

AN OPEN LETTER TO REPUBLICANS

Mr. Pearson Sets Forth Reasons for Opposing Nomination of Mr. Taft and for Supporting Roosevelt.

RECORDS AND PROSPECTS OF THE TWO COMPARED

A Forcible Document—Meeting for State Organization of Roosevelt Men Is to Be Held March 8.

The Roosevelt republicans are pursuing energetically the task of organization and crystallizing the sentiment in favor of the nomination by their party of the ex-president to succeed President Taft.

The next move of consequence will be a meeting in Greensboro March 8 at 10 o'clock a. m. for the purpose of effecting a state-wide organization.

At the recent Chicago conference Hon. Richmond Pearson was appointed a member of the national Roosevelt committee. Mr. Pearson has prepared an open letter to the republicans of North Carolina in which he contrasts the records and prospects of the president and the ex-president and sets forth specifically and with characteristic force reasons for opposing the re-nomination of Mr. Taft and for supporting the nomination of Col. Roosevelt.

Mr. Pearson's letter follows:

Reasons for Opposing the Nomination of Mr. Taft.

- 1. He has split the party. 2. He has nominated a man who commands the support of only a part of the party. 3. When his administration was put on trial in the elections of 1910, he lost a million votes in five states alone, he lost 12 republican governors and 44 republican congressmen, converting a republican majority of over 40 in the house to a democratic majority of over 60.

4. Since the election of 1910 he has lost republican support by reason of his obstinate advocacy of reciprocity with Canada against the record judgment of a majority of the republicans in the house and a majority of republicans in the senate.

5. In allying himself with the democrats to force through this measure which has never been sanctioned in any republican platform he alienated many of the ablest republicans in the house and in the senate, and he admits in the celebrated Norton letter that he tried by the use of patronage to coerce these unwilling republicans to vote against their convictions. In this fashion he lost republican support and confidence while he gained nothing—not even thanks—from the democrats.

6. In the campaign of 1910 he said in his Winona speech that the Payne-Aldrich tariff was the best tariff that had ever been written in the statute books. The election followed shortly thereafter and the people condemned this measure with an almighty condemnation. As soon as the people had spoken at his happy dream and said very frankly, "Oh, I see I was mistaken, we worked the old thing the wrong way; it should have been revised down and not up; we will try our hands again but the revising must be gradual, schedule by schedule."

This vacillation of Mr. Taft may be urged as a proof of his candor but it can hardly be set up as evidence of his political sagacity or qualities of leadership. The confession came too late; the fatal error had been committed. "The fumes that lit the battle wreath shook 'round him o'er the dead." Thirteen dead governors, 44 dead congressmen, fallen on the perilous ridges of battle beyond the power of restoration, beyond the hope of resurrection.

For some unaccountable reason Mr. Taft has come forward recently—Continued on page three.

WINDSTORM RAGES IN SOUTHERN ALABAMA Heavy Damage Is Done at Mobile and Surrounding Towns.

Mobile, Feb. 24.—Much damage was done here and in surrounding towns by a windstorm which blew in from the gulf this morning. It is said Coda, Bay Minette and other towns sustained heavy damage.

168 DIE IN SNOW Many Frozen During Storm in the Vicinity of Omsk, in Asiatic Russia.

Omsk, Asiatic Russia, Feb. 24.—A large number of people have been frozen during a snowstorm which is raging in this section. Thirty-one fatalities have occurred here, 32 in Kokonathak and 103 in Petropavlovsk.

Wilson in Nashville. Nashville, Feb. 24.—Woodrow Wilson is here and speaks tonight at the opening exercises of Nashville's \$400,000 Y. M. C. A. building. This morning Wilson met members of the Woodrow Wilson club, the reception concluding with a luncheon.

MAKE COMPROMISE IN BANKING PROBE

Pujo Resolution Broadened as a Concession to the Bryan Faction.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The "money trust" inquiry resolution finally agreed upon by the rules committee after several weeks dickering is before the house for passage before today's adjournment. The resolution, as it came from the rules committee, provided inquiry by the banking and currency committee into the country's financial affairs as to what legislation is necessary, and contains the further direction that allegations in the Henry resolution, which was turned down by the caucus, be investigated.

Opponents of the Bryan plan for an investigation by a special committee insist that the compromise is one of phraseology only, while Representative Henry, chairman of the rules committee, who led the fight for an inquiry by a special committee, instead of standing committees of the house, claim a victory.

Representatives of both sides express satisfaction, however, of a re-draft of the resolution introduced by Representative Pujo, chairman of the banking and currency committee, to which will be referred the major portion of the investigation. It was made by the democratic members of the rules committee.

