Colonel Roosevelt Talks to Great Mass of People

disclosed the line of attack which he beyond shadow of doubt that if I will make. He laid down two principles. He said that the delegates vote in the organization of the conly seated delegates, would be binding upon the republican party."

It was at the Roosevelt rally in the auditorium that the ex-president of our enemies. made this challenge. He was facing a cheering throng which jammed the huge buildig as tightly as the fire marshals would permit. Reaching for the the state of the least line was very brice against the consultations. far to the rear, to the last line of seats and to the top of the topmost balcony were solid rows of men and women; delegates from every part country Roosevelt leaders and a host of privates in the Roosevelt army. They gave the ex-presi-dent a mighty welcome.

The Colonel spoke as follows:

My Friends and Fellow Citizens: I address you as my fellow republicans, but I also and primarily address you as fellow Americans, fellow citizens for this has become much more than an ordinary party fight. The issue is both simpler and larger than that involved in the personality of any man, or than that ining for honesty against naked robbery; and where robbery is concerned the all-important question not the identity of the man robbed, but the crime itself.

what the fate of either may be. But with Mr. Taft's acquiescence or by not a partisan issue; it is more than issue. If we condone political theft, if we do not resent the kinds of affect the whole nation, not merely out democratic form of government the national committee are approved been committeed. The triumph of such proceedings at the moment would mean the wreck of the repubthe wreck of popular government. The actions of the Taft leaders in the national committee, taken with the active aid of Mr. Taft's private secretary and of one of Mr. Taft's the whole country. Tonight we come together to protest against a fluences of moneyed privilege. only in a fight for the rights of the most obvious injustice. should be profoundly grateful. in that there is no slightest tinge of sanctuary, we are waging. The principles for which we where there is no change death stand are as vital for the south as comes. We who fight sanely for for the north, for the east as for the the rights of the people for indus-We make our appeal to all trial justice and social reform are honest, far-sighted and patriotic also fighting for material well-be-When in February last I made up there can be no lasting prosperity.

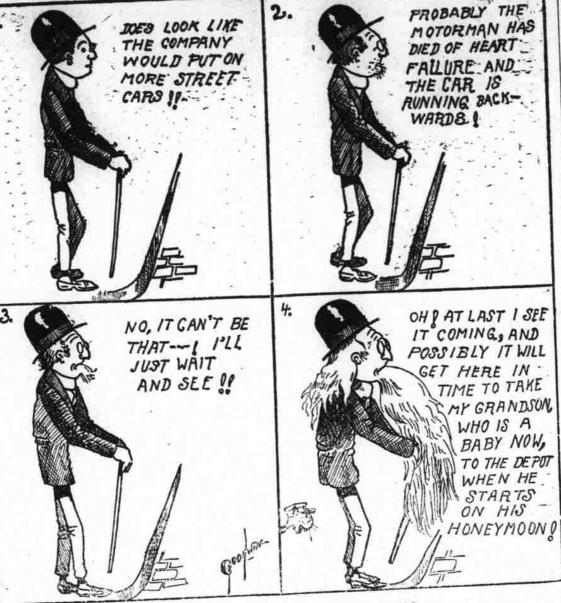
careful deliberation. I had become convinced that Mr. Taft had definitely and completely abandoned the the people and had surrendered himself wholly to the bidmade at all, and that Mr. Taft's nom-

Chicago, Ill., June 18.—On the ity. The overwhelming majority of the republican national convention, Colonel Roosevelt last night clared for me. It has become clear had not made the progressive fight it would have completely broken selection he contests must not down, and there would have been no substantial opposition to the vention or upon the settlement of forces of reaction and of political the contests and made it clear that crookedness. Let those progressives he would resist. He declared that who stand for principles and who no action of the convention based upon the votes of these "fraudulentsecuring the triumph of principle, ponder these facts and refrain in this crisis from playing into the hands

tee and against Taft. "Theft" and "robbery" were words often used. After raking the committee his general theme was resumed.—Ed.) It is not to be wondered at that

