

CHAMP CLARK'S LETTER

MIGHTY LABOR

THAT CONFRONTS

THE PEOPLE

Oust the Republican Party from Government.

IT SCOFFS AT PUBLIC OPINION

AND MENACES OUR INSTITUTIONS.

[Special Washington Letter.]

The story of Hercules and his cleansing of the Augean stables is familiar to the ears of men. Though old and threadbare, it still possesses a strange fascination for the human mind and remains to this day a performance with which to compare all things difficult of accomplishment. But a greater task than all the labors of Hercules confronts the American people and that is to rid the republic of the Republican party, which is riding it as another Old Man of the Sea.

It seems determined by its capers in this year of grace to illustrate all that is forbidden in politics or vicious in morals.

Early in the year the country was startled by the fact that Kentucky Republicans had added assassination to their other methods of political warfare. Whether Governor William Goebel was a paragon of virtue and a prodigy of brains, as his eulogists assert, or a monster in human form, as his enemies maintain, has nothing to do with the total depravity manifested by Kentucky Republicans in "the deep damnation of his taking off." They murdered him in cold blood for the base and sordid motive of holding on to a few paltry offices. The deep and humiliating stain upon the party which falsely arrogates to itself all virtue, all learning, all piety, all patriotism is the fact that the de facto Governor Taylor is supposed to have been particeps criminis in the foul and cowardly assassination of his competitor. The Borgias never did a more criminal and abhorrent thing than that. The papers say that Taylor has been indicted as an accessory before the fact. It has always appeared to me that a capable and courageous prosecuting attorney could convict him as an accessory after the fact. Perhaps he was both. For the sake of the fair fame of my native state and the credit of human nature, I hope he may be able to demonstrate his innocence clearly—even beyond the shadow of a doubt. Not that I care anything for Taylor—all his acts prove him to be a poor creature, utterly unworthy of the high place which he holds—but because his innocence would remove a foul blot from our political system. If guilty, I hope he will be hanged on a gallows 40 cubits high, as an example and warning to other evildoers.

The Postal Thieves.

Just as the country was recovering its breath after its astonishment at the introduction of assassination as a means for securing and holding office came the disgusting and startling revelations of the thievery of Neely and his gang in Cuba like a clap of thunder out of a clear sky. It is extremely questionable as a matter of law whether they can be convicted. Not that the theft is in doubt—there appears to be no cavil about that, except the amount, which already exceeds \$100,000 and is still growing daily—the trouble will arise in court on two points: 1. Whose money did they steal? Was it Cuba's or did it belong to the United States? 2. The question as to jurisdiction. What law did they violate, Cuban or American? What court has jurisdiction over them? The chances are ten to one that they had studied all these questions thoroughly before committing their series of crimes, and that they will through technicalities go unwhipped of justice and in some quiet nook will enjoy the fruits of their crimes.

In the meantime the Washington Post discerns certain things which make it restless. It is enamored of McKinley and McKinleyism, but it warns all concerned that breakers are ahead in the following vigorous editorial:

IS THIS BLUNDER POSSIBLE?

Nothing thus far, either hinted or expressed, suggested or proclaimed, has caused us to revise our opinion that the postoffice scandal in Cuba should be ventilated without regard to any private or political interests. We still maintain that the administration owes it to the country—the American people of all classes and party affiliations—to sift this matter to the bottom and to expose and pillory the guilty, no matter what may be their connections or their influence. Putting the question on that basis, the lowest and most sordid basis, the question that votes will be secured by the Republican party just in proportion as that party commits itself to the ways of decency and the observances of public virtue.

To our great uneasiness and regret we have detected what seems to be a disposition on the part of the government to suppress disclosures in Havana and to envelop the whole incident in a cloud of languid investigation and excited non-committalism. Under one suave pretext or another, by some queer shuffling of authority or transfer of responsibility, the administration has twisted itself—unintentionally, no doubt—into an attitude of obstruction and suppression. We do not believe in an order that no more arrests shall be made and no more facts be communicated to the press, and we recognize, or think we recognize, the slowly but surely growing structure of a policy of secrecy and occultation. If we be well advised in this—and we hope not—it remains to be said only that the administration is preparing for itself a deep humiliation and disaster.

