



By THEODORE ROOSEVELT

A Remedy for Some Forms of Selfish Legislation

Reprinted from an article by Theodore Roosevelt in *The Outlook*, by special arrangement with *The Outlook*, of which Theodore Roosevelt is Contributing Editor. Copyright, 1910, by The Outlook Company. All Rights Reserved.

THE August number of the *World's Work* contains an article which is of interest to all who are concerned in the vital subject to which we give the somewhat foggy title of "Political Reform." The article, for obvious reasons anonymous, is written by a member of congress who, the editors of the *World's Work* say, has served for more than ten years in the house of representatives, has acted on many important committees, and has been successful in "getting things" for his constituency. The article is described as "showing the reason why the 'pork-barrel', special tariff favors, and private pension bills become law," the reason being, to quote the words of the author, that "the dictum of the constituency to the congressman is 'Get all you can for us.' There are no restrictions placed upon his method of getting it."

Until the American people themselves become more national and less local, until constituencies cease to regard their congressmen as solicitors at the national treasury, congress will continue to enact iniquitous groups of local favors into national legislation. This serious charge against the American people—for which there is unquestionably altogether too much justification—the author proceeds to substantiate by relating some of his own experiences with constituents which, however surprising they may seem to the general reader, will seem almost commonplace to all who know how the average constituency does in actual practice treat its congressman. The writer sets forth the fact that, in the first place, ninety per cent. of the letters which a congressman receives are requests for special favors to be obtained in some way or other, directly or indirectly, from the United States treasury. For instance, while the Payne-Aldrich tariff law was under discussion, this particular congressman received in May, 1909, the following letter from the secretary of a powerful commercial association in his district:

"I have been instructed by the board of directors of this association to advise you that at special meeting May 20, a resolution, copy of which is enclosed, was unanimously adopted, urging our representatives in congress to use every endeavor to have the present tariff in (mentioning three of the products of the industries referred to) increased one cent per pound and the present tariff on (mentioning the other two products) increased half a cent per pound. I wish to further advise you that we have heard from Senator and he informs us that he will take care of this matter in the senate."

When the bill was finally passed, the congressman succeeded in adding half a cent a pound to the duty on two of these products and in preventing any reduction on the others. A year later, when the popular clamor against the bill had become acute, the same association that had asked him to vote for increases wrote to the congressman denouncing the bill as "the most iniquitous measure ever enacted by congress" and requesting him to explain by letter why he had voted with "the Reactionaries" to pass the bill. When it was pointed out to the association that it had urged the congressman to obtain an increase of duty on the products in which it was interested, it dropped its demand for an explanation. An influential newspaper published in his district editorially commended him while the bill was under debate for his "intelligent efforts" to increase the duty on manufactured articles in which the district was interested, and a year later the same newspaper in the same editorial column denounced him as one of "the legislative banditti responsible for the Payne-Aldrich measure."

River and harbor legislation is another field in which local selfishness vies itself, to the exclusion of national needs. In this case requests are not made by letter but by delegations which come to Washington besieging their senators and representatives. "There is," says the frank writer of this article, "figuratively speaking, between \$50,000,000 and \$80,000,000 on the table to be divided. The committee divides it so that every one is satisfied, at least to a reasonable extent." Every one, that is, but the people at large, the people who have no special interest to serve, and who feel keenly indignant that the rivers and harbors of the United States are developed in a fashion so inferior to that of Europe.

No, are all the requests for legislation merely. One constituent desired to have this particular congressman put his name on the free mailing list for all public documents. That this would be impossible, because it would mean delivering to the applicant several tons of documents every month, does not in the slightest detract from the interest of the fact elicited by an investigation that the applicant was the manufacturer of an article made from waste paper, and the public doc-

uments would afford a very useful source of raw material.

Is there a remedy for such a state of things? The answer is, yes; and, moreover, it is a remedy which congress can itself immediately provide.

