

ed, but as a manner of support for the allies who were trying to defeat Roosevelt. He was smart enough to let it be known to Mr. Taft that there was nothing serious in his candidacy, and Taft made him secretary of state. Knox's strongest supporter and backer is Henry C. Frick, the coke and steel magnate. That shows what line his advice is likely to take when matters come up in the Taft cabinet. Moreover, Mr. Taft relies greatly on Knox, on his acumen, his wide knowledge of the law and his masterly grasp of governmental affairs. Knox is no more of a radical than Root is. He will advocate the simple life for our president instead of the strenuous. What Knox and his people want is quiet and a chance to breathe. And that is what he will advocate.

Murray Crane, the third member of the soft-pedal triplets, is a big manufacturer of paper, always a business man, who has had success in Massachusetts politics and who has come to be a power in the senate since he was elected as successor to George Frisbie Hoar. He has never been in sympathy with President Roosevelt nor his policies, and he has never made any secret of it. He has contended that irreparable injury was done to the business interests of the country by many of the acts of President Roosevelt, and he has always been opposed to whatever end of those policies the senate has had to consider.

He is a small, quiet, soft-spoken man, of incredible modesty, who seems always trying to efface himself. That, however, is but his manner. As a matter of fact, he gets around more, knows more people, can find out more things and has more influence than any other new senator and many of the older ones. He was opposed to the renomination of Mr. Roosevelt, and was really the backbone of the movement of the allies, which didn't amount to much, but which is now bobbing up as a strong factor in the Taft regime. He took hold of the Taft campaign when it was in the doldrums and put life and vigor and sense into it. He pulled it out of the hole at the critical moment last September when it seemed that everything was gone to sixes and sevens, from the republican viewpoint. After he had moused around for a while and had told Mr. Taft a few things, he got the campaign into its swing and, from that moment, there never was any doubt about Taft's election.

It would be odd if he were not strong with Mr. Taft, and he is. The big president likes him and has a great admiration for his ability and for his uncommon brand of commonsense. All of Crane's sympathies are with the business people. He is a business man himself, a man of large affairs. His strength in the senate is constantly increasing. He is always with the Aldrich-Hale combination, and he hates his colleague, Lodge, with a fervor that will keep that gentleman guessing, when his principal prop, Mr. Roosevelt, leaves public life.

No More Rough Riding

These are the tendencies and the attributes of the soft-pedal triplets, Root, Knox and Crane, the three men who, when the administration starts, will have most influence with the new president. Shall we have any more rough-riding? Not if they can prevent it, and they will try almighty hard. Tranquility—tranquility, peace and rest are their watchwords. Let it simmer down.

Meanwhile, Mr. Taft has inherited from Mr. Roosevelt a large and assorted bunch of actions, policies, crusades, commissions and contentions. He is the residuary legatee for as fine a collection of uncompleted forays as ever a man who came into power has taken over. He has actions against about every trust of any size in the country, in various stages of completedness. He has gunning expeditions unfinished against all sorts of combinations and individuals. He has partially completed expeditions against railroads, against public service corporations of all kinds, against individuals and against associations. Since election, Mr. Roosevelt has started some new ones and stirred up all the old ones. He will leave libel suits, land prosecutions, and more sorts of variegated trouble than could be recited in a page. Poor Taft has to take them all over. They are willed to him by his very kind and loving friend, T. R.

Being of patient and judicial mind, Mr. Taft will proceed to untangle things as well as he can. Although he was for years Mr. Roosevelt's secretary of war, nobody knows just how far he goes in indorsing all the Roosevelt crusades. What will happen undoubtedly is that the soft-pedal triplets will get together with him and advise him to stop as many of the crusades as

possible, and hurry the rest of them to completion. It is pretty tough to become president and find enough work on hand to last any reasonable person all his term, none of it initiated by the man who comes in.

However, the soft-pedal triplets will do the work. They will be on hand with advice, counsel and suggestion. Any person who thinks they will be remiss in pointing out to Mr. Taft that it is better for all hands to quit for a time and let things resume the normal does not know the inherent qualities of mind of these eminent statesmen. They have snuggled up to the throne for that exact purpose. The reactionaries are going to have an inning, or going to try to have one, at any rate.

The Aldrich-Hale crowd in the senate are all chirped up over the outlook. They think they will have support in the White House now, whereas they had nothing but a succession of swift kicks heretofore. They do not anticipate any trouble with Mr. Taft, either soon or in the future, and they are laying plans accordingly. This may be due to a false impression they have of Taft, but it is the fact, nevertheless. Every one of them will draw a long breath at noon on March 4th, dance a few jig steps and say: "There; that's over. Now let's get back to the regular order of things and go along in our accustomed way."

To prove it they are going to revise the tariff for Mr. Taft—revise it, but not so much that the revision will be visible to the naked eye. They will change a schedule here and there, but, in the end, the sacred policy of protection won't be harmed any. It may have a few bow windows and ells built on it, but it will be, intrinsically, the same old thing. They will do as Mr. Taft will request them to in his message convening congress in special session, and revise. But that word revise has an odd meaning in the lexicons of Nelson W. Aldrich and Eugene Hale. Besides, we must have revenue. Think that over.