our opponents have been very bitter; for the line up in this crisis is one that cuts deep to the foundations of government. Our democracy is now put to a vital test; for the conflict is between human rights on one side and on the other special privileges used as a property right. A parting of the ways has come. The republican party must definitely stand on one side or the other. It must stand, by deed, and not merely by empty phrases, for the rights humanity, or else it must stand for special privileges. Our opponents volved in any factional of in any ordinary party contest. We are standing for the great fundamental ular republicans. In reality they are standing for elementary of Abraham Lincoln. They are fighting for bonesty against nake fightrights upon which all successful free have no title to membership in any ege and their chief strength is draw from the beneficiaries of entrench-ed economic and social injustice. do not in the least mean that they are all of them or even a majority As far as Mr. Taft and I are per- of them influenced by improper mosonally concerned it little matters tives any more than I would say the same thing of the men in the north who during the civil war were favhis direction, and in his interest, his orable to slavery and hostile to the followers have raised an issue which union. But most of the master is all important to this country. It is spirits among them have a strong selfish interest in resisting the cama political issue; it is a great moral paign against industrial wrong. The real masters among our opponents are often by no means the men nomwrong and injustice that injuriously inally in the forefront. These real masters of the reactionary forces have a tremendous personal interbut our civilization itself can not en-dure. It the methods adopted by boss in politics with as its necessary accompaniment the safeguarding of by the convention which is about to assemble, a great crime will have sphere of special interest. They are the men who stand back of the ordinary political leaders who are against us. They are the men who directly or indirectly control the lican party; and if such proceedings directly or indirectly control the become habitual, it would mean majority of the great daily newspacabinet officers, are monstrous, and they should be indignantly condemned by the moral sentiment of dition these are the men who are come together to protest against a tually and temperamentally incap-crime which strikes straight at the heart of every principle of political who worship at the shrine of the decency and honesty, a crime which sanctity of property even though that represents treason to the people, and property be illicitly acquired and the usurpation of the sovereignty of used to the detriment of the comthe people by irresponsible political bosses, inspired by the sinister insinister men above them that revo-We here in this hall are engaged not lution impends if we strike at even every decent republican, we are en- are taught to believe that change gaged in a fight for the rights of means destruction. They are wrong, every decent American whatsoever The men who temperately and with his party may be. And, oh my self restraint but with unflinching friends, for one thing at least we resolution and efficiency, strike at We injustice, right grievous wrong, and are more fortunate than our fathers drive intrenched privilege from its sectionalism in the fight we are now vent revolutions. Life means change;

it about, for it can only come on a basis of fair treatment for all; and on such a basis it shall come, if the people entrust power to us. When I undertook this contest I was well aware of the intense bitterterests standing behind them. I had also become convinced that unless I powers that prey would oppose me did make the fight it could not be with tenfold the bitterness they would show in opposing any other ination would come to him without progressive candidate, simply bejustified both my beliefs. I very progressive candidate, whereas they earnestly ask our fellow progressives very greatly fear me. I knew also who have supported other candidates that they would directly or indito remember that one of the cardinal rectly influence every man in men principles of the doctrines which we who pride themselves upon belonghold in common is our duty normal- ing to and indeed typifying what ly, loyally and in good faith to abide they regard as the educated and re-by the well thought out and hon-estly expressed action of a major- to me a matter of melancholy con-



WHY DON'T THAT CAR COME ON ??

fluences have produced upon so substitute boss rule for popular rule.