There is no complete remedy, of course. No scheme can be devised which can prevent such a request as that of the constituent last named who wished public documents to use in his private paper business. Requests like this merely mean that in every district individuals will always be found who will request improper favors. As regards these people, all that can be done is to create a vigorous public opinion—an opinion which shall not only make it uncomfortable for any man to demand such favors, but which shall cordially support the congressman in refusing them and hold him accountable for granting them.

Congress has now, and has long had, the power to rid its members of almost all the improper pressure brought to bear upon the individual by special interests—great and small, local and metropolitan—on such subjects as tariff legislation, river and harbor legislation, and pension legislation. Congress has not exercised this power; chiefly because of what I am bound to regard as a very shortsighted and unwelcome belief that it is beneath its dignity to delegate any of its functions. By passing a rule which would forbid the reception or passage of any pension bill save the pension legislation recommended by the commissioner of pensions (this of course to be rejected or amended as congress saw fit, but not so amended as to include any special or private legislation), congress would at once do away with the possibility of its members being subject to local pressure for improper private pension bills, and at the same time guarantee proper treatment for the veteran who really does deserve to have everything done for him that the country can afford.

In the case of the tariff and the river and harbor legislation, what is needed in each case is ample provision for a commission of the highest possible grade, composed of men who thoroughly know the subject, and who possess every attribute required for the performance of the great and difficult task of framing in outline the legislation that the country, as distinguished from special interests, really needs. These men, from the very nature of the case, will be wholly free from the local pressure of special interests so keenly felt by every man who is dependent upon the vote of a particular district every two years for his continuance in public life. Such a river and harbor commission could report, and probably would report, a great and comprehensive national scheme for river and harbor improvements fit to be considered by the people as a whole upon its merits, and not dependent for enactment into law upon a system of log-rolling designed to placate special interests which are powerful in each of many score congressional districts. Such a tariff commission could get at the facts of labor cost here and abroad by expert inquiry, and not by the acceptance of interested testimony; such a commission could consider dispassionately the probable effect upon the entire social and economic body of all changes in any given branch of the tariff, and its recommendations would represent the exercise of careful judgment from a disinterested standpoint. Such a commission could work in harmony with the commissioner of labor so as to insure that the laborers for whom the tariff is passed get the full benefit of it; for the major part of the benefit of a protective tariff should unquestionably go to the wage-workers.

Even under such conditions of tariff-making errors might be committed, but they would be merely those errors of disinterested judgment incidental to every kind of public or, for the matter of that, private effort, and the work would not be hampered from the beginning by the need of gratifying private selfishness.

It is only in this way that tariff legislation, river and harbor legislation, and pension legislation can be treated from the standpoint of principle and not from the very low standpoint of privilege and preference. The obstacle hitherto to the adoption of such a method of treatment has come from the queer dislike felt by so many congressional leaders to a course of action which they (quite unjustifiably) feel would in some way be a limitation of their powers. I think this feeling is passing. It is simply another instance of the kind of feeling which makes some executives suspicious about delegating their work to any subordinate, and which makes many voters, who have not pondered the matter deeply, desire to elect great numbers of people on a ticket of such length that it is out of the question for any except professional politicians to know much about them.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

SIT TIGHT.

[The departure of Secretary Hitchcock for Europe leaves the government with neither cabinet nor president in Washington.—News Note.]
Taft is up at Beverly studying the putt;
Knox is off vacationing—office door is shut;
Wickersham is wandering, quieting his nerves;
Ballinger is telling how people miss his curves;
Dickinson is dallying in the summer breeze;
Hitchcock has gone hurrying off and over seas;
Nagel takes his ease somewhere, so does Sec. Mac Veagh—
But!
The government goes on in its pleasant way.
Oh, but this is wonderful! Can it ever be
That we do not need a staff in Washington, D. C.?
Not a soul upon the job, and still the country lives!
No committees pouring lovely white-wash through their stives;
No one pointing now with pride or viewing with alarm—
Just the hustle-bustle in the city, town and farm.
Let's keep still about it while the country runs itself,
Crops a-crowding fences, while the folks pile up the pelf.
Capitol deserted by the men of name and fame—
But!
The gentle government is going on the same!
Oh, but this is wonderful! Can it ever be
That we do not need a staff in Washington, D. C.?
—Jefferson Toombs in Harper's Weekly.

