual voters. If every Republican in this Western Division would contribute one dollar to the campaign fund, we will be able to do all the things that the voters want done; we will be able to elect Taft and Sherman. Will you help? If so, please send one dollar to the chairman of your State Finance Committee, whose name appears in the list following, or send it direct to me and you will receive the official receipt of the Republican National Committee.

FRED W. UPHAM, Assistant Treasurer.

Contributions may be sent by check or money order to any of the following named chairmen of the various State finance committees:

- Colorado, Whitney Newton, Denver.
- Idaho, Frank F. Johnson, Wallace.
- Illinois, Col. Frederick H. Smith, Peoria.
- Iowa, Hon. Lafayette Young, Des Moines.
- Kansas, Frank E. Grimes, Topeka.
- Michigan, John N. Bagley, Detroit.
- Missouri, O. L. Whitelaw, 469 North Second street, St. Louis.
- Montana, Thomas A. Marlow, Helena.
- Nebraska, John C. Wharton, New York Life building, Omaha.
- New Mexico, J. W. Reynolds, Santa Fe.
- North Dakota, James A. Buchanan, Buchanan.
- Oregon, Dr. H. W. Coe, Portland.
- South Dakota, O. W. Thompson, Vermillion.
- Washington, James D. Hoge, Seattle.
- Or to Fred W. Upham, Assistant Treasurer, 234 Michigan avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

PROMINENT DEFECTIONS FROM BRYAN CONTINUE

Democratic Leaders from Coast to Coast Reject Vagaries of the Nebraska Weather Vane.

William Prentiss of Chicago Says Bryan as President Would Be a Failure—Southern Lifelong Democrats Repudiate the Candidate Who Tramples on His Ideals to Catch Votes.

The number of prominent Democrats all over the country who have announced their desertion of Bryan and have advised their friends to vote for Taft and Sherman is a matter of grave concern to Mr. Bryan's managers. In Richmond, Va., always a rock-ribbed citadel of Democracy, a Taft business men's club has been organized, with hundreds of members, and in Baltimore the defections of leading Democrats has become the subject of a daily serial in the newspapers. These illustrations are given not because they are exceptional in this campaign, but because of their geographical location.

In Chicago a sensation was caused by William Prentiss, who announced that he will support Taft instead of Bryan for President and Deneen instead of Stevenson for Governor. Mr. Prentiss has been a Democratic leader in Chicago for several years. He was Civil Service Commissioner under Mayor Dunne and has several times been Democratic candidate for Judge. In 1898 he was chairman of the Democratic State convention. He was formerly an ardent Bryan partisan.

In a letter made public recently Mr. Prentiss charges Bryan with betraying his followers and forsaking the principles for which he stood prior to the present campaign.

Mr. Prentiss says: "Bryan claims that he is the man to continue and extend Roosevelt's work, claiming much of it as suggestions of his own. Less than three months ago I preferred Bryan as Roosevelt's successor. He was my party leader, in whom I then had full confidence. But, as before indicated, my faith in Bryan is a relic. Bryan, not the ideal Bryan of the past, but the real Bryan of today, surrounded by the Macks, Murphys, McGraws, Taggart, Sullivans and Joe Baileys et al. of the present day Democratic party, at the best could be but a dismal failure."

California Democrats for Taft.

John J. Barrett, for years one of the most brilliant orators of the Democratic party of California, has registered this year as a Republican. That registration has given the Democratic managers a shock only second to that which they felt when they learned that M. F. Tarpey had deserted the shifting cause of Bryan.

"My registration speaks for itself," said Mr. Barrett. "When asked to state my politics I said I was a Republican. That tells the tale."

Barrett preached Democratic doctrines from all the stumps of California.

Reasons of a North Carolinian.

Regardless of past affiliations, stagers of affairs, doers and thinkers, are fast lining up for Judge Taft. A recent example is that of Silas McBeck, editor of the Churchman, of New York. In an interview he says:

"I am a North Carolinian by birth and a lifelong Democrat. I shall vote for Mr. Taft because he has it in his heart to bring my people of the South back into absolute union with the national life and to their historic place as a controlling force in the nation, and to do which would immortalize him as a statesman."

"I shall vote for him because he more nearly represents my ideals of government, of social order and economic policy than any living Democrat, or any man before the people to-day, save alone Theodore Roosevelt, who is the only Republican President I have ever voted for. Mr. Taft has administered every trust committed to him by the nation with an eye single to the nation's good and for the highest interests of the people that compose the nation."

The Roster in Baltimore.

Mr. George R. Willis, former president of the Police Board of Baltimore and Democrat of the old school will cast the first Republican vote since he attained his majority. Mr. Willis will vote for Taft.

"Under no circumstances could I vote for Bryan," said he, "for the reason that I do not believe he is sincere, and if sincere, is not a good man for President of the United States."

"How do you gauge public sentiment?" Mr. Willis was asked.

"Among my clientele I know of no one who will vote for Bryan. There is not a Democrat who favors him."

Another prominent southern Democrat who will vote for Taft is Mr. W. A. Garrett, chief executive officer to the receivers of the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company.

