

IS STANDARD OIL BEGGING MERCY?

SIGNS THAT GREATEST OF TRUSTS IS GETTING WEAK

Much Speculation Concerning Its Purpose—General Belief That President Indulged in Some Very Plain Talk

Washington, March 19.—Renewed efforts to penetrate the secrets of the recent mysterious night conference at the White House in which the President talked for more than an hour with H. H. Rogers, vice president of the Standard Oil trust, and J. D. Archbold, the treasurer of the same institution, have not succeeded in securing anything that bears official earmarks. It is a fine subject to speculate on, and the favorite theory is that the Standard Oil people have been so freely pressed in the last few months and have gotten so many frightened glimpses of the storm ahead, that they wanted to ask the president if he could not do something to assuage the uneasiness that is appearing in financial circles (not Standard Oil circle). By trying to make it appear that the agitation for legislation directed against railroads and certain other corporations is making capital timid and may sooner or later bring to a halt the great boom that swept over the country. The Standard Oil people, according to the latest report, hope to be able to induce the president to put a pedal on the fast moving machinery that is seemingly destined to make great and important corrections in the existing laws dealing with corporations.

"These Standard Oil people may have had the nerve to come all the way over here to ask to an interview with the president to suggest that he alleviate the uneasiness that is alleged to be felt," said a bright and prominent official of the administration, "but I can hardly believe it. And I should have given much to have been present when such a representation was made to the president. I will bet anything that he told them they had better go back home and attend to their own business and to remember that if they will cease dodging process servers, cease the unfair and low methods of driving competition out of the country and not conceal proper facts as to their affairs there would be far less of radical tendency than at present. The Standard Oil trust is more responsible today for the growing feeling of radicalism in this country than any other corporations, including big railroads. It has cold-bloodedly, foully and corruptly stifled and killed competition, driven men insane by depriving them of their properties, with losses of their fortunes and their homes, and when the full history is written of its doings, will itself be driven out of existence or so thoroughly curbed that it will never be a menace to the United States if lawmakers have the brains to enact laws to do so.

"I do not believe that any honest man of capital will fear the mutterings of the Standard Oil and the depression that seems to be stealing over the officials of that concern. There will be no laws made in this country that will ever rob capital of a fair and legitimate return for its money, but in the end the laws that will be put on the books will immensely strengthen legal and proper methods of business and prevent robbery, corruption, trickery and the accumulation of great sums by illegal and indecent methods. This country will continue to prosper if crops remain good and there will be no serious fall in the prices of legitimate stocks and bonds simply because the Standard Oil trust is beginning to feel the gaff. On the contrary, it ought to, and probably will, create a buoyant feeling on the part of honest men with money if they find that the greatest and most corrupt concern of all is getting weak knees.

"I again repeat that I suspect that the President knew what to tell those fellows and did so."

THE SOUTH'S CHANCE IS HERE.

Judge Parker Makes A Ringing Declaration At Charlotte.

In his speech at Charlotte Friday night, Judge Parker has aroused the democracy of the south to a sense of its importance and responsibility, and so important were these remarks that we herewith give them in full.

A Significant Speech.

In the beginning the speaker said: "Mr. Tompkins and Fellow Democrats: It gives me pleasure to be with you at this time. I have been prepared to say something of the future of this party. I will gladly do so. I am prepared what I will say, and

every sentence has been weighed carefully. It is not long and I shall read it."

Here Judge Parker took out his manuscript and read the following interesting deliverance:

"I am pleased to accept your invitation to halt, even for a moment, in one of the most interesting and historic counties in our common country. I am especially pleased to see about me some of the sturdy men who, through many years, in good report or ill, in success or defeat, have rallied around the standard of democratic principles.

"In an address before the legislature of the state of Mississippi, a few days ago, I had occasion to insist that never before was it less possible to ignore the growing tendency to look to the government or state for support, assistance, or special favor, which will relieve the recipient from that effort and those obligations hitherto deemed incumbent upon all our people. Whether it takes the form of direct subsidies—the cost of which may be estimated—or is hid away in those more costly and demoralizing systems under which some favored individual or class may levy a relentless toll upon the earnings or the income of all our people, the effect upon institutions and character is the same. If we support a dozen paupers in a poorhouse, we can calculate the cost, but the beneficiary of a vicious system of corruption or bossism, in country, state, county or city, not only takes for his own purposes the earning of his neighbors, but he so breaks all the moral laws that he becomes at once a menace to society and an evil example to all our people.

