

The World's Letter to the President.

In an open letter to the President, published on Saturday last, the New York World powerfully sums up the issues of the campaign as the personality of Theodore Roosevelt. The World says in part:

The paramount issue of this campaign is not, as you would have it, free trade or free silver, but you yourself—Theodore Roosevelt.

This issue is forced upon the country by your unusual temperament and talents—your own strong, able, ambitious, resolute, militant, passionate personality, your versatile and surprising genius.

You have glorified war and threatened the future peace of the country by proposing a bullying overlordship of the other countries in this hemisphere and offering to constitute the United States the constable and collector for Europe in the rotten and irresponsible States of Central and South America.

You have, by your recommendations to Congress, and your signature to its extravaganzas, increased the national expenditures during your term to more than \$2,500,000,000—an excess of \$211,000,000 over the expenditures during President McKinley's term (which included the expenses of the war with Spain), and exceeding the cost of President Cleveland's second term by \$880,000.

You and the Congress of your party have converted a surplus of \$80,000,000 in 1900 into a deficit of more than \$40,000,000 for the fiscal year just closed.

In view of this surpassing record of extravagance, it is perhaps, not strange, but will be regarded by the taxpayers as significant, that the words "economy," "retrenchment" and "reform," once the rule of the nation and the shibboleth of statesmen, do not once appear in your entire speech of acceptance—not once!

The principle of protection has been maintained by every party that has held power in this country since the adoption of the Constitution, including the administration of eight Democratic Presidents. Representative Clark, chairman of the St. Louis Convention, truly said that "the Democratic party is not a free trade party." Protection, however necessary under some conditions, is both needless and unjust when infant industries have become hoary monopolies. It is especially oppressive and exasperating when perverted to enable favored manufacturers to maintain arbitrary high prices in the home market while underselling foreign competitors in the markets of the world.

The free coinage of silver, which was the decisive issue in the last two elections, is no longer a living question, though there are indications in your speech that you will seek to revive it. The overwhelming verdict of the people, regardless of party, in the last two elections; the law of 1900 reestablishing the gold standard; the enormous increase in the world's production of gold; the fact that no party and no public man of importance, not even Mr. Bryan, is now advocating free silver; and, beyond all, the declaration of your opponent, Judge Parker, that he regards the gold standard as "firmly and irrevocably established"—a declaration unreservedly accepted by the St. Louis Convention by a vote of 774 to 191—afford cumulative proof that the silver issue is dead and buried past resurrection.

You boast that your policy is "to do fair and equal justice to all men, paying no heed to whether a man is rich or poor." Can it be maintained that a tariff law which enables favored manufacturers, in return for big campaign contributions, to levy tribute on the whole body of the people as an example of "fair and equal justice"? Who represents anti-monopoly and the rights of labor in your Cabinet? Is it Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, the banker, who preaches that high prices are a blessing—or Attorney-General Moody, who has not lifted a finger to enforce the anti-trust laws?—or Secretary of the Navy Morton, lately a vice-president of the Santa Fe Railroad and ally of the Beef Trust?—or Secretary of Commerce and Labor Metcalf, a political representative of the Southern Pacific Railroad?—or Postmaster-General Payne, long the legislative and lobby agent of railroad and other corporations?

Do these acts of yours give very strong backing to your words asserting equal regard for all classes?

You say of the "great organizations known as trusts," that "we do not have to explain why the laws against them were not enforced, but to point out that they actually have been enforced." This will be news, indeed, to the victims of the unpunished and unhampered Beef Trust and the other "conspiracies in restraint of trade" which continue to stifle competition and to rob consumers in defiance of law.

"Mr. Cortelyou, formerly private secretary, was at the head of the Department of Commerce just long enough to acquire by 'diligent investigation' such information as would be useful to the filer of your campaign chest. The public does not share this information. There is no evidence that the law officers of the government are making use of it to suppress and punish such odious and oppressive monopolies as the Beef Trust—which control the great portion of the meat supply of 80,000,000 people. But ex-private and ex-public Secretary Cortelyou—Chairman Cortelyou of your Campaign Committee—no doubt knows all that the law enabled him to learn of the inner workings of the potential campaign contributors!"

You boast that "never has the administration of the government been so cleaner and higher level." We appeal to all honest men whether in the annals of our government there was ever a grosser abuse of power, a greater public scandal or a more unprincipled defiance of decent public opinion than is this transfer of an official investigator and curber of great corporations to be a collector of campaign funds from them!

"You say that you earnestly desire friendship with all the nations of the New and Old Worlds," and that you

think 'peace is right as well as advantageous.' Can you wonder that the people find it hard to recognize in these pacific utterances the Roosevelt they have known hitherto? A short time ago, in urging the creation of an even larger navy, the advice you gave for the guidance of the nation was: 'Speak softly, but carry a big stick.' Is the man who habitually does this generally 'seeking peace'? Do you think that the other nations of the New World thought that you, as President of this republic, really 'desired peace and friendship' with them when you wrote in your letter to the Cuban dinner?—

"Any country whose peoples conduct themselves well can count upon our hearty friendliness. If a nation shows that it knows how to act with decency in industrial and political matters, if it keeps order and pays its obligations, then it need fear no interference from the United States. Brutal wrongdoing or an impotence which results in the general loosening of the ties of civilized society may finally require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the Western Hemisphere the United States cannot ignore its duty."