Mr. Garrett's reasons for supporting the Republican candidate are that he is the candidate of the business men and his election would be for the best interests of the country.

Mr. Garrett says he has noticed a leaning toward Taft in several of the

Southern States and instanced Alabama as one of these.

Two men who have always been prominent in Democratic circles in Baltimore who have announced that they did not think enough of Bryan to vote for him, and that they would support Taft instead, are Mr. John E. Scamies, one of the prominent lawyers of Baltimore and president of the School Board, and Mr. Leigh Bonsal, who in years past has been one of the most active workers in the Democratic party. Both men said that they could not stand for Bryan and his policies.

Mr. Bonsal's defection from the ranks of Democracy was an especial shock to the Bryan men in the State. They had counted on him as one of the price spellbinders during the coming campaign, and had no idea but that he was an ardent supporter of the Democratic nominee. "When and where will I suit you best to speak during the coming campaign in behalf of Mr. Bryan?" Mr. Bryan's friends in Maryland wrote him. When Mr. Bonsal replied that he intended to vote for Taft the correspondence ceased.

Major Richard M. Venable, former president of the Baltimore Park Board and one of the most prominent Independent Democrats in Maryland, has declared for Taft and against Bryan.

"I am for Taft," said Major Venable "as I do not agree with Mr. Bryan's opinions on the various questions now confronting the public."

"He has not the judgment and temperament of a statesman. A statesman knows that no matter how desirable reform may be he must take short steps in accomplishing it. He knows that I cannot be done in a day. The public mind and the new machinery of administration must be educated and adapted to introduce such radical changes as are contained in Mr. Bryan's program, even conceding for the argument that he is right."

Waldo Newcomer, president of the National Exchange Bank of Baltimore says that although he believes in the principles of the Democratic party and would like to cast his ballot for the Democratic ticket, he finds it impossible to support Bryan and his ideas.

Mr. Newcomer characterized the Bryan plank in the Denver platform guaranteeing deposits in banks as nonsensical and unnecessary. He said the scheme smacked of paternalism, and is not founded upon sound or good business principles.

Mr. Newcomer said he did not regard Mr. Bryan as the type of man to make a satisfactory or safe President, and felt that the interests of the country and the people as a whole would be far better promoted this time by the election of Mr. Taft, in whose sanity, soundness and honesty every one who knows him has the utmost confidence.

Frederic R. Couderc, for years a prominent New York Independent Democrat, has stated that he intends to vote for Taft.

J. E. Smith, vice president of the Simmons Hardware Company of St. Louis, whose politics heretofore has been Democratic, has come out for Taft. He says many other Democrats among St. Louis business men will mark their ballots the same way.

New York Newspaper Deserts Bryan.

The Ithaca (N. Y.) Chronicle, a newspaper heretofore Democratic, has broken with that party and joined the opposition, saying:

"Believing that there is no hope for reasonable men in the Democracy under its present leaders; refusing to truckle to the misfit combination of Populism, Socialism, corruption and bossism presented under the guise of Democracy, the Chronicle takes its stand firmly for Taft and Sherman, for Hughes and his running mate."

TAFT'S SERVICE TO LABOR.

Destroyed the Old English Law Assumption that Union Labor is a Conspiracy.

(From the Emporia (Kan.) Gazette.)

The simple fact is that no man has done more to place union labor on a sound, square, law-abiding, respected footing than William H. Taft by his decisions in labor cases. Both employers and employed have acknowledged the justice of his decisions and learned to abide by them, and to-day there is not an intelligent worker or fair-minded employer who would seek to abrogate them.

Judge Taft lifted union labor from the doubt and uncertainty as to its rights which had before prevented and gave it a standing which it has ever since retained, and which has proved under his rulings, secure against all attack. The old assumption, derived from England, that union labor is a conspiracy, and that workers could be prevented from leaving railway or other employment at their will, was swept away forever by Judge Taft so far as the United States is concerned, and when an attempt was made, years later, to revive the principle, Judge Taft's decision was quoted successfully by the labor side to defeat the plea.

Mr. Taft was and is labor's friend, because he is absolutely just, and would no more permit wrong to be done to the poorest laborer in the land than he would to any one else. And the honest, law-abiding workers asks and expects no more than this.

Bryan, we learn from a Democratic contemporary, is giving the East a good scare. Bryan's scares, however, never hurt anybody but Bryan.—Philadelphia Press.

Mr. Taft says that he stands on his record. No particular credit to Taft in that. Anybody would be glad to stand on the kind of record he has.—Topeka Capital.

\$200.00

HOW MUCH MORE?

We guarantee the Glass Jar, now on exhibition in Todd & Co.'s store window, to contain \$200.00 in U.S. Coin. How much more we do not know. The one guessing nearest the correct amount will receive a

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This Jar of Money will be Given A WAY FREE,

To the lucky number drawn on December 31st, 1908.

A ticket will be given with every 50 cents purchase at our stores and money paid on account.

The holiday spirit seems to be in the air and we wish our customers to be treated as liberally as the other stores are treating their trade, hence we are giving this Jar of Money

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to our Customers. Neither clerks in our stores nor members of our families will participate in the above drawing.

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