EXPENSE IN CRIPPEN'S CASE RECORD IN LONDON.

Scotland Yard Never Before Expended \$25,000 on One Crime.

It is estimated that pursuit, capture and trial of Dr. Crippen will cost the taxpayers of London \$25,000. Never before has Scotland Yard spent so much in the pursuit of any criminal.

A large item in "the Yard's" Crippen bill is the cost of telegrams and cables giving descriptions of Crippen, which were sent to many continental, American and Canadian police headquarters. This item will amount to \$2,500.

Twenty-five thousand large posters, containing descriptions of Crippen and Miss Le Neve, with reproductions of their photographs and handwriting, were scattered broadcast up and down two continents. Fifty clerks were engaged night and day for a long time in wrapping, addressing and mailing these posters. That will be a costly item.

Then there is the expense of sending Inspector Dew to Canada and the expense of another detective and a wardress who have gone to Quebec to look after the prisoners on their way back to England. Then there is the reward of \$1,250, which will have to be paid to Captain Kendall of the steamship Montrose. There is, too, the cost of the long coroner's inquest, with the fees for analytical chemists.

The trial of Crippen will not be very expensive, nor will it last long. English criminal courts move with swiftness and without technicalities. It is not expected that Crippen's trial will consume more than three or four days.

If he is sentenced to death he will be hanged on the third Monday morning following the day of his conviction. Convicted criminals under a recent statute have the right to appeal, but the appeal court works swiftly and, like the lower court, pays little attention to technicalities.

NOTED LIBERIAN IN LONDON.

Widow of First President at Age of Ninety-two.
As the republic of Liberia is attracting a little of the world's attention at the present time it is interesting to note that there still lives near Battersea park, London, Mrs. Jane Roberts, widow of Joseph J. Roberts, who was elected the first president of Liberia in 1847.

Mrs. Roberts was born in America in 1818, the daughter of a Baptist minister named Waring, and went to Liberia with her parents, both octogenarians, in 1824. She married Roberts in 1836 and visited with him most of the European courts in the fifties. She lived for over seventy years of her life in Liberia before going to London.

PRINCE A POOR LAWYER.

Waste Land Grows Rubber.
Wide reaches of waste land on the island of Singapore are now being set out in rubber plants, which seem to do well. In Malacca there were formerly square miles of land covered with lang, the hiding place of tigers and other big game, which have been transformed into fine rubber plantations.

A Pacific Coast Trip.

(Continued from last week.)

Arrived in San Francisco in the afternoon. Trade winds blowing in from the northwest made wraps feel comfortable. The remainder of the day was spent in visiting the different stores, and learning the ways of the city. In the first place San Francisco is located at the head of a peninsula between the ocean and the bay. Here is a great metropolis, with all that the name implies, a city with everything doing. Even an occasional earthquake comes along and shakes things up, supposedly just to be doing something. The city is rebuilding rapidly since the great fire, and the horrid scars of the earthquake are becoming obscured. With a very well informed and gentlemanly guide to entertain and point out the places of interest, and most of the party wearing furs in June, we first visited the U.S. mint. The party is conducted all through the building, being permitted to see our gold and silver money made at the rate of 150 dollars per minute.