Is not this unmistakably a threat that if any of the republics of Central or South America fails to "act with decency"—you being the judge—or if it fails to "keep order and pay its obligations" (as some of the States of our Union have failed to pay), it "need fear no interference from the United States"; but that if any or all of these States fail to live up to your standard of order and morality, "civilized society may finally require intervention," and that then "the United States cannot ignore its duty?"

Our faith in the intelligence, the common sense and the conscience of the American people is too great to believe that they will give a commission for four years in his own name to the chance pilot who is now heading the ship of state toward the rocks upon which other republics have been wrecked—tolerated usurpations by the Executive; warlike adventures for gain and glory; contempt for law; privileged classes sustained by election bribes; corruption in high places and extravagant expenditures from unjust taxes. Honor and prudence alike require a change of pilots and a return to the chart of the Constitution, to the rule of law and the flag of a peace-loving republic.

This is a powerful arraignment of the acts and tendencies of President Roosevelt's administration, and it has received the unqualified endorsement of such Democrats as Wheeler H. Peckham, George Foster Peabody, Edward N. Sheppard and Judge Roger A. Pryor of New York. The Democratic party has a great and important mission to fulfill at the next election. When the issue between four more years of Roosevelt or four years of safe, sane and constitutional government, is fairly presented, as it will be, long before the election, there is little doubt on which side the independent vote of this country will array itself.

THE OUTLOOK IN NEW YORK.

Situation Declared Hopeless for Republicans With Mr. Root as a Candidate.

Not even Elihu Root can save the State of New York to the Republicans this year. President Roosevelt, according to a generally believed report, has besought Mr. Root to take the nomination for Governor, and the leaders of the Republican organization join their pleadings to those of the President. They know that the Presidential candidate is going to need help in this State, and they with one accord turn to Mr. Root as the most powerful auxiliary force they can invoke. Mr. Root would be a strong candidate—probably the Republican leaders are right in their belief that he would be their strongest. But how could he help Mr. Roosevelt? This is the President's home State. He is, of course, far better known than the ex-Secretary of war. The public have voted for him before and elected him. Surely he ought to call out the full party vote and run ahead of all other candidates on the Republican ticket, in which case he might help the gubernatorial candidate, though it is difficult to see how the gubernatorial candidate could help him. We suppose nothing could help him.

Governor Odell has inspired the people with so deep a distrust of the Republican organization that even if this were to be an ordinary Governorship election without the Presidential complication, any Democrat worthy of the office would probably be elected. But to the popular resolve to turn out Mr. Odell's party must be added the immeasurable force of the Democrat re-awakening.

The party is not only united, but it has a candidate who at the very beginning of the contest visibly stirs its enthusiasm, and whose rugged strength of character and sound opinions will more and more arouse keen interest and admiration as the campaign proceeds. With the heavy handicap of Governor Odell's record—and he is the time adding to the difficulties of his party by the scandal of his double function as chief executive of the State and chairman of a partisan committee—and contending against the formidable strength of Judge Parker's untinged candidacy, Roosevelt and Fairbanks seem to be doomed to lose the electoral vote of New York; and with the electors goes the Governorship, even if Mr. Root should be the candidate.

Since the executive power of the State is expected to come to the Democrats they must put up a candidate worthy to wield it. The high quality of the Presidential nomination forbids them to descend to the walks of common politics for a name. There is a chance once more to choose a Democrat of brains and character, bound to no faction, hampered by no allegations, who will poll every vote within the party and many more. The stories from Esopus about the "demands" and "conditions" laid down by Mr. Murphy, of Tammany, upon the occasion of his visit to Judge Parker never had any better foundation than the gossip of small Tammany politicians. They are, of course, untrue, and have been authoritatively denied. The demands are to be formulated this year and the conditions imposed not by any man or leader, but by the high interests of a great party confronted by a great opportunity.—New York Times, (Ind. Dem.)

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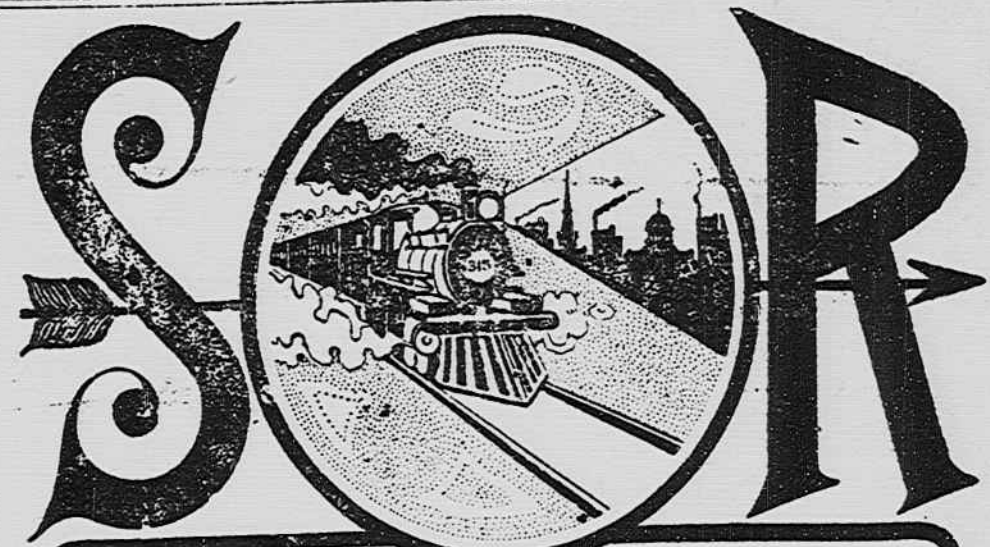
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