

## ROOSEVELT-HARRIMAN "TIE-UP"

For a correct understanding of the Roosevelt-Harriman incident it is not necessary to consider the question of veracity between the two.

President Roosevelt's own letters to Chairman Sherman in 1906, which he gives to the press, show that during the presidential campaign of 1904 he was in close political relations with Harriman and that both of them realized the impropriety of the association.

Both were deeply concerned in the success of Mr. Higgins, the republican candidate for governor of New York. The president approved of Mr. Higgins, though there were so many republicans in New York state who considered him too friendly to Harriman that it was feared the state would be lost to the party.

In this emergency the president worked hand-in-glove with Mr. Harriman in the politics of his native state. Mr. Harriman wanted Higgins elected for reasons best known to himself. Mr. Roosevelt desired the same result in order to make sure of the thirty-nine electoral votes of New York.

The president sent frequently for Mr. Harriman and together they labored upon the problem of saving the state for Higgins and for Roosevelt. If the subject of campaign funds was never mentioned in their interviews there must have been remarkable forbearance on the part of the president, for funds were badly needed and Mr. Harriman might be depended upon as resourceful in producing them.

That Mr. Harriman's visits to the White House might have been more frequent if they had been entirely proper we learn from one of the president's letters to him which is among those given to the press. To men of such temperament that they expect public men and candidates for office to deal openly and above board with the people it is nothing less than a confession of duplicity which the president makes by the publication of this letter. The president had heard that Mr. Harriman did not "think it wise to come to see me in these closing days of the campaign." Knowledge of the close relations existing between them might be hurtful to the republican cause in New York.

Mr. Roosevelt sees the point and replies: "Now, my dear sir, you and I are practical men, and you are on the ground and know the conditions better than I do. If you think there is any danger of your visit to me causing trouble, or if you think there is nothing special I should be informed about, or no matter in which I could give aid, why, of course, give up the visit for the time being and then, a few weeks hence, before I write my message, I shall get you to come down to discuss certain governmental mat-

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ters not connected with the campaign."

As this letter was written on October 14, "a few weeks hence" meant of course "after the election," when public knowledge of the political alliance between the two would be less dangerous. The American people will form their own opinion of this sort of underground work in presidential politics.

But the alliance did not last after the election. Understanding the president to mean railroad matters in his invitation to discuss "certain governmental matters not connected with the campaign," Harriman did his best for the success of Roosevelt and Higgins, and when he wanted to talk railroad matters with the president before the message was written the president wanted to talk something else.

If the astute Harriman broke off the association with an acute feeling that he had been bunkoed it would have been the most natural thing in the world.—St. Louis Republic.

### "WHO'S A LIAR"

In the good old days, when the miners made human sieves of the fellow who dared to call them liars, and men of the logging camps fought duels and otherwise defended themselves against the charge of untruth, the idea of a public official using the term in print was most absurd.

In fact, it seldom happened. There was not so much of that sort of thing a few years ago. Now we find the president of the United States using the term "deliberate and wilful falsehood" on numerous occasions.

It used to be that when the lie was passed, the victim flew into a passion and demanded, "Who's a liar?" Then there was something doing.

Not so now. Root and Roosevelt indulge in most any old terms that come to them first. The president calls Mr. Harriman a liar in cold type, and Mr. Harriman says he did not lie, which means that Roosevelt does.

And there you are.—Fremont (Neb.) Herald.

### NAUSEATING MESS

In all this nauseating mess the World cannot but find, as it found in the insurance disclosures, the strongest confirmation of the position it has consistently held upon these points:

1. That Judge Parker was essentially right when in the campaign of 1904 he charged that "the trusts were furnishing money with which they hoped to control the election."

2. That President Roosevelt, instead of calling Judge Parker's statement "unqualifiedly and atrociously false," might better have been engaged in reforming his campaign committee.

