The Ingrate

There is no man more despicable than the ingrate. The breaker of faith who, through dishonesty, selfishness or sheer weakness, betrays his pledged word and a sacred friendship deserves the contempt of honorable men. But, when the ingratitude is more than personal and involves the betrayal of a great cause, the offense is infinitely worse.

There has been in this country such a display of ingratitude by one man to another. Who the ingrate is the indisputable records of the last four years proclaim.

Theodore Roosevelt, from the time when he, as a subordinate in the navy department, first met William H. Taft, felt a deep personal fondness and admiration for the man who, Mr. Roosevelt thought, possessed qualities he deemed lacking in himself. And Mr. Roosevelt thenceforward became Mr. Taft's political creator.

President Roosevelt made his good friend a member of his cabinet, and found in him a sympathetic and efficient taker of orders. And, erroneously believing that his coworker would give orders as efficiently, Mr. Roosevelt chose Mr. Taft as the best man he could recommend to the nation to continue and perfect the policies to which Mr. Roosevelt's whole heart and mind were and are devoted, the policies in the making of which Mr. Roosevelt generously ascribed to Mr. Taft a share.

The same influences now ardently championing Mr. Taft then assailed him and supported Cannon, Knox, Fairbanks or Foraker. They made the task of nominating Mr. Taft a difficult one. They feared what Mr. Taft's honest supporters firmly believed—that he had absorbed Rooseveltism and become a true progressive.

The west was reluctant, but consented to accept the Roosevelt indorsement, and, by blocking the Cortelyou-Hitchcock schemes, Mr. Roosevelt accomplished his desire to give to his trusted friend the nomination that would have been his own could he have been persuaded to swerve from his pledged determination not to succeed himself.

Ten days after Mr. Taft was nominated, and at a time when the people were showing little enthusiasm over his candidacy, he published in Collier's a full-page article, which was given great publicity throughout the country. ("My Conception of the Presidency," Collier's, June 27, 1908.) He said: "It remained for Roosevelt to prove how the people will respond to a strong and true leadership when the hour has come for great reforms. The policies which he inaugurated must be continued and developed. They are right and they are the policies of the people. For that reason his successor may well disregard any charge of lack of originality if he does not make an entirely new program of his own.

"A president at this time has his work clearly defined. * * * The conservation of our natural resources and their development for the use of all, along lines of equal opportunity, too, must command immediate attention. It should be his aim to give high tone to his administration as Mr. Roosevelt has by surrounding himself with men of earnest, enthusiastic interest in the public weal and of the cleanest and most effective methods."

The history of how Mr. Taft proved a hopelessly poor campaigner and how Mr. Roosevelt came forward and elected him by pledging his word to the American people that Mr. Taft would be the loyal perfecter of the Roosevelt policies needs no detailed retelling.

It was so clear that the vote was for and against a legatee that Mr. Taft's enemies—so soon to be his chosen, intimate advisers—assailed him as a "dummy" and a "proxy."

And it was then that Mr. Roosevelt determined to obliterate himself absolutely for a year or more, to avoid any possible embarrassment or belittling of the friend he trusted and admired.

Mr. Taft was elected without being bound by a single pledge, save those he had made voluntarily to the people, highest of which was to maintain and perfect the Roosevelt policies. Mr. Roosevelt made no demand to retain any personal hold through any representative. No bargain, no dicker, was made about the party organization. All was turned over to Mr. Taft unmortgaged. One request was made. Mr. Roosevelt thought the question of conservation so important and knew so well the competence of Secretary Garfield that he requested his retention. That request was refused.

What followed during and after Mr. Roosevelt's fifteen months' absence from the country? First, by the selection of his cabinet, the character of the Taft administration was only too plainly foreshadowed by his appointment of men generally known to represent the very forces which the people had elected Mr. Taft to combat.

