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Cannon Not Alone

A Taft elector from Ohio, Mr. E. M. Higgins, returned from a visit to Washington a few days ago and gave his impressions to the Ohio State Journal as follows:

"I have seen in the concrete in Washington what I have always known in the abstract, and that is Cannonism and Aldrichism in control of the legislative machinery of the national government, directing the party's policy, suppressing reformatory measures, blocking the president in his program, insolent with power, defying public opinion, celebrating their successful exploitation of the people and planning further to serve the special interests of which Cannonism and Aldrichism are the agents. I am a republican. All these evils are done in the name of the republican party. If these forces of corruption and deplorable political methods are not dislodged the republican party will collapse by the very weight of them. The issue is becoming more a moral than a political one."

Referring to this interview, the Kansas City Times, a republican paper, says:

"All of which means, in a word, that if the republican party is to be saved it is to be saved by the insurgents, whom Speaker Cannon has been trying to read out of the organization."

But why lay it all onto Mr. Cannon? What about Mr. Taft? Is he not trying to drive the insurgents out of the republican party? Is it not about time that republicans recognize that Aldrichism and Cannonism is as thoroughly entrenched in the White House as it is in the capitol building?

A STERN REMINDER

Mr. Roosevelt's suit against the New York World and Indianapolis News has been dismissed by the federal court at New York. It was a mistake to begin these proceedings and the fact that the president of the United States seriously undertook to hold newspapers to account for the criticisms of individuals, seeking to establish that there is such a thing as lese majeste in this country, must have been regretted by thoughtful men in all political parties. The Philadelphia Public Ledger puts it well when, in approving the dismissal of these proceedings, it says:

"Every citizen has access to the courts; the government can not stretch out its imperial hand and distort a plea of personal libel to the arbitrary suppression of public criticism. The decision is most important, not merely as it concerns the liberty of the press, but as a reminder to those in authority that ours is a government of law."

WHY NOT LAFOLETTE?

A Washington dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "President Taft read in the papers today that the senate was marking time while the house is struggling with the various appropriation bills. So he sent for Sen-

BIGGER ISSUES THAN PERSONALITIES

If the cost of living continues to increase, the masses of the people will awaken to the truth, already realized by a few leaders—that there is a vital relation between legislation and life, and that the quarrels between political leaders of the Aldrich-Cannon type, and those who would see them succeeded by others, involve issues bigger than personalities.—Voter Magazine, Chicago.

ators Penrose of Pennsylvania, Crane of Massachusetts and Carter of Montana and asked why it would not be a good thing for the senate to "get busy" on some of the measures he had recommended. Senator Aldrich was not included in the summons, he being absent from the city."

Mr. Aldrich was out of the city otherwise he would have been included. But Messrs. Penrose, Crane and Carter are good enough "reformers" in this year of 1910.

How does it happen that Mr. Taft's political conferences are held with such men as Aldrich, Penrose, Crane and Carter?

If he is the reformer that some of our republican friends would have it appear, why do we never hear that he is in consultation with Senator LaFollette?

STOP THAT EXTRAVAGANCE

The Spokane Spokesman-Review, republican, has an explanation for the increased cost of living. It says: "Some part of the increased cost of living is due to higher prices of necessaries, but personal indulgence and extravagant desires are the chief factors."

This will be interesting reading to the considerable number of people who have stopped eating meat by way of protest against trust imposition and to the even larger number of people who have curtailed their supply of meat and of other foods because of inability to pay the high prices fixed by the men who have secured a monopoly upon the necessaries of life. "Personal indulgence and extravagant desires are the chief factors" says this republican organ. Is it possible that the American people are so simple as some of the arguments addressed to them by republican editors would indicate?

REPUBLICAN PARTY DOCTRINE

Referring to the statement attributed to President Taft that New Mexico and Arizona must submit their new constitutions for the approval of congress before they are admitted to the union, the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal, republican, says:

"If the territories are competent for statehood they are competent to draft their own constitutions, without further limitations than are imposed by the fundamental law of the republic."