Some of these men have in the past ally in cities like New York, Boston and Philadelphia who lead lives fellow men in political matters. that are on the whole rather pleas- Never again can they speak in favor ant, rather soft and who are free from all possibility of the pressure cency in political life, or of the duty of actual want. It has been a mat- to oppose political corruption and ter of concern to me to see how bit- business wrongdoing; for to do so would expose them to the derision position to us among a very large of all who abhor hypocrisy and who proportion of these men, the men who are to be found in the most translated into honorable deeds. noted clubs, in the centers of big resorted by those whose chief desires are for ease and pleasure. We business and in the places especially sires are for ease and pleasure. We have with us a small percentage of the heads of great corporations and the heads of great corporations and the formula for the formula for the formula for the formula for of great corporations and of great corporations and of great corporation lawyers, including I believe almost every man the ordinary men who toil. When lamentations about the likelihood of newspa-of either class sufficiently high mindpers that are against us. Behind them comes the host of honest citi-zens who because the channels of not only to the class harmed by but come the presence of these men.
Every honest man whatever his fortune, should be our ally. The great majority of capitalists however, and of the big corporation lawyers so intimately connected with them, are naturally hostile to us. Their hostility did not surprise me. The men that is not rigitly theirs may be papers would eagerly champion the republican party if they could keep republican party if they could keep republican party if they could keep fellows are debased and degraded, if they are ground down and forced to live starved and sordid lives, so that their souls are crippled like their bodies and the fine edge of their bodies and the fine edge of their bodies. The difference between us and their every feeling blunted. We ask understand our position and believe to the class possessing it. We weldition these are the men who are now, as in every age—are intellectually and termore age—are intellectually and termore age. tility did not surprise me. The men who are most benefited by privilege unless they are exceptionally distinterested and far sighted, cannot be expected to feel friendly to those who assail privilege. But associated with them are many men whose selfish interest in privilege is far less obvious. I genuinely regret that we sightedness. In this country of ours no man can permanently leave to no man can permanently obvious. I genuinely regret that we have had with us so small a percentage of the men for whom life has been easy, who belong to or are intimately associated with the leisured and monied classes, so small a proportion of the class which furnishes the bulk of membership of the larger social, business and professional clubs and which supplies the majority of the heads of our great educational institutions and of the men, generally, who take the lead in upholding the cause of virtue Americans, no matter where they ing; for justice is the hand-maiden when only the minor moralities and of prosperity; and without justice the elegancies of life are at issue. My concern and regret over their ac-We pledge ourselves not only to tion are not primarily for our sakes, ter this fight, it was after long and strive for prosperity but to bring for the sake of the people. My concern and regret are primarily for They could these men themselves, do us good by joining and it is earnestly to be wished that this movement for social justice will number among its leaders at least bosses and of the great privileged in-ness which my re-entry into politics a goodly proportion of men whose who will themselves receive no material benefit from the changes which as a matter of justice they advocate. Yet the good to the people would be small compared to the good which these men would do to their own class by casting in their lot with us as we battle for the rights of humanity, as we battle for social and in-

nied to the many and privilege accorded to the few. We who in this contest are fighting for the rights of the plain people, we who are fighting for the right of the people to rule themselves, need offer no better proof of dustrial justice, as we champion the cause of those who most need champions and for whom champions have been too few. I have been puzzled at the attitude of the men in the question. They are often men who in the past have been very severe in their condemnation of corruption, in their condemnation of bossism, and in railing at injustice and in demanding higher ideals of public service and private life. Yet when the supreme test comes, they prove false to all their professions of the past. They fear the people intensely that they pardon and uphold every species of political and business crookedness in the panicthat case these papers serve the instricken hope of strengthening the terests of the commonwealth. Someboss and special privilege and theretimes the interests of the capitalist by raising a powerful shield to protect their own soft personalities from the public. They are foolish case these papers are hostile to the creatures; the people would never interests of the commonwealth, But harm them, yet they still dread the people. They stand with servile acquiescence behind the worst repthey are bound. The great and far- wark of privilege. by speech or by silence they now our opponents to steal from the peo- reaching evil of their action is that are against the evil alliance of spe-

cern to see the effect that these inhonest and well meaning citizens race, it is the same tyrannical prin The most prominent representatives of these papers in New York and Massachusetts supported Mr. Par-ker against me in 1904. Mr. Parker was a democrat, but he was entirely satisfactory to these masters and for the time being they ardently did all they could to overwhen I began to be seriously and mines and incrories who forget about for the republican nomination his duties to those who earn his enced by a class consciousness which this year, these papers one and all bread while earning their own, or becoming my furious opponents and shop who coins dollars from the exthe ordinary men who toil. When lamentations about the likelihood of a movement is undertaken to make my candidacy breaking up the relife a little easier, a little better, publican party. They themselves for the ordinary man, to give him a did all they could to beat the republican characteristics. better chance, these men of soft life lican party when they thought they seem cast into panic lest something that is not rigtly theirs may be papers would eagerly champion the

ity to do work that counts, not the mankind and who have faith in the means of avoiding work--the ability people; and over against them the for efficient effort, not the opportuni- men of restricted vision and conty for the slothful avoidance of all tracted sympathy, whose souls are effort. The leaders in the fight for not stirred by the wrongs of others. industrial and social justice today Side by side with the latter, appear should be the men to whom such the other man who lack all intensihas been given and from whom we ty of conviction, who care only for have a right to expect in return the pleasure of the day; and also much of honesty and of courage, those other men who distrust much of disinterested and valorus people, who if dishonest wish to effort for the common good. The keep the people helpless so as to exmulti-millionaire who opposes us is ploit them, and who if honest so disthe worst foe of his own children believe in the power of the people and children's children, and, little to bring about wholesome reform though he knows of it, we are their that every appeal in popular conbenefactors when we strive to make science and popular intelligence fills this country one in which justice them with an angry terror. Acsnall prevail; for it is they them- cording to their own lights, these selves who would in the end suffer men are often very respectable, very most if in this country when we worthy. But they live on a plane permitted the average man grad- of low ideals. In the atmosphere ually to grow to feel that fair play they create, imposters flourish, and was denied him, that justice was de- leadership comes to be thought of only as success in making money. and the vision of Heaven becomes a sordid vision, and all that is purest in human nature is laughed at, and honesty is bought and sold in the market place.

