

CAMPAIGN CORRUPTION

Under date of Washington, Jan. 7, the New York World correspondent says:

"Corrupt practices resulting from enormous campaign contributions and the necessity of congress putting an end to the lavish use of money in elections was discussed by Representative W. Bourke Cockran, of New York, today in support of his bill before the committee on election of president, vice president and representatives in congress. While members look upon Mr. Cockran's suggestions as utopian, they were impressed with his argument, and gave him the closest attention.

"I am now talking to politicians who play the game and know the rules," Mr. Cockran said in opening his remarks to the committee, "and I want to have it understood that this is not a partisan matter. The democratic party is as culpable as the republican party. The republicans generally get the most money and can spend more. The democrats would use just as much as the republicans if they could get it.

"No one knows how much it costs to run a campaign. It has been said that \$1,500,000 was sufficient, and that it was all one of the parties had in the last campaign, but we all know it has been charged that as much as \$15,000,000 and \$16,000,000 has been used.

"This bill provides simply for the making public of campaign contributions of more than \$50. It does not create a single additional office, nor does it do anything revolutionary. It lets in the light of day on something about which there has always been the greatest mystery.

"During a campaign the air is always charged with suspicion. During the last campaign we had the spectacle of the two candidates engaged in crimination and recrimination about corruption in campaign funds, and I must admit that one of the candidates successfully refuted everything said about the campaign fund of his party. While certain facts were denied, the

use of money was not denied. Such a charge is injurious to our country. There is but one remedy and that is absolute publicity in all campaign expenditures.

"One million and a half dollars is absolutely needed for the conduct of a campaign, without one cent for corruption! The financial world has too great powers. I do not believe the financial powers can say who shall be president, but do believe they have a power similar to that of France, Austria and Italy, which nations can say who shall not be pope. The financial powers can say they will not contribute money for the support of a certain candidate, and that resolves itself into a veto.

"I believe the government should assume the cost of carrying on a campaign. Campaigns are essential to the existence and preservation of the nation. I should be in favor of assigning to two and not more than three chairmen of the great national parties headquarters here in Washington, and furnishing them with clerks, and permitting them to have the printing of documents done at the government printing office and of extending the franking system to enable them to circulate the documents, and to have the speakers which would be honored free of cost by the railroads.

"These are the great expenses of a campaign, and while on the face these recommendations appear radical, in reality they are not. The headquarters would cost nothing for the two or three months and the extension of the franking privilege would not mean a great deal, as they have it now. Why, I sent out 100,000 copies of a rather indifferent speech myself during the last campaign because the National Committee would not use it. It was too democratic for the Democrats. Such a campaign would result not in a competition of extravagance, but a competition of economy.

"It is the duty of congress to reduce the importance of boodles and increase the importance of discussion. The public cannot understand why this and that man is made an Ambassador or gets some high position, and he is immediately subjected to the charge that he 'came up handsomely.' It has been charged, and I have seen it in print, but I don't believe it, that the ambassador to Italy is to be advanced because of a large campaign contribution.

"I am not seeking to secure an advantage. All I advocate is the making public of all campaign contributions. I don't object to contributions. All of us cannot be speakers and writers. If a rich man wants to contribute he has as much right as any one else to do so. Only let's make it public. Let the speaker contribute his voice, the artist his cartoon, and if it is the only way a man can show his enthusiasm, let him write his check. But do it in public. A whisper in politics has always meant something hidden or corrupt. By its subscribers a party should be known. If this were the case now, instead of a roll of infamy it would be a roll of honor.

"Let Mr. Morgan contribute his \$2,000,000 and Mr. Rockefeller his \$1,000,000 if they wish to, and Mr. Canfield, who maintains a hospitable mansion in New York which opens only to the elect, but let it be known what they subscribe.

"The light of publicity is the life of virtue. A contribution from a corporation to any party is nothing more nor less than larceny, because a corporation cannot make a contribution, and if an official does make it, it is no less

larceny. It might not be larceny if all the stockholders and bondholders voted it, but if one single stockholder objected it would be larceny.

"I do not expect to reform the system in a night, but I believe that if publicity be given campaign contributions, it will do much toward rooting out corruption."

The World Almanac

The New York World's Almanac for 1905 has been received, and it is even better than the yearly almanac issued by the World in years gone by. This is about the greatest compliment one can pay to the current number. A well known literary man remarked some years ago that with a library consisting of the Bible, Shakespeare, a good dictionary and the World Almanac a man had in comparatively small compass the history, the literature, the science and the statistics of the world. The amount of valuable information crowded into the World's Almanac is little short of marvelous, and it will repay its cost many times over during the year.

Not to be Fooled

Uncle Cyrus had come up from the country to visit his nephew, Charles, in town. Charles had shown the old gentleman the sights until he was at his wits' end for further entertainment. One morning, however, he noticed in the paper that "The Imperial Italian Band" was still giving its celebrated open air concerts. Uncle Cyrus said he should like to hear them play. As the concert progressed Uncle Cyrus waxed enthusiastic. Toward the end of the program a solo on the slide trombone was announced. It was a really fine performance, and the audience demanded an encore with a storm of applause. Charles noted that his uncle was among the most appreciative, but was somewhat puzzled by the smile which played around the corners of the old man's mouth, for the selection had been mournful rather than gay. At the conclusion of the encore, when the applause had finally died away, Charles turned to his uncle: "That was fine, wasn't it?" "Mighty fine, mighty fine," was the reply. "But you city folks are easy fooled. He didn't fool me a bit. I knew all the time he was playing that he wasn't really swallering that thing!"—Youth's Companion.

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