Roosevelt's Letter of Acceptance

ance was made public September 12. In the beginning Mr. Roosevelt says "It is difficult to find out from the utterances of our opponents what are the real issues upon which they propose to wage this campaign."

He charges that the democrats have abandoned most of the principles upon which they have insisted during the last eight years, and he adds: "They now seem at a loss, both as to what it is they really believe, and as to how firmly they shall assert their belief in anything" He ventures the prediction that they will not resolutely press a single issue, and act. he says that "as soon as they raise one they shrink from it and seek to explain it away. Such an attitude is the probably inevitable result of the effort to improvise convictions for when thus improvised it is natural that they should be held in a tentative manner."

Mr. Roosevelt contends that the republican party is troubled with no such difficulties. He says: "We do not have to guess at our own convictions and then correct the guess if it seems unpopular. The principles we profess are those in which we believe with heart and soul and strength. Men may differ from us; but they cannot accuse us of trickiness or insincerity. The policies we have pursued are those which we honestly hold as essential to the national welfare and repute. Our actions speak even louder than words for the faith that is in us. We base our appeal upon what we have done and are doing; upon our record of administration and legislation during the rast seven years in which we have had complete control of the government. We intend in the future to carry on the government in the same way that we have carried it on in the past."

He charges that the democratic party "cannot be trusted to govern the country, claiming that it has changed all its convictions." He adds that "in 1896 the republican party came into power and in 1900 it repower on certain definite pledges, each of which was scrupulously fulfilled.

Mr. Roosevelt contends that the administration's work has been so well done that its opponents do not care is irrevocably settled by law unless to make a truthful recital of that the people keep in control of the govwork because such a recital would leave no room for adverse comment."

He cites Panama as an instance in point. He says that the administration acted in the Panama case with good faith, extraordinary patience and large generosity. He declares that the administration's foreign policy has been misrepresented and insists that refuses to put in its platform any the government "behaved towards all statement that the question is settled." nations, strong or weak, with courtesy, dignity and justice. He points with pride to the settlement of the Alaska boundry line: to the administration in Porto Rico, to the acquistion of Hawaii, to "the part we played in China." He defends his pension order wherein, by executive decree it was provided that when a veteran of the civil war reached the age of 62 he should be entitled to a pension of \$6 per month and maintains that this order was made in the discharge of a duty imposed upon the president by an act of congress which requires

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Mr. Roosevelt's letter of accept-the executive to make regulations to govern the subordinates of the pension office in determining who are entitled to pensions. He says that President Cleveland exercised this power by fixing 75 as the total disability age and that President McKinley established 65 as the half disability age.

> Mr. Roosevelt says that "in certain great centers and with certain great interests," his critics strive to make capital out of the settlement of the anthracite coal strike and the suit against the Northern Securities company and says that it is contended that because of these the administration should be thrown from power. He adds, however, that his opponents do not dare to openly condemn either

> To those who are opposed to public ownership of the coal mines, the president says; "It was only this action by the president which prevented the movement for national ownership of the coal fields from gaining what might well have been an irresistible

Mr. Roosevelt plainly sneers at the attitude of democrats on the money question saying that being unable to agree among themselves, "they have apparently thought it expedient to avoid any committal on these subjects and individually each to follow his particular bent." He suggests that the very nearest approach to a majority judgment seems to be that it is now inexpedient to assert their convictions one way or the other and that the establishment of the gold standard by the republican party should not be disturbed unless there is an alteration in the relative quantity of production of silver and gold. He declares that the republican party stands for the gold standard as fixed by the usage and verdict of the business world, and adds that that standard is of "permanent organic policy." He says that the single gold standard was established as the measure of our monetary value by the act of congress of March 14, 1900. He says that the republican party "can be trusted to take additional action necessary to improve and strenthen our monetary system, and our opponents cannot be so trusted." He makes apparently direct reference to Judge Parker's famous gold telegram when he says: "The fundamental fact is that in a popular government, such as ours, no policy ernment men who believe in that policy as a matter of deep rooted conviction. In another place he says "It is idle to say that the monetary standard of the nation is irrevocably fixed so long as the party which at the last election cast approximately forty-six per cent. of the total vote

On the question of capital and labor Mr. Roosevelt says that if continued in power the republican party will continue to carry out the policy it has been pursuing. He reiterates the paragraph relative to capital and labor appearing in his speech of acceptance.

On the trust question Mr. Roosevelt says that the anti-trust laws are now being administered with entire efficiency. He promises that if they need amendment or addition the need will be met." He admits that the failure of officials charged with the duty of enforcing laws to take the necessary procedure is responsible for the multiplication of trusts and their increase in power, but he says that this criticism applies not to republican administrations but to their democratic predecessors,

He admits Judge Parker's contention that what is most needed is offi-



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cials having both the disposition and the courage to enforce existing laws and he says that this need has been met under the administration.

On the tariff question Mr. Roosevelt stands boldly for an adequate protective system. He admits "from time to time schedules must be rearranged and readjusted to meet the shifting needs of the country," and he adds: "This can safely be done only by those who are committed to the cause of the protective system. He says that the democrats obtained power in 1892 on platform declaring a protective tariff unconstitutional. He contends "the effort to put this declaration into practice was one of the causes of the general national prostration lasting from 1893 to 1897." He says that the protective tariff policy, "having become part of the very fibre of the country should now be accepted as definitely established." Mr. Roosevelt further says "the most welcome and impressive fact established by the last census is the wide and even distribution of wealth among all classes of our countrymen."

After devoting several pages to the tariff question, Mr. Roosevelt concludes that feature of his letter by saying: "In closing what I have to say about the system of promoting American industry, let me add a word of cordial agreement with the policy of in some way including within its benefits by appropriate legislation the Company, Chicago, for free bottle of Drake's American Merchant Marine. It is not, Palmetto Wine. Stops Constipation in a day.

creditable to us as a nation that our great export and import trade should be well nigh exclusively in the hands of foreigners."

On the proposed reduction of the army Mr. Roosevelt says it is absurd to talk about reducing an army of 60,000 men which is taking care of the interests of over 80,000,000 people. He contends that the army is now relatively smaller than it was in the days of Washington and says if the democrats came into power they could not reduce the army below its present size "without greatly impairing its efficiency and abandoning part of the national duty."

Referring to the alleged deficit of more than \$40,000,000, Mr. Roosevelt says that this deficit is imaginary. He says that comparing the current or ordinary expenditures for the two years there was a surplus of nearly \$80,000,000 for the year 1900 and only a little more than \$8,000,000 for the year that is just closed; but he says this diminution was brought about designedly for the abolition of the war taxes.

Mr. Roosevelt says that the public work "has never been conducted with a higher degree of honesty and efficiency than at the present time." He adds: "Of course, wrong has occasionally occurred, but it has been relent-

No Stomach Trouble