



Press Comment.

A SICKENING SPECTACLE. The Hon. Cecil Lyons, the Texas member of the republican national committee, reached Washington the other day in a high state of perturbation, and has scarcely yet resumed a wonted composure.

Mr. Lyons has heard that periodical story of how southern representation in the convention is to be reduced, and he gave



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HEADQUARTERS

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...and they found upon the high esteem which Mr. Taft felt for the Biblical injunction as a mitigating circumstance when their distinguished visitor, after asking pardon for a seeming ungraciousness, appeared wholly insensible to the gains to which his party in this state felt it could point with the customary pride, and later when the president, the beneficiary of such gains—he was given three members of the house—continued the chastening and scourging process, and seemed wholly innocent, meanwhile, of a sense of gratitude. There were those, we say, even among active republicans, who endeavored to persuade themselves that Mr. Taft meant well if he elected to administer castor oil, where a milder specific might have been in order. It was observed, however, that this drastic mode of treatment was only employed in the south, no matter if a similar malady prevailed in other sections.

But enough of these strident sentences. We know the precise reason that actuated Mr. Taft, if he seemed to step upon the faces of his southern republican friends, and we have that reason assigned in the president's own words. Feeling himself under a general fire the president recently gave a formal interview to the Outlook, a weekly journal of which Colonel Roosevelt is a contributing editor. Mr. Taft said if it were to do over again, he would put the case somewhat differently in his Winona speech, entered a blanket plea of guilt to an assortment of infirmities and shortcomings, but in one particular he stood by himself in a way that must have brought cheer to those friends who had begun to fear that Mr. Taft did not approve of the present administration any more than does the rest of the country.

We have reference to Mr. Taft's defence of himself in appointing democrats to office. Francis E. Leupp, the chosen instrument of this authorized interview, observed: "You have been criticised, Mr. President, for bringing two democrats into a republican cabinet, to which the president replied: 'And I plead guilty to one. You must remember that I was elected by democratic votes, probably polling almost as many as McKinley did in 1896. Let's see: I carried Greater New York; came within 150 votes of carrying Boston; carried Missouri, including a 15,000 plurality in St. Louis, and carried one elector in Maryland, three congressional districts in North Carolina, and more than a third of the counties of Georgia. Of this last feat I am especially proud, because my highest political ambition has been, and still is, to take the sting out of the relations between the north and south. I have no Quixotic idea of being able to break up the solid south myself, but am trying to lay in that section a strong foundation upon which our party can build so that another decade may perhaps witness a change. In appointing Dickinson, the finest type of southern democrat, I aimed to honor the south; but I suspect that some of his party friends made him feel uneasy in what they affected to regard as a false position politically. However, my selection of Lorton and Lamar for the supreme bench, and my promotion of White to the chief justiceship I rejoiced to make because it was giving great strength to the court, and at the same time showing to the south that under a republican administration its eminent men were not denied a part in the highest offices and functions of government.'

The Hon. Francis E. Leupp, in this intimate, authorized interview with Mr. Taft, has revealed to southern republicans, at least, a notable service, and he has likewise rendered a hitherto opaque situation transcendently clear. Mr. Taft is not, as some members of his party in this section have been pained to feel, wholly lacking in a sense of gratitude. Contrarywise, he feels that the democrats elected him and, feeling that way about it, there was nothing for him to do but to confer upon his democratic friends the honors and emoluments of appointive offices. Democrats as a whole might offer the captious criticism that they had little relish for this proselyting campaign, with its candidly avowed object of "breaking up the solid south," and then the generality of republicans might disclose some superciliousness when, after plucking the plough, the fodder was spread before democrats, but manifestly the only course open for the president was to reward his friends, allowing the republican and democratic heathen to rage as much as they were a mind to. The president felt impelled to give offices to democrats, not alone because he believes he was elected by democratic votes, but frankly wished to create a situation whereby his democratic friends in the south would not be denied a part in the highest offices and functions of government."

The republican party in North Carolina favored Mr. Taft with three members of the house, who may have fancied, for a while, that they would be permitted to participate in the "functions of government," hereupon the president wishing to show, as he says, that he was not unappreciative, set about at once to appoint democrats to office, sometimes of his own motion, at other times at the instance of democratic members of congress. Being always mindful of his logic, there would have been but one course open to Mr. Taft had the republicans of this state elected more than three members of congress. His sense of gratitude to democrats, increasing in exact ratio to republican gains, the election of, say a half dozen members to congress by that party from this state, would have insured the instant decapitation of every republican holding a federal office, and Messrs. Simmons and Overman would have been invited to provide material to fill their places.

Mr. Taft lacking in a sense of gratitude? Smother the impious thought! —Greensboro News.