From there we go to View Point. Here we get a grand panoramic view of the entire city. Then to Golden Gate Park, the third largest park in the world; 1,050 acres having the Pacific ocean for its extreme western boundary; greater part of area was formerly shifting sand dunes. Seemingly the sites of most of our large cities are at first very uninviting. The original site of San Francisco was so barren that many of the pioneers doubted if a place of much importance could spring up there. Here in the park we visit the little Japanese tea garden and enjoy a good cup of tea. Then to the zoo, containing fine specimens, the largest grizzly bear in captivity, too old to get up to meals, and fed by a small brown bear. At the children's play ground, luncheon is served. From here we visit the large museum, containing many ancient and historic relics from all parts of the world. The museum is indeed very fine. Then to Huntington Falls, and Stowe Lake, also visiting many other places in the park. Leaving the park we go to the ocean, past the old Dutch wind mills and life saving station, arriving at the Cliff House. We stop long enough to see the seals playing on the world-famed seal rocks. Then to Sutro Heights. A beautiful spot, abounding in beautiful flowers the year around. A magnificent view of the ocean is obtained here and the grounds are set with thousands of dollars worth of Italian statuary. Resuming our journey we pass around land's end, getting a good view of Mile Rock Light House, near where the Rio Janeiro sank with great loss of life and millions of dollars in gold and silver. Leaving here we get an excellent view of Golden Gate, and the various forts located on the commanding points. The general guide informed us that the hinges of the gate were stolen by some gold hunters, and the Golden Gate is now left open and is the entrance to the straits connecting San Francisco bay with the Pacific ocean. Continuing we pass through the residence and business section of city, over Nob Hill to China town. In the evening we take the ferry across the bay to Oakland, and here board the train for Portland, Oregon. Our train leaving in two sections, the first composed of ten cars and the second having eight cars. On reaching the Sacramento river, both trains were at once placed on a ferry boat and taken across the river. A remarkably large ferry.

The next day being Saturday, we enjoyed the scenery, the country about Mount Shasta and Shasta Springs is fine, and Rogue river valley is especially good. Some of the finest cherries seen anywhere grow in this valley.

Arriving in Portland, Sunday morning, we found this to be one of the most beautiful cities of the west. If you are crowded for time, the best way to "do" the city is to take an observation car, taking in practically all places of interest. Portland is situated on the banks of the Willamette river and remember, it is a great sea port, and from any of the bridges you will see craft from all parts of the globe, discharging miscellaneous cargoes and loading wheat, flour, hops, wool, and lumber for foreign ports. As the car mounts far above the city by easy winding grade we reach Portland Heights and Council Crest. From this point, where the Indians formerly held council, on may look over Portland, across Willamette river, to and beyond the Columbia river to Vancouver on the Washington shore.

A short stop at the Lewis & Clark inside the forestry building. This is high, built of logs. The 62 columns supporting the interior galleries and roof are 52 ft. long, 6 ft. in diameter at base and 5 ft. at the top; fine specimens of Oregon fir logs.

Portland is called the "Rose City." We were fortunate in seeing the roses at their best and there is a profusion of them all over the city, of most perfect beauty. The city is building rap-

idly of large steel structures and strictly up-to-date. Next morning on board the steamer started for a ride of 114 miles up the Columbia river, under the bridge of the Hill system's North Bank road, the greatest steel bridge in the world, past Vancouver, once famous as the chief post of the Hudson Bay company, continuing on past the many salmon fish traps and through the locks where the boat is raised high enough to float on beyond the rapids. The fish traps are wheels about thirty feet in diameter; revolving in the water they scoop up the fish deposit them into a trough which conveys them into a boat or onto a dock. An interesting trip, passing fine farms and wooded hills and higher mountains, under shadows of towering cliffs, so on to the "Dales" of the broad and beautiful Columbia, the only river that cuts directly through a mountain range. Returning to Portland about 10 p. m. Leaving next morning for Tacoma and Seattle. The Southern Pacific road is making extensive improvements between Portland and Tacoma, with a number of spurs running off into the heavy Oregon woods. Tacoma is a wealthy city, not so rushing. The people enjoy life as they go and seem to be satisfied to be comfortable. Thirty-five miles beyond the entirely different city of Seattle. Arriving at Seattle about noon, secured rooms at the Hotel Metro- pole, being centrally located. After lunch we walked around the city a little to get our bearings and get acquainted with a few of the policemen, so as to be on safe side. In the evening Stokes phoned to J. W. Hupp. Hupp called and after Mrs. Hupp had arranged over the phone with McCook friends for a picnic on the morrow at Fautleroy park, we all strolled out into the park and listened to concert by the band. Next morning, by appointment, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Thompson, Mrs. Ike Moore and daughter Edna, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bosworth, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hupp and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McManigal met at the totom pole in Pioneer square and took the electric line about 14 miles out on a point projecting into the sound. Fine grove and pretty beach made an ideal picnic ground. We could see the boats passing to and from Tacoma and the ocean liners putting out to sea. Enjoyed a fine time, a good visit and a splendid lunch. Next day we accompanied Mr. Will Coleman to Bremerton and visited the U. S. navy yard, saw the huge dry docks and battle ships, Oregon, Albany, Colorado, Washington, Pennsylvania and transport Dix. Bremerton is located on an island about fifteen miles out from Seattle, well protected by other islands. The waters of Puget sound are in most parts very deep, making an ideal port for large ships. Bremerton is destined to become one of the great naval points in the world. Returning to Seattle about 5:30 p. m., were met at the wharf by J. H. Moore with his Packard six, and driven to the fine home of W. T. Coleman. Mrs. Coleman had prepared a splendid four-course dinner for twenty friends, formerly all of them lived in McCook. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hupp, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Byrer, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McManigal, Mrs. Ike Moore, Mrs. S. M. Cochran, Mrs. S. H. Colvin, Mr. Ray Colvin, Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bosworth, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Coleman and family. A very enjoyable evening indeed. One of the many points of interest was a visit with W. T. Coleman and J. H. Moore to their big lumber camp on Vancouver island.