The original Pujo resolution provided merely that there be an inquiry into the financial condition of the country and as to what financial legislation might be necessary. This was by direction of the democratic caucus, in which was voted down the resolution of Representative Henry, which charged the existence of a money trust and included a long list of allegations of control by the money power.

After many days of fight the democratic members of the rules committee agreed to insert in the Pujo resolution a clause that the committee on banking and currency also be directed to inquire into such matters "touched upon in house resolution No. 405 as may come within the jurisdiction." House resolution No. 405 is the Henry resolution which was turned down in the caucus.

Although the resolution contains no specific mention of the Henry allegations of the power of "money trust," reference to his charges in the resolution has done much to smooth over the party quarrel although the rules committee chairman is still disappointed because the inquiry was not referred to a special committee.

BRYAN SAYS HE'LL STRIVE TO ELECT A PROGRESSIVE

He Offers to Champion with All His Force a "True Democrat."

Denver, Feb. 24.—William Jennings Bryan, in an address here last night, declared that the democratic party's only chance of victory this fall is to nominate a progressive on a progressive platform.

"I am satisfied," Bryan said, "some one else can pull more votes than myself and I am ready to enter upon a campaign on behalf of a true democrat with even more vigor than that which I have fought at any time in my own behalf."

BEIRUT IS BOMBARDED BY ITALIAN WARSHIPS Panic Prevails Among the Inhabitants of Syrian City, Most of Whom Are Christians.

London, Feb. 24.—Three Italian warships are bombarding Beirut, Syria's principal seaport, according to a special dispatch. Terrible panic prevails among the city's inhabitants, the majority of whom are Christians.

The firing was brief. The American Protestant college is safe and none of the American institutions suffered injury from the explosion of shells. Professors, students and missionaries are safe.

Sixty people were killed and a large number wounded as a result of the bombardment.—These are official figures. Many more casualties are probable.



New York Herald and The Gazette-News.

THE NEWEST THING IN CALLING COSTUME

MR. TAFT ASKS CONGRESS FOR TWO BATTLESHIPS

Says the Time Has Not Come to Sacrifice Navy to Economy.

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Taft, speaking at the peace meetings of the Naval League, yesterday declared the time had not come for this country to be economical at the expense of an adequate naval establishment; expressed the hope that the present congress would authorize the construction of two battleships and said that he would gladly sign a bill that carried such an authorization.

"In order to keep up with other nations I don't think two battleships are too many," said the president. "I am partly responsible for the government and I am entirely willing to meet that responsibility by signing a bill for two battleships."

Rear Admiral Wainwright, U. S. N., retired, Representative Swager of Kentucky and Charles Francis Adams of Boston were other speakers at this meeting, the last of the seventh annual convention of the league. Secretary Meyer accompanied Mr. Taft to the meeting.

"I am in favor of a good strong navy that would enable this nation to maintain its position and make our reasonable demands on other countries respected," said the president. "I don't think the time has come to economize in respect to the navy. The navy is expensive, but so is the army, so is war, and the expense of the three is a good reason for the abolition of war if there were none other. But until war is abolished we should meet the situation and we should be lacking in foresight and common sense unless we did."

Admiral Wainwright told the delegates that the war with Spain would never have occurred if the United States had possessed one or two more battleships in 1898.

Representative Swager urged the league to insist that a "program" of naval construction be presented to congress.

SAVED MANY LIVES Mexican Boy Sped Through Smoke-Billed Shaft at Lehgh to Wren Imperiled Miners.

Lehgh, Okla., Feb. 24.—Half the homes in Lehgh were prevented from being robbed by death through the heroism of Rufona Rodriguez, a Mexican boy, who during the mine disaster near here which cost seven lives, traveled a mile and a half around the mine through smoke to warn fellow workmen.

The fire in the shaft probably will be got under control today.

Calls for Bank Reports. Washington, Feb. 24.—The comptroller of the currency today issued a call for reports on the condition of national banks to be made February 28.

NEW CUBAN CRISIS SEEMS TO BE NEAR

Veterans Seem Disposed to Resist Decree Ousting Them from Office.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Another Cuban crisis is apparently imminent. Behind reports indicate the unrest is about to break out anew as a result of the Cuban Supreme court's decision invalidating the law ousting office-holders who were Spanish sympathizers during the revolution. The literal execution of the decree would involve the reinstatement of a large number of displaced officeholders and the dismissal of the so-called veterans put in their places. Veteran association leaders therefore are in an ugly humor. If they attempt to resist the decree serious trouble is probable.

Developments are awaited with keen interest in official circles. It is believed the situation will tax President Gomez' resources to the utmost.

