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PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT.
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This paper gives correspondents as wide latitude as it thinks public policy permits, but it is in no case responsible for their views. It is much preferred that correspondents sign their names to their articles, especially in cases where they attack persons or institutions, though this is not demanded. The editor reserves the right to give the names of correspondents when they are demanded for the purpose of personal satisfaction. To receive consideration a communication must be accompanied by the true name of the correspondent.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1907.

THE BIG STICK IN ECLIPSE.

It is well known that practically all the important legislation enacted by the last Congress went contrary to the wishes of the Republican leaders in both houses. The railroad rate law, the packing house inspection law and several other measures owe their existence to Mr. Roosevelt's great popular strength and the party leaders' enforced recognition of that strength. True, the President surrendered in advance on tariff revision that his lesser measures might win favor from grateful stand-patters; but, even so, factional lines were sharply visible. It will be remembered that at one time the President and his personal following in the Senate allied themselves with the Democrats as a means of forcing a compromise from the Aldrich Republicans on the rate bill, leaving their Democratic allies rather in the lurch a little later on. Measures unmistakably embodying Democratic ideas were forced through a Republican Congress by sheer weight of presidential prestige.

Now, however, the situation is greatly changed. Instead of having behind him an unparalleled popular majority at the polls, Mr. Roosevelt comes laden with a panic which his party opponents assiduously term "the Roosevelt panic." He has in reality done nothing further than to expose a few financial crooks and make their future operations a little less easy, also delivering himself of sundry generalizations about "dishonest wealth," but such an opportunity of harassing him as the panic presents could not possibly be foregone. His prestige is admittedly passing through a critical period; while it may emerge as strong as ever, it needs careful nursing at present. Much strain might well be ruinous, and this fact the President fully recognizes. That he is weak for the time being, and knows that he is weak, his few friends are fully aware. The centre of gravity has shifted to his old quarters and Speaker Cannon and Senator Aldrich are again lords at the Capitol. Speaker Cannon, in particular, seems stronger than ever.

Frankly admitting that he has no hope of landing the presidential nomination for himself, Senator Foraker declares his intention to bait and harass the administration in such a manner as will force a preliminary strength of factional strength; in other words, he wishes to make the most of the Roosevelt element's temporary dismemberment. Mr. Cannon, it appears from his consultations with the White House people, will not lend himself actively, if at all, to Mr. Foraker's programme, but everybody knows where his sympathies lie. Whatever currency of banking legislation may be passed, care will pretty certainly be taken that none of the credit goes to Mr. Roosevelt. The man who told the Fifty-ninth Congress what it must do was very little favored with the first session of the Sixtieth.

If only the Democratic party were not saddled with Mr. Bryan and his ever-growing collection of dangerous fads, this state of affairs would be interesting in the extreme. As matters stand, it is doubtless Wall Street which looks on with keenest satisfaction. If the panic has the effect of discrediting Mr. Roosevelt, and his policies the Street will regard it as worth all that it cost.

We hope that even if Mr. Tom Watson is as completely hypnotized by those dazzling teeth as many others have been he will at least manage to defer third-term hurrahs until beyond hearing of the White House reporters. Public men should conduct themselves with dignity though they burst in the effort.

Let no one postpone any longer the day of preparation for the Hon. Santa Claus.

CHARLOTTE NEWS
Special to The Observer.

Durham, Dec. 9.—The city has just purchased a beautiful piece of property to be added to Maplewood Cemetery, the money being made over-to-day. This new addition to the cemetery has about sixteen acres of land and is so located that it will make the cemetery a very pretty one. The plans for the beautification of this property are now being made. There was considerable surprise but no criticism when it was learned today that Rev. T. A. Smoot, for three years pastor of Main Street Methodist church here, had been transferred to Wilmington at the Conference held in Newbern. Mr. Smoot and his official board now have under the course of erection a church building that will cost, all told, about \$200,000, and it was expected that he would be left here to complete his four-year term in order to push forward this work. Mr. Smoot is a man who is greatly beloved by the people of Durham, and he has done much good work here.