The Indianapolis Journal, one of the most influential Republican organs in the country, says: "A Washington telegram says the administration fears the scandal in the Cuban postal service may have a bad political effect in this state. It would if any disposition were shown to another investigation of alleged guilty persons, but not otherwise. The mere discovery of fraud, while a matter for profound regret, ought not to hurt the administration in this or any other state if the situation is promptly and vigorously dealt with and if the discovery leads to the establishment of a better system and service."

And, indeed, this is the plain, unvarnished truth. The most bitter enemies of the administration could contrive for its rule no more deadly complication than the appearance of a desire on its part to hide the facts and screen the criminals in this disgraceful and abhorrent scandal. The American people are not dupes and fools. They cannot be placated by the sacrifice of one victim when they know, in their hearts, that there are others equally if not more guilty. The worst thing that can happen to Mr. McKinley is a suspicion that some one, acting by his authority, is trying to minimize the whole episode in the opaque mists of red tape, star chamber confabulation and interminable inquiry. The blunder of Porto Rico would be as nothing in comparison.

Imperialism in Cuba.

Of course all good citizens of all parties had hoped that Neely's case was only a sporadic case of thievery and did not indicate that the Cuban-American postal revenue system is rotten to the core, but latest developments show that such a hope was destined to disappointment. It now appears that many besides the greedy Neely were busy gobbling great gobs of the public money, whether Cuban or American I shall not undertake at this writing to say, but one or 't'other or both. Even the beloved Rathbone seems to have led the van. His desire appeared to be to demonstrate the preposterous capers which can be cut by "a beggar on horseback," or, in this case, a beggar in the post-office department.

If we had recognized the independence of the Cuban republic, as we should have done, we would have avoided this huge and unsavory scandal, together with many other unpleasant things, but when we went in for establishing and maintaining a "stable" government over there we got into all sorts of trouble and at last into disgrace.

Rathbone cut such an amazing dash that I am afraid that Republicans would accuse me of drawing the long-bow if, in my own language, I gave an account, even plain and unvarnished, of his imperial goings on and doings. But Republicans ought to believe Republicans, as nobody else will believe them. So I quote Republican papers for the edification of Republican readers—those doubting Thomases who still hug the delusion that there is anything good in the G. O. P. Here is an excerpt from the Washington correspondence of the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune, a thick and thin Republican organ:

Major Rathbone's exaggerated estimate of his own importance as a government official in Cuba and his personal extravagance are the subjects of innumerable stories here.

These stories are chiefly related by civilians, army officers and government employees who have returned from the island. They include anecdotes of Major Rathbone's fashionable residence, furnished and fitted out from the Cuban revenues, and the somewhat regal manner in which he lives and entertains.

Among the expenses paid out of these revenues was an item of Chinese lanterns with which the grounds of Rathbone's residence were illuminated upon the occasion of a fashionable gathering. Some of his social functions entailed an outlay of hundreds of dollars, but Rathbone's personal income did not suffer thereby. Boats and yachts were freely placed at the disposal of Major Rathbone's friends and guests. Upon these boats there were merry excursions, and the Cuban revenues paid the bill. One instance is related where a western correspondent, who announced that she intended to print an article laudatory of Major Rathbone, had a boat placed at her disposal for an extended junket, during which she visited all the important seacoast towns. It is said upon authority here that Rathbone made four visits to the United States, accompanied by his family, and for each of these visits turned in an expense bill of \$2,000, which was paid. None of these bills found its way to the postoffice department at Washington. The Cuban system since the outset has been practically independent of the service here.

A Flagrant Scandal.

That, mark you, is an excerpt from a Republican paper.

If it will not be considered as rubbing it in, I hereby commend to Republicans this rich editorial from the Philadelphia North American, a Republican paper from away back:

OUR THIEVES IN CUBA.

It is extremely unfortunate for the policy of expansion that the first attempt at the maintenance of the Cuban postal system by American officials should have put a fortune into the pockets of a thief. It is unfortunate for its effect upon our wars, for its influence upon public opinion in the United States and for what it forebodes as to the future course of our colonial administration. Cuba is 100 miles from the mainland of the United States. It is overrun with American visitors. Delegations of business men and politicians, both American and Cuban, circulate in both directions. Yet this flagrant scandal, which ought to have been discovered within a month, was allowed to run on for nearly a year under our eyes.

The Philippines are 8,000 miles away. Nobody goes there but the cable and get an answer. If the chief financial agent of our postal department in Cuba has been able to steal an amount variously estimated at from \$75,000 to \$500,000, what may happen at Manila?