And the soft-pedal triplets are getting ready to operate under their felting franchise. S-s-sh-h-h! Not so loud! Keep quiet! Let us have peace! They have tan-barked every approach to the White House, padded the walls of the cabinet room and put mattresses on the floor. Mr. Taft couldn't make a noise if he wanted to. Rest is what we need, they say, rest. H-u-s-h!

CIRCULATE THE COMMONER

Charles Donohue, Mayor of New Richmond, Wis., writes: "I firmly believe that if The Commoner could be placed in the houses of one-fourth of the intelligent voters of this country we would win the next national election. There are many intelligent, fair minded republicans whose minds are so poisoned by the subsidized press against Mr. Bryan that it is hard to get them to read The Commoner, but as sure as they do read it they soon become converts to our party. Therefore, I don't think our working democrats can do any more effective work for the party than increase the circulation of your paper."

CHARLES NAGEL, TRUST BUSTER

Mr. Taft's secretary of commerce and labor, the official who will be in chief charge of the work of gathering information concerning the trusts, is Mr. Charles Nagel of St. Louis. Mr. Nagel was, at the time of his selection for a cabinet office, attorney for the Standard Oil trust. He figured somewhat in the campaign of 1908. It will be remembered that Mr. Roosevelt charged that corporation representatives were supporting Mr. Bryan. Being called upon for particulars Mr. Roosevelt named Judge Priest of St. Louis as one of the corporation representatives that were supporting the democratic candidate. It was pointed out at the time that while Judge Priest was attorney for a prominent oil man in a particular case Charles Nagel, the attorney of record for the Standard Oil trust, was connected with the republican national committee and that Mr. Roosevelt did not appear to be greatly alarmed on that account. In its issue of January 19 the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, republican, printed from its Washington correspondent a dispatch predicting that Mr. Nagel would be chosen secretary of

commerce and labor. In that dispatch the Globe-Democrat correspondent said:

"It was also asserted today that no member of the Taft cabinet will come into his place with less of wire pulling and solicitation in his behalf. It is said that after a dignified presentation of Mr. Nagel's name from the right quarters, no campaign was carried on in his behalf, and that the only further representations made were at the solicitation of Mr. Taft, who sought additional information."

It is plain that all that was necessary to secure for this Standard Oil trust lawyer a place in Mr. Taft's cabinet was "a dignified presentation of his name from the right quarters."

Can it be possible that the Nagel appointment was one of the subjects under discussion when Messrs. Taft and Rockefeller met in Georgia during the month of January?

DOES ESMERALDA COUNTY, NEVADA, GET THE MULE?

"Major Minnamascot," the mule offered by Mr. Bryan during the campaign of 1908 to the precinct showing the largest per cent of gain, located in the county showing the largest per cent of gain, will go to Esmeralda county, Nevada, unless some other county can establish a better claim.

The Commoner has carefully considered all claims submitted. The basis for the computation of results was made in this way. The vote of 1908 was compared with the average of the three preceding elections, 1904, 1900, and 1896.

Esmeralda county, Nevada, cast 384 votes for the democratic electors in 1896, 289 in 1900, 380 in 1904, or an average vote of 351 for the three campaigns. The vote in 1908 was 2,787. Subtracting the average of 351 from 2,787 leaves a net gain of 2,436. Dividing the net gain of 2,436 by the average vote of 351 gives the remarkable average of 694 per cent.

Williams county, North Dakota, stands next with 573 per cent.

The average attained by Esmeralda county is not approached by any county, even by comparison with the 1904 vote alone. Montgomery county, Ohio, shows a remarkable gain of 16,663 votes over 1904, or 423 per cent; compared with the average of three preceding campaigns brings it down to a little over 72 per cent. Lancaster, Mr. Bryan's home county, shows a gain of over 331 per cent over 1904, and a gain of over 92 per cent over the three preceding campaigns.

These percentages are computed from official election returns in New York World Almanac of 1909.

If there are any protests against this ruling they should be filed with The Commoner at an early day.

REPUBLICAN EXTRAVAGANCE

Here is an Associated Press dispatch in which republican extravagance is confessed:

During the sessions, Chairman Tawney of the appropriations committee in the house declared that the expenditures of the government had at no time except in war increased as rapidly as during the past eight years, primarily caused by popular and executive demands upon congress for appropriations for the exercise of rights and functions belonging to the states and the abnormal and unnecessary war expenditures in time of peace.

Appropriations during the past eight years, including the fiscal year 1910 he said were equal to \$7,007,839,183 and he declared that at the end of the present fiscal year there would be a deficit of \$150,000,000. He severely criticised the executive branch for submitting estimates of expenditures far in excess of estimates of receipts. He placed the appropriations of the expiring administration at \$1,044,014,298.

Mr. Livingston, of Georgia, the ranking minority member of the committee, characterized the appropriations as stupendous, saying they exceeded last session by \$35,616,754 and greater than at any two sessions prior to 1898. He declared congress had been commended for the millions it had refused to appropriate, "notwithstanding the pressure brought to bear by the executive and the badgering of innumerable interests on all sides clamoring to get their hands into the treasury."

Senator Culberson submitted a statement covering the past seven years, stating that the increase of appropriations for 1910 shows an increase over those for 1903 of over \$328,000,000 or about 51 per cent and that the treasury's estimated expenditures for 1910 exceed by over \$375,000,000, an increase of 63 per cent in eight years.