HARRIMAN-ROOSEVELT MATTER

HARRIMAN MONEY

Mr. Harriman gave his own check for \$50,000 and aided in securing \$150, 000 more from friends of Mr. Depew. President Roosevelt had written him not long before, "You and I are practical men." Being a practical man, Mr. Harriman assumed that he had clinched a bargain when he paid down his cash, and he assumed that President Roosevelt, being a "practical man," would take the same view. President Roosevelt in his letter to Representative Sherman says: never requested Mr. Harriman to raise a dollar for the presidential campaign of 1904." Mr. Harriman in his letter to Sidney Webster says that the money he raised was turned over to Chairman Cortelyon and that it "enabled the New York state committee to continue its work, with the result that at least 50,000 votes were turned over in New York city alone, making a difference of 100,000 votes in the general result."-New York World.

UGLY

The controversy between the president and Mr. Harriman is an ugly one, but is, in my opinion, but another attempt of the interests to destroy the president, whom they hate. My opinion of President Roosevelt from close range observation of his personality and motives is too firmly fixed in his favor to believe, on the unsupported word of a Harriman, that he is anything but the firm, frank, courageous statesman the people of the country have come to regard him. Yet we should wait until the record of the Harriman episode is fully made up and we have had time for its proper consideration before a definite judgment is pronounced .- Former Senator T. M. Patterson in Denver News.

NO MATTER

These charges about the raising and the spending of money in the campaign of 1904 are of no concern to the people in 1907. National canvasses cost a good deal of money, and thou- of course, rest easy till he knows that gands of persons join in contributing the money was spent for "legitimate" this money .- St. crat.

ROUGH ON HARRIMAN

-Mr. Harriman has not, it is true, a reputation for truth and veracity that will stand a severe test, but he brings forward an array of proof to support his contention that Mr. Roosevelt held him up for \$50,000 personally and persuaded him to raise an additional \$150,-000 in the 1904 campaign which will convince no small number of people of the truth of his statements regardless of the viciousness with which the president calls him a liar. Mr. Perkins' restitution of \$50,000 is in itself

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proof positve that the New York Life was held up for that sum, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that Mr. Harriman was made to contribute his share. All the other men of his wealth were made to contribute at the same time to the same purpose, and it is not reasonable to believe that he, alone, should be permitted to escape.

It's a little hard on him now that he should have brought on himself such vituperation from such high quarters when the president benefited so greatly by his services.-Louisville (Ky.) Times.

A SINISTER LIGHT

E. H. Harriman's letter to Sidney Webster, published in the World this morning, throws a sinister light on that connection between high finance and politics, of which we have heard so much in the last three years. If Mr. Harriman's tale be true, President Roosevelt personally appealed to him for help about a week before the election of 1904. The candid Harriman explained that the "up-state" republican leaders of New York were unwilling to support Depew for re-election, and President Roosevelt graciously promised to "take care" of Depew by making him ambassador to France. Thereupon Harriman returned to New York, subscribed \$50,000 to the republican campaign fund, informed the friends of Depew as to the crisis, and secured, with their help, \$150,000 more. money, says Mr. Harriman, turned about 50,000 votes in New York city, and thus made a difference of 100,000 in the total result. Later President Roosevelt decided that he would rather have Depew senator from New York than ambassador to France. There is one thing which Mr. Harriman does not explain: the method by which his fund turned 50,000 votes. He speaks of putting \$50 into an election district, "not including the watchers on election day." Can it be that the \$50 was used for the purchase of votes? President Roosevelt cannot, purposes. We now see why Depew made such an outcry over the proposal to drop him out of the senate. He had helped out the campaign at a critical moment, and was entitled to a reward. We understand why President Roosevelt wanted to send Depew to France. His own election-and incidentally the safety of the republicwas hanging in the balance. But why did the president change his mind after the country had been saved? We should like to know .- New York Evening Post.

NOT EDIFYING

Without attempting to decide between the conflicting testimony there are some facts which appear reasonably clear: The president was on cordial terms with Mr. Harriman in 1904 and was glad to enlist his aid in clearing up the New York situation. Mr. Harriman was ready to help and did help. He believed the Depew appointment was to be made in accordance with his wishes. He felt resentment toward the president because the appointment was not made, and also felt aggrieved when the president proceeded to "jump on him" in various ways later. On the other hand one may assume that the president felt he was under no obligation to Mr. Harriman for what the latter had done in the New York campaign, thinking perhaps that it was in Odell's interest more than in the president's. Moreover, the president feit under no obligation to decide the Depew question otherwise than strictly on merit, as he doubtless did. The president feels resentment toward Mr. Harriman for passing around even

confidentially an intimation that the president had assumed toward him an obligation which was not kept. Hence the president's indignation and the fireworks.

The pathway of practical politics is bestrewn with such incidents, but they are not often picked up and made into a newspaper story. When they are the result is interesting, but not edifying. -Sioux City (Ia.) Journal.

WHENCE

There is this important feature which amid the intense personalities, should not be lost to view. Everyone knows vast sums of money were colletced to run the presidential republican campaign of 1904. The sources of some of that corruption fund have been unearthed. The public is not interested so much as to whether or not Mr. Roosevelt asked Mr. Harriman to raise \$250,000 for the campaign fund. The point is, did he raise it and if so who were the contributors and to whom was it paid? In short who were the beneficiaries of this great corruption fund?-Wheeling (W. Va.) Reg-

LIKE THE STORER EPISODE

ence reminds one of the Roosevelt- - Minneapolis Journal.

Storer correspondence. It is interesting, and it will cause a lot of talk, but no good purpose has been conserved by printing it. All but the final letter or statement on each side were written confidentially. In the present instance Mr. Harriman, unlike the Storers, must be held blameless for the publication. The Harriman letter to Sidney Webster was stolen by a discharged employe of Mr. Harriman, soid to a yellow newspaper and printed in spite of the protests of Mr. Harriman. The printing of it was a disreputable piece of business. It is only fair to Mr. Harriman to state that the letter which has caused so much excitement obviously was written with no thought of publication.-Sioux City

CREDITABLE

(la.) Journal.

The president emerges from the affair with entire credit to himself as a public man. Mr. Harriman on the other hand, could not be more thoroughly discredited than he already was by the revelations he himself made of his railroad operations, and by the revelations of the insurance investigation as to his sinister influence on The Roosevelt-Harriman correspond- New York politics and national finance.





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