(Continued next week.)

R. F. D. No. 3.

Farmers are preparing to sow wheat. Mrs. Jacob and children took Martha Nothnagel home, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wishon and children and Martha Nothnagel took the train for Cedar Bluffs, last Saturday.

Charles Nothnagle has made a concrete cellar.

Hawkins is threshing this week.

Large crowd at the platform dance on last Saturday night.

R. F. D. No. 4.

Cool nights.

Lots of melons going to town.

Better put a Yale lock on your groceries.

Frost, this week. How's that for August?

Farmers complain that articles are stolen from their rigs while in town.

Uncle Joe Dack has just returned from the mountain, where he reports a recent severe freeze.

The mail carrier's long face announces the fact that Mrs. M. S. Jimeron and two young sons have gone east on a visit.

House Cleaning

On The Farm Simplified and Lightened By

Old Dutch Cleanser

Housecleaning has no terrors for the housewife who uses this wonderful, all-round Cleanser. It keeps everything in and about the farmhouse in spick and span condition in **half the time** and with **half the labor** required by old-fashioned cleansers. This one cleanser

Cleans, Scrubs Scours, Polishes

In the kitchen, dining room, sitting room and bed rooms, and does it quicker and better. The best thing for pots, kettles, pans, floors, in the dairy, etc. No caustic or acids. Hygienic. This ideal cleanser works mechanically—not chemically.

Try It Now



He Met it on the Road. He didn't wait for prosperity to come. The very minute they told him it was on the road, he said: "Maybe the horses'll get stalled, and the driver all froze up; so I'll just meet it halfway, and help get the wheels out the mire, and give it a fresh start; then, when it looks like smooth sailing, I'll hop on, and take a seat by the driver, and we'll go whistling into town!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Observation by the Cynic.

"The closest the average man ever gets to thinking," says the Philosopher of Folly, "is when he thinks he's thinking."

F. E. Whitney Walter Hosler

WHITNEY & HOSIER Draymen

Prompt Services, Courteous Treatment, Reasonable Prices

GIVE US A TRIAL

Office First Door South of DeGroot's Phones 13 and Black 244

Mike Walsh DEALER IN POULTRY & EGGS

Old Rubber, Copper and Brass
Highest Market Price Paid in Cash
New location just across street in P. Walsh building. McCook

WILLIAMSON HAFFNER CO.

ENGRAVERS PRINTERS

OUR CUTS TALK

DENVER, COLO.

PATENTS

OVER 65 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

TRADE MARKS DESIGNS COPYRIGHTS &c.

Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain our opinion free whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. HANDBOOK on Patents sent free. Oldest agency for securing patents. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice, without charge, in the

Scientific American.

A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, \$3 a year; four months, \$1. Sold by all newsdealers.

MUNN & Co. 361 Broadway, New York
Branch Office, 635 F St., Washington, D. C.