On Wednesday of this week there will be a special tax election held at White's Cross Road district, this county, near the Orange county line. This campaign has been on for several weeks and there is much interest in the matter. The candidates are Prof. C. W. Massey, superintendent of the county schools, and several others went out from here to be present at the speaking and the rally. Durham has already voted several special tax districts but the one now to be voted on is in doubt and it will take the results of election day to decide the matter.

Orders have been issued for the closing of the county schools Friday afternoon, December 20th, to remain closed until December 30th, for the holiday occasion. This will give the teachers and pupils of the school ten days, including Sunday, for the Christmas vacation. The city schools will close at the same time and open again on the 30th.

Yesterday afternoon there was a memorial service at the Second Baptist church, this being held by the Baptists Young People's Union in memory of the members who died during the year. There were several talks and the musical programme was a very elaborate one. There was a large attendance.

Rev. J. M. Millard, of Atlanta, Ga., a North Carolinian who held a pastoral charge for some time, preached at the First Baptist church in this city this evening. He filled this pulpit as supply for several months and has many admirers here. He is from Goldsboro originally.

NURSE KEPT A PRISONER?
New Jersey Officer Comes to North Carolina to Rescue Swedish Girl Who Declares She Was Prisoner of Halifax County Farmer—Tells Sensational Story.

Asbury Park, N. J., Dec. 9.—Word was received here to-day that Officer Thomas Broderick is returning with Mrs. Olga Sjostedt, the nurse, who wrote that she was being detained in the home of a planter several miles from Halifax, N. C. Officer Broderick did not telegraph any particulars. The nurse went to North Carolina to accept a position as a housekeeper on a plantation. In letters to friends she declared that she had to endure great hardships and that she wanted to return. An officer was sent to investigate the situation.

T. E. Pender is said to be the name of the farmer. A number of persons here are excited over the fate of Miss Sjostedt, who has written appealing letters from Halifax, N. C. In order to determine the truth or falsity of Miss Sjostedt's claims, a number of her friends contributed to send an officer to Halifax, and Policeman Thomas Broderick left here Saturday night for that purpose.

Miss Sjostedt recently advertised for a position as housekeeper and secured an answer from a man who represented himself as the owner of a big plantation. Miss Sjostedt left for Halifax to accept the position shortly before Thanksgiving. Writing to her friends here, which she says is difficult, as she is watched. Miss Sjostedt says the planter took her money from her and that her home is a little log cabin in the woods, 10 miles from a town.

TRUSTS "UNDERGROUND" WORK.
Vice President Dula Tells Tow American Tobacco Company Combined Certain Concerns and Kept the Merger Details Secret.

New York, Dec. 9.—The Queen City Tobacco Company, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was organized with the funds of the American Tobacco Company and by John C. Mack, vice president of the tobacco combine and the consolidation of the two companies was kept a secret according to Mr. Dula's evidence given in the government's action to dissolve the combine. Mr. Dula, in which that he arranged the organization of the Queen City Company with a man supposed to be independent of the American Tobacco Company. J. C. MacReynolds, the government's counsel, produced a letter written by W. Colbreath, Jr., manager of the Queen City Company, in which he stated that the writer advised that correspondence be conducted under assumed names to avoid discovery.

Mr. Dula further testified that the Manufacturers Tobacco Company, of Louisville, was secretly acquired by the American Tobacco Company, after which the plan was announced. Correspondence between Mr. Dula and Augustus Craft, of New Orleans, on the formation of the Craft Tobacco Company, was read into the record. Mr. Dula testified that the relationship was kept secret. Craft wrote in 1903 that he expected to make the company a success and would get the business from People's Tobacco Company, of New Orleans.