Richmond, Dec. 28.—Charles Wills of Alexandria, Va., died here yesterday in private hospital. He was a great-grandson of Marshall Joachim Murat, whom Napoleon made king of Naples. Wills was born at Jacksonville, Fla., 54 years ago. Murat's son, after Napoleon's downfall, emigrated to Florida. He served in the confederate as a junior officer in the ninth Virginia cavalry and was severely wounded in the battle of Spotsylvania court house. The body was interred in the Hollywood cemetery this afternoon.

MURAT'S GREAT-GRANDSON AND CONFEDERATE VETERAN

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SENATE ABROGATES TREATY

Lodge Joint Resolution Adopted by Unanimous Vote.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The senate by a unanimous vote last night formally ratified President Taft's notification to Russia of the termination of the treaty of 1832. The Lodge joint resolution reported by the foreign relations committee as a substitute for the Sulzer resolution that passed the house 300 to 1 was adopted after an all day debate over Russia's discrimination against the Jews of America.

The resolution was adopted at 7:15 p. m. It was introduced for the committee by Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, as the measure couched in the language most satisfactory to the Washington administration was sought to avoid giving offense to the St. Petersburg government.

The final action came after two substitutes had been voted down. It was the climax of a notable proceeding in the chamber which guards jealousy its traditional powers to make and break treaties. All through the symposium of views to which many senators contributed throughout the day, however, there were citations of historical instances of treaty terminations by executive act. The senate was held in session until a late hour on the urgent plea of Senator Lodge that to secure action before the Christmas holiday on Thursday it was necessary that the senate should act at once. Every senator who spoke voiced his advocacy of congressional action to meet the Russian discrimination. They were unanimous for the termination of the treaty but showed a wide divergence of views as to the manner in which that end should be accomplished.

The most conspicuous opposition to the senate resolution developed when Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, offered as a substitute a resolution eliminating the question of race as a cause for discrimination and omitting the charge that Russia had violated the terms of the treaty.

The Hitchcock substitute, however, is along the lines of the house resolution. Those who voted in the affirmative on the Hitchcock substitute were Senator Chilton, Culberson, Hitchcock, Johnson, Kern, Lea, Martine, Myers, O'Gorman, Raynor, Smith of Maryland, Taylor, Watson and Williams, democrats, and Messrs. Clapp and Poindexter, republicans.

Senator Newlands offered a substitute dovetailing the Hitchcock and Lodge resolutions but this was voted down without division. Then came the final vote on the Lodge resolution. The roll was called but there was no division. Seventy-two votes were cast and all of them were favorable to the measure. It was therefore declared adopted and was started on its way to the house.

With the senate's action, the Russian situation has assumed a quieter phase so far as the executive branch of the government is concerned. The officials are looking forward to the receipt from Curtis Guild, the American ambassador to St. Petersburg, of the acceptance by the President Taft of the desire of the Russian government to terminate the treaty of 1832.

Press dispatches from St. Petersburg indicate that such an answer already has been handed to Mr. Guild, and the contents of the Russian note, as outlined in the dispatches, are perhaps somewhat disappointing in that they convey no response to the direct statement by Secretary Knox that America stands ready to open negotiations immediately for a new treaty. Thinks Commercial Relations Unaffected.

Commercial relations between the United States and Russia will not be affected as a result of the abrogation of the treaty of 1832, in the opinion of Senator William Alden Smith, of Michigan, because the favored nation clause of that treaty has been swept aside by the operation of the maximum and minimum clause of the Payne tariff law carried into effect by the president's proclamation of July 18, 1910.

The senator's view was discussed widely at the capital as a feature hitherto lost sight of in consideration of the annulment of the pact.

"After careful examination of the tariff of 1897," said Senator Smith, "I am positive that the second section, known as the maximum and minimum clause, has, so far as proclamations have been issued thereunder, superseded the favored nation clause in the Russian treaty and that our commercial relations with Russia will continue unimpaired so long as no change is made in that regulation, my formal proclamation issued by President Taft on July 18, 1910, the Russian government was given the minimum duties under the Payne-Aldrich law. This will remain the law of the land and the proclamation insures to Russia every consideration that it could possibly have under the treaty of 1832 to remain in force so far as our commercial relations with the United States are concerned."

Senator Smith is a member of the foreign relations committee of the senate and for many years was a member of the foreign affairs committee of the house. He stated his contention on the floor of the senate in replying to Senator Heyburn, who deplored the possible breaking of commercial relations between the two countries.

Suit Rejected, Slays Woman.

Special to The Gazette.—Fayetteville, Dec. 28.—Calvin Smith, a negro, shot and instantly killed Harriett Ross, a negro woman, and seriously wounded her 15-year-old daughter near Hope Mills, when the older woman refused to let him have her daughter. Smith had already married two of Harriett Ross' daughters, both of whom had died.

McDonald Dies; Body Buried at Sen.

New York, Dec. 28.—Alexander McDonald, who was captain of the first English boat that crossed the Atlantic to try for America's cup, died from pneumonia on the liner California on the trip just finished. He was an officer of the steamship. The body was buried at sea.

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