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WASHINGTON LETTER. Roosevelt's Record the Issue in this Campaign.

Like the Negro's Ghost President Roosevelt's Record of the Past Comes up to Haunt Him in this Campaign.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 20.—One of the "funny" features of this campaign in the National Capital is the evident desire of the leading republicans to keep President Roosevelt and his record in the background to efface him and his record absolutely.

When the average republican here meets his democratic friend and proceeds to a discussion of the political situation, he gleefully says to the democrat: "You have no issue; where and what is your issue?"

When every effort is being made by republican leaders to compel Roosevelt to hide behind his former self, when the ex-secretary, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, announces that the president will make no speeches in this campaign, it means that he will be given no opportunity to make a binder; it means he will try self-defense as an effort to overcome his record for rant, strenuousness, display, military spirit, hypocrisy, and moral cowardice.

Roosevelt has fooled a whole lot of people. If democrats, everywhere will only instruct the people who have been fooled on the facts of his record, they will be fooled no longer.

President Roosevelt himself is giving every sign of being aware that Rooseveltism is to be a leading issue of the campaign. And it is evident that he is little enjoys the prospect that he is sedulously endeavoring to recreate himself—to make a new Roosevelt for presentation to the respectful, if not awed, consideration of the voter.

The Roosevelt that Mr. Roosevelt wishes the American citizen to contemplate is a grave, silent, thoughtful statesman, an austere Chief Magistrate, absorbed in the dignified discharge of his lofty duties.

From now until November Mr. Roosevelt will be obliged to "bump the bumps." And the bumps on the slide are many. He must come in contact with public distrust inspired by a headstrong egotism and an incurable arrogance.

He dreads the November landing. If Mr. Roosevelt did not fear Rooseveltism as a vital issue he would dare to himself, welcome discussion of his characteristics and deeds and not try at the eleventh hour to efface himself as a changed man—a chastened, mild and inoffensive gentleman to whom the clanking of swords and the waving of big sticks and violent language are abhorrent.

But the bumps of the ineffaceable record are there, and bump them Theodore Roosevelt must. CHAS. A. EDWARDS.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

"High price meat, and dollar wheat," campaign cry that can't be beat for the folks who seldom meet who have got too much to eat.

Tom Taggart is willing to sacrifice himself for his principles, or he wouldn't consent to be chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

The owner pal is still nearly full but the stable bottom is getting considerably nearer the top.

The recent statement of Secretary Morton that "the navy of the United States should be the most formidable in existence," was evidently inspired by the loss of the admiral's position.

Having the candidate for Vice President, West Virginia will be able to pull through this year, probably, without external help.

Round the nation's welkin spinning, a decision clear and hearty sounds like this: "An eight year's inning is enough for any party."

President Roosevelt's commission of labor has compiled a table to show that food costs much less than formerly in comparison with wages.

I AM A FRIEND TO LABOR. Every Man is Entitled to Full Compensation for His Services.

The following letter from H. G. Davis, the Democratic candidate for vice-president, has been made public here.

"From Elkins, W. Va., Aug. 15, 04. 'Mr. I. V. Johnson, Roanoke, Va. 'My dear Mr. Johnson: I am glad to have your letter calling my attention to the publication placing me in an attitude of hostility to the laboring class.

"I have always believed, and my conviction came from the hard school of experience, that, measured by the character of the work he does and the cost of living, every man is entitled to full compensation for his services."

"I am charged with having instituted proceedings which led to an injunction against strikers by Judge Jackson, of this State. The fact is I had nothing whatever to do with the case, and knew nothing about the matter until I read of it in the newspapers."

"I see the negroes are in with their candidate for the presidency also. Six presidential candidates in the field, four running on principles and two running for the office, and one of the latter will get the office with its glory and emoluments, and the other four will be like the boy who was in the raffle scheme for the horse."

"The fall term of Troy High School under the same management of last year will open on the 5th of September. To do better and more thorough work will be the chief aim of the instructors.

"The President has 'reprimanded' postmaster McMichael of Philadelphia for selecting forty nine Republicans for clerks and rejecting the same number of Democrats, and has warned him that he must 'hereafter' obey the Civil Service Law enacted by congress."