"During all its history, the democratic party has denounced the lodgment of undue power in the government, has opposed its logical outcome, the granting of special privileges in the levy of taxes, and has insisted upon economy in expenditure. Under these as guiding principles, it built upon its own organization and has only been able to maintain it by constant devotion to them. In time they have become inalienable policies and ingrained traditions. In or out of power, in nation or state, in the demands of its leaders, in the devotion of its rank and file, in war or peace, in its early or its later days, it has stood for these things.

"While this conscientious devotion to an idea has commended itself to the democrats of the whole country and has thus made and kept the party rational, during recent years the people of the south, without variableness or shadow of turning, have been its mainstay. Shirking no responsibility, seeking no national rewards, promoting no special interests or movements, they have neither been trunclent in victory nor discouraged in defeat. Going on in their way, regulating their own affairs, without hope of commanding subsidy, paying cheerfully to carry out policies in which they could have no part, they have so impressed their time that the one special problem coming to them from the past has been solved in such a way that the whole country has not only been forced to approve and applaud but to imitate as the only way to deal with it.

"But the time has come when new duties and responsibilities must be undertaken by the democrats of the south. It is more than two score years since the war closed and your people find themselves upon the threshold of what promises to be the most remarkable business develop-

ment the world has ever known within the same time and space. Some of your men have gone forth to command the highest success, in the most honorable way, in the greatest financial and commercial movements of the time; others have become the managers of great railway interests; you have developed great manufacturing enterprises, and, most difficult of all, your people, as a whole, have so maintained their own position and the dominance of the country in one of the greatest products of the soil as to make them the wonder and the admiration of the world.

"In spite of your devotion to principle and consistency, in the face of a numerical importance that was preponderant, in politics only have you stepped aside. From the earliest days since self-government was restored you have sent your best men into public life. They have been at once modest, able, devoted, patriotic and honest. No jail or penitentiary has opened its hospitable doors to admit your senators, representatives or governors, nor have the officers of the law, from detectives to attorneys-general, been compelled to hale them into the criminal courts. In the face of this record you have not only permitted us of the north to present to you candidates for president and vice president, but you have insisted upon our doing so and have then voted for them, and that, too, when sometimes no other states did so.

"In 1896 you tried Nebraska and since that day, no old democratic northern state has acceded one of our party to the United States senate and in none has there been a friendly governor. All the democratic training schools of the north—elementary, intermediate and higher—were closed and have remained so. The party paralysis was complete and almost fatal. In 1904, hoping to cure or palliate it, you advised returning again to New York for your candidate, only to meet the worst defeat in our party history. It is now nearly twelve years since any man professing devotion to our party has been chosen in nation or in any northern democratic state to fill an important executive office. At the last election, perhaps eight out of ten voters then under thirty were ranged with our opponents and today the party organizations are lifeless, their one time leaders are dead or have abdicated, or worse, have become republicans, while in more than one state the threat hangs over them that they may become the victims of the spoiler, the destructive, or the corruptionist.

"When such conditions confront you, why should you hesitate any longer? Until the democrats of Nebraska and New York and other northern states have brought forth fruits meet for repentance—or at least so long as they are threatening to give themselves and the party over to further destruction—should you not assert yourself? You have borne the heat and burden of the day. Your statesmen have demonstrated their ability not only to take care of the interests of their states and their section, but they have been the only dam against aggression at home and the threat of discredit abroad. Among them are men with the knowledge, experience, honesty and courage to represent their fellow partisans without the surrender of principle and their fellow-countrymen with safety and honor.