The breach of pledges to support the Roosevelt policies, which alone had made his election possible, promptly followed. The real exemplars of the progressive policies were stricken down, one by one, and in their places men of reactionary views were installed.

A shameless alliance was made with Aldrich and Cannon, to the utter exclusion of the men who remained faithful to the policies which constituted the platform upon which Mr. Taft had been elected. A party division in congress soon developed. The progressives, both in the house and the senate, refused to be driven or bribed by patronage into deserting the progressive doctrine which had developed so greatly under Roosevelt.

The "men of earnest, enthusiastic interest in the public weal" chosen by Mr. Taft to guide his conduct were Aldrich, Crane, Cannon, Kean; Hammond, the Guggenheim hired man; Penrose, Knox, Tawney, Ballinger and Wickersham—all representatives of special interests and including the leaders in all the bitter fighting against Mr. Roosevelt in the campaigns for railroad regulation, pure food, conservation and water-power control.

Proposed legislation, palpably drawn to favor railroads and destroy the Roosevelt policy of regulation, was prepared at the White House and sent to congress, with the president's command that it must be passed without the change of a word or a comma. So brazen was this betrayal of party pledges that the best members of the republican party in both branches of congress openly raised the banner of revolt against the Taft leadership.

The abandonment of the policy did not cease after the progressive republicans had made a good law out of a bad bill. For the commerce court was packed with railroad judges, who have continuously endeavored to destroy the powers and usefulness of the interstate commerce commission.

The sickening story of the betrayal of the conservation policies and the substitution of Ballingerism, with the deplorable truths of the document antedated by the attorney general by order of the president, and his signature, as his own decision of a judgment drawn up by an accused Ballinger lieutenant, and the entire revelation of the administration's attempt to transfer the Alaskan public wealth to this Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate, presents a complete perpetration of treachery.

The pure food law emasculated, Doctor Wiley forced out of the public service and all standards lowered at the behest of the makers of poisoned foods and liquors, is the exhibition of loyalty to one of the best and most cherished of the Roosevelt policies.

All honorable men agree that an ingrate is despicable. And on all sides from the Tory press come talks of Theodore Roosevelt's "betrayal of a friend" and "ingratitude to Taft." We deny that any man who studies, with an open mind, the history of the past four years, can honestly assert that it is Theodore Roosevelt and not the man Roosevelt made president who is the ingrate.

If the desertion of Theodore Roosevelt by a trusted friend had been merely a personal blow, he would grieve, but hold no resentment. For no more malignant misrepresentation exists than that he has no tolerance for opposition. No word of bitterness comes from him, for example, in public and private when the desertion by former close friends and coworkers such as Lodge and Root is mentioned. He simply says that he is sorry they no longer think as he does, but that they belong by right on "the other side."

Bitterness rises only when the truth is borne in that the friend he trusted most has dishonored Theodore Roosevelt's indorsement to the American people and betrayed the policies of progress which to Roosevelt and all loyal to those policies are immeasurably more important than hurt or benefit to Theodore Roosevelt or any other individual.—Philadelphia North American.

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A complete assortment from which to choose a complete spring wardrobe. Garments of bewitching styles, that are elegant and exclusive.

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It is a serious matter when the lungs are affected. A trip away or to a sanatorium is not only tremendously expensive, but it involves separation from home and friends. Some are benefited, but none can safely return. Eckman's Alterative is effective—no leaving home necessary. For example:

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"Gentlemen: In the fall of 1905 I contracted a very severe cold, which settled on my lungs. At last I began to raise sputum, and my physician then told me I must go to California immediately. At this time I was advised to take Eckman's Alterative. I stayed at home and commenced taking it the last week in October. I began to improve, and the first week in January, 1906, I resumed my regular occupation, having gained 25 pounds, fully restored to health. It is now five years since my cure has been effected, and I cannot praise Eckman's Alterative too highly. I have recommended it with excellent results."

(Signed) W. M. TATEM.