Some things are certain. One is that wherever the technical legal liability may rest the United States ought to make this theft good to the people of Cuba and recover whatever it can from Neely and his bondsmen. We are running the Cuban government on the ground that the Cuban people are not yet capable of running it for themselves. We assumed the responsibility without being asked, and we can do nothing less than live up to it.

Another certainty is that we must make such an example of the thief that the news of it will echo wherever the American flag flies over a dependent population. Neely's crime was not merely larceny, but treason. It tends directly to aid the enemies of the United States in the Philippines and elsewhere. As has been charged against anti-imperialist agitation, it will "cost good American lives."

The North American is eminently correct in denouncing these plunderers in Cuba "our thieves." They are Republican thieves, and it is proper that the world understand it clearly. They are all Hannanites—pets and favorites of the administration.

Blackmail in Philadelphia.

The public had not ceased to wonder at that colossal piece of Republican thievery before John Wanamaker—"Pious" John—startles the country by a circumstantial account of how one Abraham L. English, a high Republican official of Philadelphia, undertook to blackmail him into silence in the North American by threat to run amuck on John's private character. John now poses as a martyr and is receiving lots of encouragement.

So that in quick succession we have

as manifestations of Republican purity and light assassination in the dark and bloody ground, grand larceny in Cuba and blackmail in the City of Brotherly Love.

Senator Benjamin R. Tillman, like Collins' ram, is a man of his own head. A great character is Benjamin. Honest as the day is long, plain as an old shoe, with a head full of common sense—which, after all, is the best sort of sense—with a lion's heart in his breast, with perfect confidence in and deep sympathy with the masses, he is the inevitable foe of jobbery and hates a sham as he hates his satanic majesty. A most useful public servant is Benjamin, and a most valuable instrument for prodding and killing unsavory schemes is his famous pitchfork. Lately Tillman has brought down on his defiant head the hatred of jobbers of every degree by exposing the huge armor plate frauds. He has a blunt, almost brutal way of stating the truth, and he made it red-hot for the armor plated senators on the floor. What Tillman lacks in grace he makes up in emphasis. He could not write so good a handbook on rhetoric as Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, but no man of this generation can send a fact straighter to the mark than this great South Carolina tribune of the people. He can't be wheedled, bullied or coaxed from doing the right for right's sake. He is a man of vast mental force—of the order of dynamite. He loves the plain people, God be praised and the plain people love him.

Senator Tillman.

Privately he is the most genial and companionable of men—full of kindly humor and rich in reminiscence. I have been a guest in his house, and it was a genuine pleasure to be there. He selected his guests—public men, newspaper men, army officers—because they were his friends, and we got more enjoyment out of the acceptance of Senator Tillman's invitation "to help eat two South Carolina hams" than we would out of a dinner in any palace in Europe or America. It is a pleasure to know that his re-election to the senate is absolutely certain.

Since Mark Twain shed such copious tears at the tomb of Adam nothing so pathetic has happened as the interest manifested by Republican newspapers as to Democratic candidates for the vice presidency.

For many months they gave us advice in great and imposing chunks as to whom we should nominate for president. They warned us against the monstrous folly of nominating Bryan, with whom they solemnly averred that we cannot win, and begged us piteously to nominate some good lord, good devil sort of fellow with whom we could win—as though Democratic success were the one thing dear to the average Republican heart; that was effrontery stupendous enough to please Old Huckle himself. But we paid no attention to his lumps or their suggestions as to the presidency, and we still cling to Bryan.

Then they turned their attention to making a platform for us. They vociferously assured us that certain victory was within our grasp if we would only discard the Chicago platform, especially the financial plank, and get us up a new platform meaning all things to all men and nothing in particular to anybody anywhere. We were besought by these friends of Democracy, the aforementioned Republican editors, to run with the hare and hold with the hounds—otherwise we were rushing headlong to the demitition bowwows. Still we paid no attention to these modern gift bearing Greeks, and it is now an assured fact that the Chicago platform will be readopted at Kansas City on the 4th of July. Now, having been despitely used by the Democrats as to presidential candidate and platform, learning nothing from their repulses, they blandly come forward and offer to name for us a vice presidential candidate. They are persistent in this matter, but will make nothing of their motion, for the Democrats who will be in charge of the K. C. convention will do as they please.