"I, myself, placed at the front for a time, have every reason to be grateful to democrats everywhere, especial-

ly to those of the south. I appreciate the honor thus conferred upon me and have no regrets for the past; but no one, I think, can know better than I how futile our effort has been in the past and how unpromising the outlook is for the future unless we throw aside isms and grasp the great moral issue now so clearly perceived by the people. The time has come when the really effective democrats of the country should be recognized and when they themselves should no longer hesitate, decline or refuse to seek or to accept those honors which are their just due for work well done. It may possibly be that the party will go to defeat again, but since 1896 it has done nothing else under northern leadership and certainly it cannot do worse.

"I believe firmly that it will do better, because it will at once eliminate the factions which are inevitable, so long as their leaders feel that they have only to capture a few state organizations in the north, nominate their candidate and then depend upon the south to support and elect him if possible. And certainly no faction can refuse to support a worthy southern candidate in the light of the loyalty of the south to every party candidate.

"But, if this course would give southern democrats the recognition they deserve, it will also put them upon their mettle. It will make it necessary for them to insist upon devotion to ideas and principles; to avoid, as their character and traditions assure, extreme policies; to keep themselves thoroughly in touch with all the elements to be found in a national and progressive party; and to be ready and willing to anticipate and promote all the needs of a great country. The contending ambitions of self-seekers; the claims of interests purely local, the demands that grow out of popular clamor, the shifty and shifting methods of the demagogue and the agitator—all these must be avoided, whether leadership comes from north or south, east or west. The ideas and tendencies behind these things are typified by the republican party of the present day and no attempt on our part to enter into competition with it can hope to command success or so to restore character to our party that it may again attain power.

"If we are honest with ourselves, earnest and vigilant in the recognition of those popular needs which are both safe and democratic, and regardless of our own ideas and traditions, we shall again be intrusted with power and we shall be ready for it. When this time comes, the south ought to be and, indeed, it must be, the one great effective force in bringing about such a happy consummation—sorely needed if our institutions are to endure inviolate."

Anyway, there is more or less originality about the man who rides a hobby.

Starving to Death.

Because her stomach was so weakened by useless drugging that she could not eat, Mrs. Mary H. Walters of St. Clair, Columbus, O., was literally starving to death. She writes: "My stomach was so weak from useless drugs that I could not eat, and my nerves so wrecked that I could not sleep; and not before I was given up to die I was induced to try Electric Bitters; with the wonderful result that improvement began at once, and a complete cure followed." Best health tonic on earth. 50c. Guaranteed by W. E. Pelham & Son, druggist.

Wearing Stockings and Corsets Is Barbaric.

"The wearing of stockings, corsets and jewelry is barbaric." So declared Miss Leslie Leigh, prima donna of B. C. Whitney's "Isle of Spice" company, and society gasps.

Matrons are gazing askance at the younger element for fear that sandal-bare feet will become the rage. Especially among athletic young women, for, adding zest to Miss Leigh's contention, is her stockinged, corsetless existence, and careful attention to athletic exercise, which has developed her magnificent physique.

And Miss Leigh is an extremely athletic woman, an accomplished horsewoman, a good tennis player and an expert on snowshoes.

Miss Leigh explains that she thinks corsets abominable, and as to hosiery, she says it does a positive injury to the feet, in addition to being superfluous. She takes just as much care of her feet as of her hands. Instead of shoes, she wears sandals.

Miss Leigh gives a highly artistic rendition of the role of "Teresa" in the "Isle of Spice," which will be the attraction at the opera house on March 31.

J. E. Norment, the governor's private secretary, confirms the rumor that he is a candidate for secretary of state.

He who seeks temptation is either a fool or otherwise—with the odds in favor of the otherwise.

The Breath of Life.

It's a significant fact that the strongest animal of its size, the gorilla, also has the largest lungs. Powerful lungs means powerful creatures. How to keep the breathing organs right should be man's chiefest study. Like thousands of others, Mrs. Ora A. Stephens, of Port Williams, O., has learned how to do this. She writes: "Three bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery stopped my cough of two years and cured me of what my friends thought consumption. O, it's grand for throat and lung troubles." Guaranteed by W. E. Pelham & Son, druggist. Price 50c. and \$1.00 Trial bottle free.

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The most satisfactory man to tell a joke to is the one who has already started to laugh.

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