The purchase and control of the Pinkerton Tobacco Company, of Ohio, according to Mr. Dula, was negotiated with secrecy. The American Tobacco Company paid a subsidy of 2 cents per pound on the output of the Pinkerton Company. Vice President Dula was asked if there were any other companies other than those named in the government's complaint, which the American Tobacco controlled or had an interest in. The witness said that he knew of no others. An adjournment was taken until to-morrow.

Either St. Paul or Louisville Will Get Democratic Convention.
New York, Dec. 9.—Norman E. Mack, member of the Democratic national committee for New York, said to-day while here en route to Washington to attend the meeting of the committee Thursday, that the national convention would be held either in St. Paul or Louisville. He said that Denver was not central enough, and that Chicago had made no bid for it. He declared that William J. Bryan should be nominated for President and said that he had heard many prominent Democrats express a preference for former Governor William E. Douglas, of Massachusetts, for the second place on the ticket.

Order of Railway Conductors Position.
The following petition was forwarded last evening to Governor Bryan by R. E. Lee, Division No. 25, of the Order of Railway Conductors, representing the railway lines centering at Norfolk, Portsmouth and Berkley, Va.

His Excellency, Honorable Claude A. Swanson, Governor of Virginia: We, the undersigned committee, appointed by the R. E. Lee Division No. 205, of the Order of Railway Conductors at Portsmouth, Virginia, and representing the conductors of all lines of railways centering at Norfolk, Portsmouth and Berkley, Va., would respectfully request and urge that you use your good offices and influence in favor of the passenger rates of railways in the State of Virginia restored to the schedule of rates in effect prior to the first day of October, 1907, when they were changed by an order of the railroad commission. This request is made not at the solicitation, or with the knowledge, of the railways, but in the interest of the members of our organization, who will be affected by the further reduction, by any reduction in the revenues of the railways by which we are employed, inasmuch as our compensation, and certainly any increase in wages, is dependent absolutely upon the earning capacity of the railways.

Further reduction, therefore, that from our observation and experience as railway conductors in handling the passenger business of said railways, we are of the opinion that at the present rates the railways of Virginia cannot earn a fair and equitable return on their investment. It is our duty to maintain first-class passenger service. The majority of the undersigned committee are employed by said railways as passenger conductors, and in such capacity necessarily come in contact with the traveling public. In our conversations with those who are frequently passengers upon our trains, we are of the opinion that the majority of said passengers are not in favor of the present reduction in rates for the reason that the traveling public would prefer to pay a higher rate for the service, than the lower rate for poor and inadequate service, and your committee believes that it will be impossible for the railways to maintain under present conditions the service heretofore rendered, much less to improve the same.

In conclusion, your committee desires to call your special attention to the fact that the employees of the railways are more adversely affected by a reduction in rates than the railways themselves. This is demonstrated by conditions at this time existing, and the fact that the railways are unable to pay their employees, and are unable to cut expenses, relieving from service a large number of employees. This is not only directly affecting the men thus relieved, but also the general public in that the money, heretofore spent by these employees for the necessities of life, is being put into the pockets of the merchants and farmers of the State. Your committee also understands that one railway now under construction, almost on the border line of this State, has within the last two weeks reduced its service over five thousand employees.

Respectfully submitted, W. T. COX, S. A. L. Ry. J. W. BARNES, Southern Ry. J. E. KOMEKAG, A. C. L. Ry. J. W. BAYLOR, N. & W. Ry. R. B. LUKK, Virginia Ry. R. G. WADY, N. & S. Ry. Committee.

BITTER FACTIONAL FIGHTS.
Few Presidents Have Served Their Terms Without Experiencing Hostilities.