3. That the rewarding of George B. Cortelyou by high public office for his services as collector of campaign money from insurance companies and from financiers with axes to grind is a wrong which time cannot cure and which subsequent brilliant service can scarcely extenuate.

4. That the failure of the republican majority in congress to provide for the complete publicity of campaign funds and to forbid corporation contributions thereto is inexcusable.

"High finance" has been too long the power behind the puppets of politics. No graver need confronts the country than the need of cleaner elections and legislation free from corrupting influences.—New York World.

### LOOKING BACKWARD

The president, in good strong Anglo-Saxon, says that his great and good friend Harriman is a liar of the kind that deserves a sulphurous handle to it.

Now there are a few things in this connection that newspaper men re-

member by glancing occasionally over the files of their papers.

Near the windup of the campaign of 1904 it was known to and published in the New York papers that there was danger of the republicans losing New York, and the betting showed it. It was conceded that unless a movement, then on foot, for raising a large fund prospered, that Parker would carry the state.

The next day it was reported and published and telegraphed abroad that Mr. Harriman, who had returned from a visit to Washington, had interested the leading business concerns and institutions to contribute to a fund reaching up into the hundreds of thousands, which would save the country from the horrors of a democratic victory.

The next day Alton B. Parker declared that this sum had been raised to control the election and that a large part of the money had come from Harriman and the insurance companies and that if the president didn't know it, Mr. Cortelyou did. Responsive to this the president denounced Mr. Parker as a deliberate, malicious and conscienceless liar. Mr. Cortelyou also denounced Mr. Parker as a liar. Something like a year later the checks showing the truth of the statements in the newspapers and by Mr. Parker were found. Somebody prevaricated. Who was it?

When all these things are put together, don't they sound funny?

We know from the historian, that Washington couldn't tell a lie. Let us stick to it that none of his successors can. Let us stick to that for George's sake.—Columbus (O.) Press-Post.

### TWO WORDS

"The statement," said the president, "is a deliberate and wilful untruth. By right it should be characterized by even a shorter and more ugly word." We move to amend. Two words, Mr. President.—Philadelphia North American.

### AND COLUMBIA BLUSHES

"All men are liars." The psalmist was professing his love and duty to his God, and in explaining his thoughtless unbelief, exclaimed: "The sorrows of death compassed me and the pains of hell gat hold upon me. I found trouble and sorrow. \* \* \* I was afflicted. I said in my haste, 'All men are liars.'"

But the psalmist had turned to his God and in his trouble he found the apology for his temporary distrust in men.

"You are a liar." Thus answers Theodore Roosevelt, ex-officio the First Man in America, to United States Senator Thomas C. Platt; to United States Senator Benjamin R. Tillman; to United States Senator Joseph W. Bailey; to John F. Wallace, Panama canal engineer; to G. O. Shields; Herbert W. Bowen, minister to Venezuela; Henry M. Whitney, capitalist; ex-United States Senator William E. Chandler; democratic nominee for president, Alton B. Parker; Bellamy Storer, minister to Austria; Mrs. Bellamy Storer; Edward H. Harriman, railroad president.

Thus it would seem the psalmist of sacred history finds a lamentably weak imitation in the Roosevelt of profane history. In his sore affliction the psalmist hastily cried out "All men are liars." In the hour of his exposure Theodore Roosevelt, in the agony of his guilty soul, shouts from the summit of the presidency of the American republic to him who dares to differ with him "You are a liar." The psalmist was pertinent; the president, audacious. The psalmist, having defined men as liars humiliated himself before his God. Theodore Roosevelt, clothed with the dignity of the greatest office on earth, flaunts his bravado and repeats "You are a liar."

It is not the purpose of this writing

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to establish the truth or falsity of the statements of those who have joined issues with the president. It would consume vastly too much space here to relate the circumstances and the facts that could be offered in evidence convicting Mr. Roosevelt. Attention, however, is attracted to the methods resorted to by the occupant of the White House to crush those who dare to criticize him.

"You are a liar." The most repug-