McKinley Up Against It.

The probabilities are that the McKinley administration is up against it at last in the Boer-English affair. It is difficult to see how they can any longer refuse to show their hand. It is well known that the Boer commissioners are not only in the country, but in the capital of the nation. It is also well known that nine-tenths of the American people, without reference to political affiliations, sympathize with the Boers, and what's more, they want that sympathy officially and emphatically expressed.

There is also a deep seated suspicion that the administration sympathizes with England in its murder of the two noble little South African republics. If this suspicion grows into positive knowledge, William McKinley will find no more chance of being re-elected president than of being translated in a chariot of fire after the manner of the prophet Elijah.

It is hinted that the powers that be have conveyed a hint to the Boer commissioners that they may be seen, but must not be heard in this land of the free and home of the brave. Nons verons. Yes, we will see whether these commissioners can be muzzled in any such unceremonious manner. If it can be done without the certain overthrow of this pro-English administration, then we have indeed sunk to a low and pitiable condition. Free speech has been considered one of the priceless jewels of American liberty ever since the 4th of March, 1801. It will be an astounding commentary upon our decadence if the American people are willing to surrender under it now without a struggle.

Champ Clark

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Notice.

By virtue of the power contained in a deed in trust executed to me by R. R. Rawls, on the 15th day of September, 1897, to secure the payment of a certain note described therein, which said deed in trust is registered in book 43, on page 538, of the register of deeds' office of Buncombe county, North Carolina, and default having been made in the payment of said note, I will, on the

17TH DAY OF JULY, 1906, at 12 m., at the court house door in the city of Asheville, Buncombe county, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder, for cash, to satisfy said note and interest, the following described parcel of property, to-wit: The Swannanoa hotel situated on South Main street in the city of Asheville and all the furniture and fixtures therein as well as the furniture and fixtures in that portion extending over the Asheville Tobacco Warehouse, said furniture and fixtures mentioned is turned to include whatever property interest whether real or personal said R. R. Rawls has in said hotel, said land on which said hotel stands is described as follows: Beginning at a stake in the southern margin of Willow street and the western margin of said Main street

and runs with the western margin of South Main street one hundred and nine and one-half (109½) feet to the northeast corner of the Asheville Tobacco Warehouse company's land; thence with the northern boundary line of said company west two hundred feet to a stake, the southwest corner of E. T. Clemmons lot; thence with the line of said lot north to the southern margin of Willow street thence with the southern margin of Willow street to the beginning

This June 16th, 1906. C. T. RAWLS, Trustee. 6-1833001.

Dissolution Notice.

The partnership heretofore existing under the name of the Riverside Undertaking company has this day been dissolved, the business passing into the hands of W. A. Blair, J. J. Mackey and O. P. Moorman, who will continue it at the old stand, 37 South Main street, under the firm name of Blair, Mackey & Co. The old company will settle all debts due by it and receive all moneys due it. This May 13, 1906. BLAIR, MACKAY & CO. 6-12-011

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Frank S. Gannon, J. M. Colp, W. A. Turk 3d V.P. & Gen. Man. Traf. Man. G. P. A. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Asheville Ticket Office 60 Patton Avenue, Transfer office same building. Passage checked through from house to destination.

Charleston and Western Carolina "Augusta & Asheville Short Line." Schedule in Effect May 27, 1906.

Lv Augusta 9:40am 1:40pm
Greenwood 12:15pm
Ar Anderson 6:10pm
Ar Laurens 1:20pm 1:10pm
Ar Greenville 3:00pm 9:00am
Ar Spartanburg 3:10pm
Ar Hendersonville 6:03pm
Ar Asheville 7:00pm

Lv Asheville 8:20am 4:10pm
Lv Spartanburg 11:45am 4:00pm
Lv Greenville 12:01pm 4:00pm
Lv Laurens 1:37pm 7:30pm
Lv Anderson 6:35am
Ar Greenwood 2:37pm 9:35pm
Ar Asheville 5:10pm 10:40am
Ar Alken 7:20pm

Close connections at Greenwood for all points on S. A. L. and C. & G. railway and at Spartanburg with Southern railway.

For information relative to tickets, rates, schedules, etc., address W. J. CRAIG, Gen. Pass. Agt., Asheville, Ga.

T. M. Emerson, Traffic Manager.

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