INITIALS IN ONE PLACE AND NAMES IN ANOTHER

Just to Make It Interesting for Readers of Special Classified Page.

The doubting Thomases will be the very ones who fail to get any of the good, new one-dollar bills being handed out to the readers of the Special Classified page.

This page will contain names of persons throughout the city each day during the time this page is run and every person will be called on and if they have their names marked they will receive the money.

To make it interesting, from now on the names will be in one place and the initials in another. Sometimes the names and initials will go into the same advertisement and again the name in one advertisement and the initials in another. The object of this idea is to have the readers go thoroughly through the page.

The advertisers on this page represent the leading business houses of this city and every advertisement is brimful of information that will interest you. Do not merely glance at the advertisements but read them, and you will be benefited.

DRAWS DISMAL PICTURE OF MILL WORKERS' LIFE

Federal Bureau Report Relates Conditions as Found in Southern Factories.

Washington, Feb. 24.—A dismal picture of life among the southern cotton mill workers is painted in a report issued today by the federal bureau of labor. With scanty food and poor clothing, according to the report, some of these people exist in crowded company-owned houses and eat fare about equal in quality and quantity to that which the government selects for prisoners. The bureau selected as examples 21 typical mill families, ten living near Atlanta, six near Greensboro and five at Burlington, N. C. The protest of these was supported by several wage-earners. In a family where five were employed, the earnings totalled between \$300 and \$500 annually. Most of the families are usually at the end of the year slightly in debt, the report concluded.

ROOSEVELT TO BOSTON

Trip to Attend Harvard Overseers' Meeting Declared to Be Without Significance.

New York, Feb. 24.—Theodore Roosevelt today left for Boston to visit friends and attend the Harvard overseers' meeting. Roosevelt declared his trip was without political significance.

HELD IN AXE MURDER

Negro Arrested at Lake Charles Is Suspected of Wholesale Killings in Louisiana.

Lake Charles, La., Feb. 24.—Edward Giles, a negro, was today arrested as a suspect in connection with the recent wholesale "axe murders" of negro families in this section.

Boat Capsized; Crew Probably Lost.

New York, Feb. 24.—A wireless message last night from the Savannah line steamer City of Augusta told the story of a probable sea tragedy in the finding of a capsized steam fishing vessel off Cape Lookout, some 70 miles south of Hatteras. The craft was floating bottom up, keel and propeller showing. Officers on the City of Augusta saw no signs of her crew. Her name could not be made out. The overturned steamer is believed to be one of the fishing boats of the coast fleet, caught at sea in the terrific windstorm of Wednesday night and turned turtle.

Sanitarium Pavilion Burns.

Roanoke, Va., Feb. 24.—Fire today destroyed the Latane pavilion of the state sanitarium for consumptives at Catawba. Sixteen patients were rescued and none was injured. The damage is \$2500, covered by insurance.

560 MEXICANS DIE IN BATTLE

PRESIDENT CALLS STORY FALSEHOOD

Denounces Report He Said People Were Unfit for Self-Government.

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Taft today denied emphatically that in his New York speech on Lincoln's birthday he had said "that the people are not fitted for self-government" in the first official statement of this kind the White House has issued during the Taft administration. The president calls the circulation of the story a "falsehood." The White House statement follows:

"Among the falsehoods now being assiduously circulated by persons and papers opposed to the president is one that in his Lincoln's day speech he argued that the people are not fitted for self-government. The president said nothing on that occasion which could possibly be tortured into any such construction. The only speech in which the president made reference to popular government was delivered at the State Bar association banquet in New York on the night of January 20.

"What he said on this subject, and it was correctly quoted in the newspapers on the following day, was this: Popular government we all believe in. There are those of us who do not believe that all people are fitted for self-government. The fact is we know they are not. Some of us do not dare say so but I do and the question whether a people is fitted for popular self-government so as to make that government best for the people is determined by the ability of a majority of the people to place upon itself a restraint by which the minority shall receive justice from the majority. It is the question of self-imposed restraint that determines whether a people is fitted to govern itself."

Alludes to Roosevelt. While it is not admitted by anyone with authority to speak for the president that his correction of the interpretation placed by "some people" upon his New York speech included Col. Roosevelt, political leaders here believe such is the case. Many of Taft's friends asserted Roosevelt had Taft in mind when, in his Columbus speech, after speaking at length of the "position these eminent buyers take and applaud," Roosevelt said "the only tenable excuse for such a position is the frank avowal that the people lack sufficient intelligence and morality to be fit to govern themselves."

GUARANTEE \$10,000 Executive Committee of the University Authorizes Signing of a Contract with Peabody Board.