Opposed undyingly to those men are men of faith and vision, the citizens, no matter what their poll- men in whom love of righteousness tics, than that which is afforded by burns like a flaming fire who spurn the action of that portion of the lives of soft and selfish ease, of press which is controlled by privil- slothful self-indulgence, who scorn ege, by the great special interests in to think only of pleasure for thembusiness. Newspapers of this type selves, who feel for and believe in are found in every part of the country in their fellows, whose high fealty is try, in San Francisco, in Cincinnati, reserved for all that is good, that is in Chicago and St. Louis, in Boston just, what is honorable. By their and Philadelphia. But they are very nature these men are bound to strongest in New York. Some of battle for the truth and the right. these newspapers are nominally They do not address themselves only to the cultured and exclusive few lican, some nominally independent. They prize character even more than intellect. They know well that conthe real or fancied interests of the science is not the privilege merely great capitalist class by certain of of the men of wealth and cultivawhose members they are controlled. tion, and they make their appeal to all men alike in the name of the Sometimes the interests of this capitalist class are identical with those great fundamental qualities. of the country as a whole and in qualities that every man should have the qualities of generosity and unselfishness, of fearless honesty and

high courage. class are against the interests of the people as a whole, and in that heed to no outworn system of phil-We who war against privilege pay osophy. We demand of our leaders today understanding of and sympaneither their acting favorably to nor thy with the living and the vital their acting adversely to the interneeds of those in the community resentatives of crooked business and cases of the commonwealth is any whose needs are greatest. We are crooked politics in the country, and thing more than an incident to their against privilege in every form. We support of the interests to which believe in striking down every bul-

cial privilege in business with special business in politics. We be-lieve in giving the people a free hand to work in efficient fashion for true justice. To the big man and to the little man, in all the relations of life, we pledge justice and fair dealing.

A period of change is upon us. Our opponents, the man of reaction, ask us to stand still.

But we could not stand still if we would; we must either go forward or go backward. Never was the need more imperative than now for men of vision who are also men of action. Disaster is ahead of us if we trust to the leadership of men whose souls are seared and whose eyes are blinded, men of cold heart and narrow mind, who believe we can find safety in dull timidity and dull inaction. The unrest cannot be quieted by ingenious trickery of those who profess to advance by merely marking time, or who seek to drown the cry for justice by loud and in-sincere clamor about issues that are false and issues that are dead. The trumpets sound the advance, and their appeal cannot be drowned by repeating the war-cries of bygone battles, the victory shouts of van-ished hosts. Here in this city of the state of Lincoln I can set forth the principles for which we stand today in the words which Lincoln used fifty-four years ago, when in speaking of the then phase of the eternal struggle between privilege and jus-tice, between the rights of the many and the special interest of the few, he said:

"That is the real issue. That is the issue which will continue in this country when these poor tongues of Judge Douglas and myself shall be silent. It is the eternal struggle between two principles—right and wrong throughout the world. They are the two principles which have stood face to face from the begin-ning of time. The one is the com-mon right of humanity the other the divine right of kings. It is the same republic it shall be proved that from ops itself.

It is the same spirit which says you toil and work and earn bread. whether from the mouth of a king who bestrides the people of his own nation and lives from the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another ciple

Were Lincoln alive today he would add that it is also the same principle which is now at stake when we fight on behalf of the many against the oppressor in modern in dustry, whether the abuse of special privilege be by a man whose wealth throw the republican party and to elect a democratic president. But when I began to be seriously talked when I began to be seriously talked and mines and factories who forgets cessive and underpaid labor of haggard women. We who stand for the cause of progress are fighting to make this country better place to live for those who have been harshly treated by face; and if we succeed it will also really be a better place for those who are already well off. None of us can really prosper permanently if masses of our

time you have a great task before I wish you to realize deep in you. your hearts that you are not merely facing a crisis in the history of a party. You are facing a crisis in the history of a nation, and what you do will have an appreciable effect throughout the world at large. Here

(Continued on Page Six.)

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