Philadelphia Bulletin. Roosevelt's administration, like McKinley's, although McKinley was largely under the guidance of Hanna, has been remarkably free of open factional disturbance in his own party. In the course of six years he has been able to command peace in his political household. Few politicians have ventured to create antagonism to him, not so much because of a want of inclination among some of them to do so, as because of his strength with the plain people. Grant had to face within his own party the opposition which long revolved around Sumner, Schurz, Fenton, and their colleagues in chronic revolt; Garfield was the object of the "stalwart" hostility engendered by Conkling, and McKinley, after Blaine, Harrison and the Platt-Quay combine to deal with as well as the disaffection of Blaine in his own Cabinet, and Democratic factionalism against Cleveland, usually of the Hill or Gorman as its focal point. But no Republican leader of the first rank, as regards prestige or following, has fallen into open loggishness with Roosevelt to the extent of a signal of revolt against him, save Foraker, and Foraker's recent proclamation of his anti-Roosevelt attitude has been apparently somewhat more respectful attention than would have been likely to be given to it before the October panic.

In the light of political history, however, a President when he hears the last year of his term is apt to become what old "Joe" Nebré used to say of the mayor of Philadelphia at corresponding stage of his "nature office"—"the moror" and his last lap is like a squeezed orange," and here and there occasionally this sort of feeling begins to crop out toward Roosevelt.

It would be difficult, in fact, to name a President who, elected to the office, has lived out his term or terms and has not seen his name mentioned in connection with some administrative policy that a Philadelphia mob, according to John Adams, was on the point of assailing him in his Market street home. Mr. Roosevelt himself, long before he was thought of for the presidency, expressed the opinion that one of Jackson's worst ideas was that of the people's approval to any and every measure with which favored mortal may henceforth consider himself identified.

It is curious that this is now one of the complaints of the anti-Roosevelt critics, and that, at the same time, the President's "yes" friends insist that he has not lost any of his popularity. It is only because of organized attempts to discredit or misrepresent him. Some have gone so far as to charge that the President's administration was manufactured to order by his enemies in order to weaken him with the people. Singularly enough, Roosevelt put on record more than a dozen years ago, when describing the panic of 1858, his opinion of a like charge on the part of the friends of Jackson. "Benton and others," he said, "now wail and howl about 'Life of Thomas H. Benton,' pretended to believe that the panic was the result of a deep-laid plot on the part of the rich; and that the Democrats had conspired to excite popular hostility against the Jacksonian Democracy, on account of the exorbitant prices which these same rich classes were supposed to feel toward the much-vaulted 'party of the people' and as Benton's mental vision was singularly warped in regard to some of the economic conditions of the time, he was not altogether a pretense. It is entirely unnecessary now seriously to discuss the proposition that it would be possible to drag a Democratic class into so widespread and profoundly secret a conspiracy with such an end in view and with the certainty that they themselves would be a business standpoint, the main sufferers."

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Pure Linen Handkerchiefs.....10c. to 50c.
A beautiful pure Linen, with neat initial, six in a nice box with Christmas cord. Box.....\$1.50
Silk Handkerchiefs.....25c. to \$1.50
Men's Sox, Plain or Fancy Cotton or Lisle, 10c. to 50c.
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A dandy assortment Mufflers and Scarfs in Solid White, Black and Grey or Fancy.....75c. to \$3.50

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A beautiful lot Neckwear n rich Christmas boxes. One in a box.....75c. and \$1.00
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Combination sets Suspenders and Garters in nice box.....\$1.00
Fancy Silk Arm Bands in Jap work boxes.....75c.

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In Cadets or regular—Tans, Browns, Greys and White; dressed and undressed.....\$1.00 to \$2.50

Office Jackets and Sweaters
A regular Jersey office Coat.....\$4.00 to \$4.50
Grey or White Sweaters.....\$2.50 and \$3.00

Fancy Vests
In Flannel, Silk or Mercerized, in swell styles.....\$1.50 to \$4.00

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A beautiful line House Slippers and Bath Room Slippers in Leather, Cordury, etc.....\$1.00 to \$1.50

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A large range of colors and styles in both prices.....\$8.50 to \$25.00

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