Gazette-News Bureau, Raleigh, Feb. 24. At a meeting today of the executive committee of the university, Governor Kitchin and President Venable were authorized to sign a contract with the Peabody board, which is putting up the educational building on the campus, guaranteeing on the part of the trustees that \$10,000 a year will be expended for educational purposes.

Dr. J. Y. Joyner was added to the faculty committee on promotions, which will work out the plan for the educational department's organization.

INDORSE MR. TAFT Republicans of Second Congressional District of Virginia Instruct for His Renomination.

Norfolk, Feb. 24.—The republicans of Virginia's second congressional district today endorsed the Taft administration and elected delegates instructed to vote for Taft's renomination. Delegates to the Chicago convention are D. L. Groner and P. J. Riley.

A. J. Barr Dead.

Pittsburg, Feb. 24.—Albert J. Barr, aged 61, former publisher of the Pittsburg Post and Sun and former director of the Associated Press, died suddenly today at the Duquesne club.

To Authorize \$2,000,000 Bond Issue.

Baltimore, Feb. 24.—A special meeting of the stockholders of the Georgia & Florida railway has been called for March 19 to authorize an issue of \$2,000,000 six per cent general mortgage bonds.

Rebels Lose Heavily in the Laguna District and Federal Fatalities Number 60.

DEFECTION REPORTED OF NOTED GENERALS

News of Coalition of Orozco and Trevino Comes to Washington—Americans Ask Protection.

San Antonio, Feb. 24.—Five hundred rebels were killed and the federal fatalities numbered 60 in a battle in the Laguna district, Mexico, according to advices brought here today by a Mexican government agent. Army officials here have no information that Orozco has quit Madero's standard.

Emilio Vasquez Gomez today wired President Madero of Mexico asking him to surrender the presidency and prevent further bloodshed. Gomez is urged as a presidential possibility by the Vasquista revolutionists.

Washington, Feb. 24.—American troops will cross the border line into Mexico whenever it shall become necessary to stop firing into American territory. In ordering additional troops to El Paso, Tex., to cope with the situation there in the event of an attack of revolutionists on the Mexican city of Juarez, the Washington government has determined there should be no repetition of the incidents of the Madero revolution, when a number of Americans in El Paso and Douglas, Ariz., were killed by flying bullets from opposing forces across the border.

Two developments in the Mexican situation, each likely to be loaded with significance, were recorded here yesterday.

A request for American intervention in Mexico was made upon the war delegation when Mayor Kelly and a delegation of citizens of El Paso urgently asked Secretary Stimson to send American troops into Juarez to preserve order, and protect Americans. Secretary Stimson replied, it was impossible under present conditions.

In a dispatch from a government official on the border, one not in the diplomatic service, it was reported that Gen. Geronimo Trevino in Chihuahua, had turned to the aid of the insurgents. The dispatch read: "Have reliable information that General Orozco will join the revolutionary forces of General Geronimo Trevino. Has agreed to accept provisional presidency of Mexico."

The dispatch which speaks of "the revolutionary forces of Gen. Trevino" is the first indication that the staunch old federal general who stood by Diaz when his reign last year tottering and was later accepted by Madero, had turned to the insurgents.

The Mexican embassy had no advices and no official there cared to make comment. The state department received no confirmation and was inclined to treat the dispatch as a report of a rumor.

Coalition Would Be Strong. A coalition between Generals Orozco and Trevino is looked upon here as fraught with great consequences. General Trevino has long reported in Monterey in control of the military in the northeastern part. These two generals, hitherto controlling practically all federal troops in the northern half of the country, it is believed, completely cut off the north from the south, isolating Mexico City and its immediate vicinity from connection with the United States.

The rather ambiguous wording of the last sentence of the dispatch regarding the provisional presidency, was interpreted among Latin-Americans here two ways. The majority declared it was intended to mean that General Trevino rather than Orozco had agreed to accept the provisional presidency.

Mayor Kelly of El Paso, Manchester Cooley, an El Paso banker, and three other citizens of that place told Secretary Stimson that Juarez with 24,000 population, linked to El Paso by an international bridge and trolley lines, was virtually a part of El Paso. Nightly robberies, hold-ups, and assaults in Juarez, in which Americans were victims and in which their business houses were looted, have become intolerable. They asked that soldiers be sent to patrol the city until the Mexican government could control the situation. By the withdrawal of Madero troops, the mayor said, Juarez had been left defenseless.

Secretary Stimson pointed out that United States troops could not be sent into foreign territories under the present situation and said that a detailed report would be given to the president.

MY CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT

If I could Select the Man I Would Name

Name..... Address.....

Out this ticket out and mail it to The Gazette-News, or hand it in at this office. If you do not care to write your name on the ballot, you can write it in a registry book provided at the office.