The Journal must remember, however, that the present day republican party doctrine is: "Government without the consent of the governed" which, in the case of proposed states or existing colonies, means the right to carefully scrutinize all constitutions and statutes that might in any way interfere with special interests.

MORE PEOPLE—THAT'S EASY

Professor Milton Whitney of the United States department of agriculture has an explanation for the high cost of living. He says: "People are eating far more now than they did fifty years ago." And in his opinion that goes a long way to explain the increase in cost. Of course "people are eating far more now than they did fifty years ago," because there are more people. But there are a whole lot of people who are not eating quite so much today as they were during the summer of 1908 while the republican party was trying to secure an extension in its lease of power.

Abraham Lincoln

Tomorrow will be the one hundred and first anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. American citizens everywhere might, with great profit to themselves and to their country, spend a few hours February 12, 1910, in reading some of the advice which this man of the people gave to his countrymen.

"Soberly," said Abraham Lincoln in 1859, "it is now no child's play to save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow in this nation."

In this year of 1910, fifty-one years after Abraham Lincoln made this statement, it is now "no child's play" to save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow in this nation.

Mr. Lincoln was not a man of one idea. His thoughts were not entirely centered upon the slavery question. He knew that, aside from the institution of slavery, there were other deep-seated problems with which the people of a republic must grapple and his writings and speeches are full of statements which have direct bearing upon the great contest in which the American people are now engaged—a contest wherein it is to be determined whether a plutocracy or the people shall govern in this great republic.

"I hold," said Mr. Lincoln, "if the Almighty had ever made a set of men that should do all the eating and none of the work, he would have made them with mouths only and no hands; and if he had ever made another class that he intended should do all the work, and none of the eating, he would have made them without mouths and with all hands. But inasmuch as he has chosen to make men in that way, if anything is proved it is that those hands and mouths are to be co-operative through life and not to be interfered with. That they are to go forth and improve their conditions, as I have been trying to illustrate, is the inherent right given to mankind directly by the Maker."

Many of the things written and said by Mr. Lincoln seem to have been written for this very time. It would be well if every American citizen could ponder upon these utterances and profit by them. On one occasion he said:

"The resources, advantages and powers of the American people are very great, and they have consequently succeeded to equally great responsibilities. It seems to have devolved upon them to test whether a government established on the principles of human freedom can be maintained against an effort to build one upon the exclusive foundation of human bondage."

No statement made by Mr. Lincoln is more appropriate today than his definition of liberty. He said:

"The world is in want of a good definition of the word liberty. We all declare ourselves to be for liberty; but we do not all mean the same thing. Some mean that a man can do as he pleases with himself and his property. With others it means that some men can do as they please with other men and other men's labor. Each of these things is called liberty, although they are entirely different. To give an illustration: A shepherd drives a wolf from the throat of his sheep when attacked by him, and the sheep, of course thanks the shepherd for the preservation of his life; but the wolf denounces him as despoiling the wolf of his liberty; especially if it be a black sheep."

On another occasion he declared: "I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence." On another occasion he rebuked those who, in the discussion of public questions, gave no concern whatever to the rights of men. He said:

"Why this deliberate pressing out of view the rights of men and the authority of the people? This is essentially a people's contest. On the side of the union, it is a struggle for maintaining in the world that form and substance of government whose leading object is to elevate the condition of man; to lift artificial weights from all shoulders; to clear the paths of laudable pursuits to all; to afford all an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life."

He pleaded for the preservation of the con-

CONTENTS

CANNON NOT ALONE
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
REPUBLICAN PROSPERITY ITEM
IN OLD VIRGINIA
ADDRESSED TO BRITONS BUT VALUABLE
TO AMERICANS
WHERE THE OLD SHIP IS LEAKING
PRACTICAL TARIFF TALKS
HOW THE FARMER PROSPERS
TIMELY QUOTATIONS
A YOUNG GIRL'S LESSON
CURRENT TOPICS
HOME DEPARTMENT
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT
NEWS OF THE WEEK
WASHINGTON NEWS
LINCOLN'S "PURPLE PATCHES"