



In a letter addressed to the public printer, President Roosevelt said that if the reformed spelling does not meet with popular approval it will be abandoned so far as public documents are concerned.

The fourteenth annual convention of the irrigation congress met at Boise, Idaho, September 4. The following officers were elected: President, Governor Chamberlain of Oregon; first vice president, John Henry Smith, Salt Lake City; second vice president, B. H. Maxson, Reno, Nev.; third vice president, George W. Barstow, Texas; secretary, D. H. Anderson, Chicago. The congress adopted resolutions protesting against further concessions in favor of Philippine sugar.

At a Labor Day address delivered at Springfield, Ill., Richard Yates, republican and former governor, attacked Speaker Cannon for his attitude toward organized labor. Ben F. Caldwell, democrat and former congressman attacked Speaker Cannon's labor record, and when Governor Yates came to speak he said: "Mr. Caldwell has thrown down the gauntlet for me to defend Speaker Cannon, but I am not prepared to do so. I do not propose to let Congressman Caldwell put me in an attitude of defending the rule of Joseph G. Cannon, speaker of the house of representatives. I decline the honor, thank you. I am for an eight-hour day and for the direct vote on the United States senator by the people. I am opposed to the packing of the committee room so that a bill can not be gotten out. I am opposed to the action of the United States senate in killing the universal eight-hour labor bill. I decline the challenge of Mr. Caldwell to defend the attitude of Joseph G. Cannon or the United States senate. Neither is the republican party in favor of these things."

Herman Oelrichs, the New York millionaire, died suddenly, September 3.

President Roosevelt will return to Washington from Oyster Bay October 1.

At the election held September 4, the republicans, as usual, carried Vermont. Proctor, the republican candidate for governor, defeated Clement, the fusion candidate by a normal republican majority.

On the stump in the Maine campaign Secretary of War Taft, defended Representative Littlefield and denounced Samuel Gompers and other labor leaders for their opposition.

Governor O. Davidson was renominated in the republican primaries for Wisconsin.

Adolph Segal, William F. North and Marshall S. Collingwood have been arrested at Philadelphia on charges connected with the wrecking of the Real Estate Trust company.

Instances of grafting have been exposed by Chief Engineer Stevens in connection with the Panama canal.

Both the democratic and republican parties of Arizona have adopted resolutions opposing joint statehood. Mark Smith was named as the democratic

candidate for congress and W. C. Cooper was named by the republicans. This is Mark Smith's eighth nomination.

In a speech delivered at Rockland, Maine, Speaker Cannon said: "Stranger things might happen than Roosevelt's being president until 1912."

The republican convention for California nominated for governor Representative James N. Gillett. The convention adopted resolutions asking the enactment of a tariff law providing that for a period of three years building material may be admitted free for San Francisco uses; also favoring the passage of law providing for the exclusion of Japanese and all other kinds of Asiatic labor.

Governor Folk is seriously ill at Jefferson City, Mo.

The "Bryan Home Folks," who met Mr. Bryan in New York, formed an organization and will be entertained at Mr. Bryan's home October 1.

A great fleet of war ships entertained the president at Oyster Bay, September 3.

David Tarrence, chief justice of Connecticut's supreme court, is dead.

The democrats carried the state of Arkansas by an overwhelming majority. John S. Little, democratic candidate for governor has a plurality of 55,000. The democrats will control both branches of the state legislature by a large majority.

Mayor Rose of Kansas City, Kan., has resigned, and the contempt proceedings brought against him in the supreme court have been dismissed.

Stensland, the Chicago banker, who was arrested at Tangier, is on his way home in charge of officers.

St. Petersburg dispatches say that the social revolutionists of Russia have adopted resolutions to continue terrorism and to aim at the lives of the highest officials.

The situation between the authorities and the insurgents in Cuba continues to be serious, and it is fully predicted that the United States will yet find it necessary to intervene.

Alexander Belford, well known as a book and magazine publisher in Chicago, died at Los Angeles.

EDITORIALS BY COMMONER READERS.

Samuel Johnstone, San Francisco—While "prosperity" (for the few) lasts, we may remark, in a humorous way, how the president's "rake" (nee 'shovel') is "making the dirt fly at Panama" under the supervision of a "railroad president," where very ordinary business sense would note his interest, with the other railroads of the United States, is not being much injured—prospectively; nor have Pacific Mail Steamship freight and passenger rates been reduced, to compete with its old owners and masters—the railroads. How would it seem to the average American citizen to have a little something done—by contract—instead of talk about going to do, etc., while at present rate of costs of getting ready, "how not to do it," soon

one-half the estimated cost of building a canal via Nicaragua, before we were simple enough to be humbugged into buying a lot of condemned French stuff, on the isthmus, for \$40,000,000, with probably a huge per cent of "graft" covered up and divided around, will have been expended; with a good prospect, before its completion, of far exceeding the past unsavory record of De Lesseps & Co. Were Barnum alive he surely would be amused to note the "broad farce" being played before the country—at the annual congressional "jawing match" of the "Little Man" in Washington; in certain examinations here and there at U. S. cost—in certain courts, state legislatures, etc.—while the "Big Hogs" continue to fill and gorge themselves under "legal protection," from the public. Before long "Jonah's prosperity gourd" will take a slant zeroward. There will come a rude awakening, a rubbing of eyes, gazing in speechless wonder at one another, upon the needs of 1907, and the sooner the better for the country. It is a healthy sign that we are investing in real estate, rather than in "water" in Wall street; also to note the exodus towards cheap, new lands in northwest Canada where the laws are liberal, protective and executed impartially; where no long-winded, legal argument is needed to protect the public from being robbed by trusts and railroads—there matters being regulated by a commission whose action is not open to review and delay by courts under corporate influence. I can find no better clue than to quote what I heard John J. Valentine, president of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, say at the close of an excellent lecture before the Y. M. C. A. in this city upon "our country's action and duty in the Philippines," when, raising both hands and looking up, he said: "I pray for the return of the reign of the Common People in our country. It was his last effort, dying a short time afterward.

Jerome S. Swihart, Rochester, Ind.—As a reader of The Commoner I desire to especially call the attention of the masses to the splendid article entitled "Stand by Roosevelt," by Richard L. Metcalfe, published in The Commoner. It seems to me that this article reveals the true Roosevelt more clearly than anything heretofore brought to the eyes of the public. President Roosevelt has played the double act with amazing success, but to quote Abraham Lincoln, "You can fool all the people part of the time and part of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." I believe the republican party has reached the limit on fooling. For ten long years they have possessed unlimited power in directing the affairs of this government. It alone has possessed the power to enact any law which would promote the welfare of the republic. And is it not true that during the period of its unlimited power the most gigantic trusts have prospered and flourished as never before? At this rate how long will it be before the people realize any real benefit, or will they ever? We think not and firmly believe that enough people will think with us to safely laud a democratic congress at the next election. We congratulate Brother Metcalfe on his splendid argument. Will some good republican kindly answer it?

ON THE WAY TO THE FRONT

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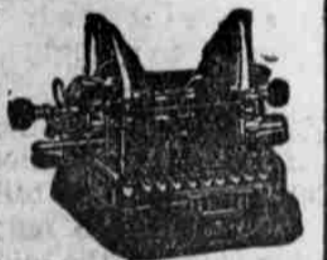
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