"Mr. Root's sneer at the age of Mr. Davis, Democratic candidate for Vice President, has turned to be a boomerang. Old Admiral Dandole captured Constantinoople when he was ninety nine; Voltaire wrote his greatest tragedy at 84; and Thomas Parr of London lived to be 124, and Mrs. P. divorced him for statutory cause when he was 120."

SAM JONES' LETTER. Says People are not Interested in Politics—Talks of War, Lynchings, Etc.

Round and round I go and I want the stationary citizen to know that it is no merry-go-round. Just at this time dust and heat and travel and work takes the merry out and leaves only the go-round.

"I am impressed more and more with the lethargy and influence of the great mass of the people towards the political situation. If it is not the calm before the storm, but I suppose when the pie is put on the counter and they ring the bell, then there will be a mighty scramble and great enthusiasm."

"So far as a traveling man can see the corn crop is not so good as it was last year. In Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Ohio the great corn states, I think a 50 per cent crop is all there is in sight."

"I see the negroes are in with their candidate for the presidency also. Six presidential candidates in the field, four running on principles and two running for the office, and one of the latter will get the office with its glory and emoluments, and the other four will be like the boy who was in the raffle scheme for the horse."

"The four men, Bunn Warren, Bunch Johnson, Will McDay and Fletcher Gates, had gone out on the top of the coach and were sitting there as the train approached the Stoner Creek bridge. The suspended ropes struck their heads, notifying them that they were nearing the bridge. Instead of lying down they had time to realize their danger the bridge struck them, tearing the heads of the two that were killed in a horrible manner."

"The Negro Girl Clerk in an Indiana Postoffice Causes Trouble. This two column hole up where-ever the 'Brother in Black' makes his home. It is still stirring up the Indiana people, and there is a pretty kettle of fish at Ferdinand, Dubois county, in that state."

"There was a wrong impression gone abroad among farmers, regarding the Wats law as relating to the making and selling of cider. The act is specific in its terms and positively does not apply to wine or grapes manufactured from grapes, berries or fruits raised on the lands of the person to sell wine manufactured by himself, in quantities less than one gallon, and said wine shall not be drunk upon the premises where sold."

"The law in no way changes former statutes relating to the manufacture and sale of cider. This statement is made after a thorough reading of the law, and consultation with men who are able to interpret the same. We make it for the benefit of those who are afraid to make up their apple into cider as they have heretofore done."

THEORY VERSUS FACT. The Relation of Wages to the Increased Cost of Living.

WRIGHT'S DIFFICULT PROBLEM. He endeavors to show that the Purchasing Power of Wages Has Increased, While Dun's Figures Show That the Cost of Living Has Increased 40 Per Cent.

The Republican argument for protection has been furnished by the department of commerce and labor, as was foretold by Secretary Shaw in his Wilmington speech. The "highest authority" has, after a year and a half of labor by hundreds of experts, endeavored to prove that wages have relatively advanced more than the cost of living.

That is extraordinary good news to the harassed housekeeper, who finds she has been dealing with the wrong shop, where prices have been about one-third higher than they were a few years ago. More wage earners will be very much dissatisfied with these present wages when they discover that the report of the department of labor declares that the wages paid to others than themselves have been increased 12.5 per cent, while theirs have either been reduced or remained stationary.

From reports gathered over the State this seems to be one of the greatest years in our history for the production of corn.

J. E. Albright, editor of the Mt. Airy Leader, has been appointed temporary clerk in the branch revenue office at Mt. Airy, succeeding Mr. Joseph Blyden, who has been asked to step down and out.

George Gray, the negro who was convicted at Davidson Superior court last March and sentenced to serve six years in the penitentiary for an attempt to rape a white woman near Thomasville, escaped last week with four other convicts while working on the Raleigh & Pamlico Sound railroad.

Mary Alexander Almarola, a negro woman who recently died in Washington City bequeathed her entire estate to two white children whose percentage is shrouded in mystery. The estate is valued at \$75,000.

Two members of the Durham Company of Guards, who were returning from the encampment at Camp Lee, were instantly killed and another injured so that he died a few hours afterward. The killed were Bunn Warren and Bunch Johnson. Fletcher Gates died a few hours after the accident. Another member of the company, Will McDay, was sent to the hospital at Goldsboro to be treated for his injuries.

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