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THE WEATHER

TEMPERATURE.	Lowest last night.	Highest yesterday.
Asheville	38	66
Atlanta	50	66
Augusta	48	68
Baltimore	42	60
Birmingham	56	72
Charleston	54	60
Charlotte	44	64
Jacksonville	58	70
Key West	70	78
Knoxville	46	68
Louisville	60	74
Mobile	54	72
Montgomery	54	72
New Orleans	66	72
New York	38	48
Oklahoma	56	66
Raleigh	44	64
Savannah	54	64
Washington	44	62

Normal for this date: Temperature 54 degrees; precipitation .15.

Forecast until 8 p. m. Saturday for Asheville and vicinity: Probably fair weather tonight and Saturday; warmer tonight.

For North Carolina: Probably fair tonight and Saturday; warmer west and central portions tonight; moderate to brisk south and southwest winds.

General Conditions Past 24 Hours.

Barometric pressure continues above the normal throughout the southeastern quarter of the country, being highest over the coast region of North Carolina. As the wave of high atmospheric pressure recedes to the eastward, the barometer will continue to fall, present indications being for fair weather in this vicinity tonight and Saturday, with warmer tonight.

R. T. LINDLEY,
Observer, Weather Bureau.

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Come in and see us. We want your trade.

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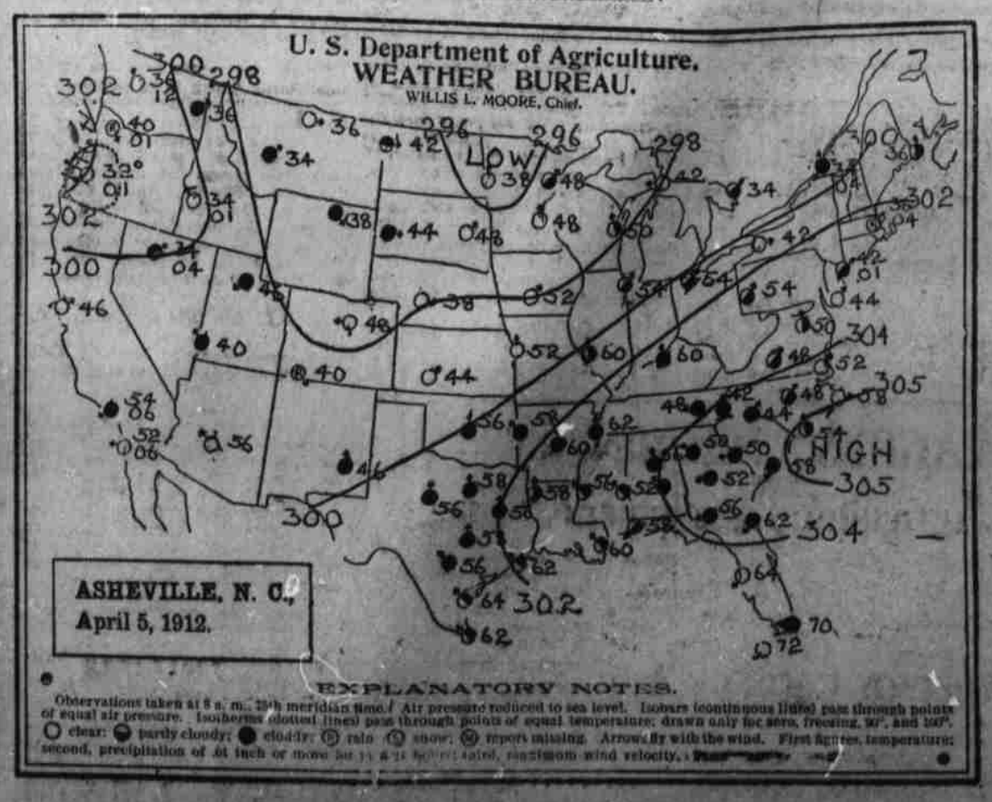
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