

cratic party repudiated the record of the administration elected in 1892, but the damage had gone too far and the democrats of 1896 bent upon reforming their party were required to face the bad record it had made and the responsibilities it had incurred?

It is beginning to dawn upon rank and file republicans that Aldrichism and Cannonism dominate at the White House as effectually as in the capitol building. Aldrichism and Cannonism—or, if you please, Taftism—must answer to a betrayed people rather than to a handful of republican congressmen, some of whom are moved by devotion to public interests, others of whom are largely concerned in saving their own scalp.

It is not a question of the minority governing the majority. The question is, shall men elected to public office serve the people or the interests. Repeatedly the republican party has been able to dodge that question but there are many reasons for believing that it is at last face to face with the real issue.

REJECTED IN VIRGINIA

The lower house of the Virginia legislature has refused to ratify the proposed income tax amendment to the federal constitution. Alabama was the first southern state to ratify this proposed amendment, Georgia the first southern state to reject it, while Virginia takes its place as the second southern state failing to ratify the reform. Democrats generally will keenly regret this action on the part of the Virginia legislature. The income tax is so well established in popular favor and seems so equitable a method that it was hoped that democratic legislatures would lose no time in ratifying the proposed amendment.

IMPROBABLE

No one having intimate acquaintance with the character of the late Benjamin Harrison will believe for a moment that he ever authorized a promise that Thomas C. Platt would be secretary of the treasury under the Harrison administration. General Harrison was an ambitious man and perhaps the exigency of politics required him to do some distasteful things, but it is safe to say that the verdict of the American people will be that the Platt letter, recently made public through the Chicago Record-Herald, is not sufficient evidence to convict General Harrison of having made a promise, the making of which would have reflected upon his patriotism and his good sense.

MR. BRYAN'S WORK IN SOUTH AMERICA

Even the bitterest critics of William J. Bryan should feel kindly toward him because of the good work he is now doing for his own country in South America, where he is receiving much attention from officials and public men. He is taking advantage, so The Commoner tells us, to hasten the acceptance by the Latin-Americans of the policy of the United States toward their countries which was outlined some years ago by Senator Root, then secretary of state, when he made a tour of South America.

Mr. Bryan is discussing the principles of that policy and assuring the Latin-Americans of the friendly intentions toward them of the people and government of the United States, and that the only rivalry between his country and theirs is "in that legitimate field where the contest is to see who can hold highest the torch of civilization that lights the world to higher ground." He is declaring to them that "as co-tenants of the western hemisphere and as fellow-experimenters with republicanism as a form of government there are peculiar reasons why Americans of all races and diverse creeds should be allies, not enemies," hence he is urging closer relations through statesmanship and trade.

Mr. Bryan is also making clear to the Latin-Americans his views against militarism, against the surrender of human ideals to the spirit of commercialism and in favor of the upward course of mankind, therefore he is doing the United States good and creditable service in South America.—New Orleans Daily States.

WHY NOT PUT IT BACK?

A newspaper dispatch says that John D. Rockefeller will "devote his vast fortune to the uplift of humanity." Mr. Rockefeller could do a great deal toward the uplift of humanity if he would set to his fellows the inspiring example of the greatest monopolist of the age, using the millions he has taken from the consumers of the country in a "put it back" fund.

Where the Old Ship is Leaking

NO LITERATURE FOR INSURGENTS

Washington dispatch to the St. Louis Times (rep.):

By President Taft's approval of the campaign plans perfected by the republican leaders, the insurgents will have no chance to have their propaganda presented to the people through the regular channels of literature and speeches, in next fall's fight for control of the house at the polls. No republican candidate will be opposed by the republican organization, but notice will be served on the insurgents that the campaign literature and speeches will be of regular, straight party doctrine type.

As a practical proposition, this means in a large measure the dyed-in-the-wool insurgents who opposed the passage of the tariff bill, and who have denounced Cannonism, can expect little help from the republican congressional committee in their own campaigns for re-election.

President Taft has expressed satisfaction with this style of campaign, and if he follows the advice of certain leaders he will start the ball rolling in one of the speeches that he is to make on his forthcoming western trip. Mr. Taft is prepared to say some pretty harsh things about the insurgent republican movement in congress.

The plan of campaign to be fought by the republican congressional committee was submitted to the president in detail by Representative William B. McKinley of Illinois, chairman of that organization.

MR. TAFT IN A RAGE

Washington dispatch to the Philadelphia North American (rep.):

Because he has taken the position that the fight upon Secretary of the Interior Ballinger is a fight upon himself, President Taft is rapidly making the question of conservation and the principle of handling the public's property for the benefit of the public an issue between himself and the American people.

It is only within the last week that members of congress have realized how intensely bitter is the feeling of the president against all who have opposed the attacks made by Ballinger upon the conservation policy.

At the time he dismissed Gifford Pinchot, chief forester, from the public service for writing a letter to Senator Dolliver some rumors of the president's violent denunciations of Pinchot reached the public from the White House; but they attracted little attention.

The president's refusal to permit former Law Officer Shaw, of the forest service, who was also dismissed as the result of the fight for conservation, to practice before the departments has become a subject of animated discussion among the members of both houses, not so much because of the president's action, as of the manner in which he made it known.

Shaw is a very young man and comes from North Carolina. He is just starting upon his career as a lawyer, and his dismissal from the forest service by the president made it necessary that he should begin the general practice of law in order to make a living.

He wanted to settle down here in Washington, and therefore filed application for admittance to practice before the departments of the government, having already been admitted to practice before the courts of the District of Columbia and the supreme court of the United States.

Senators Overman and Simmons, of North Carolina, accompanied by Representative Page, of the same state, all interested in young Shaw, went to the White House to ask the president to reconsider his rejection of Shaw's application. Both senators are on good terms with the president, and were cordially received.

When they mentioned the object of their visit, however, the president flew into a very tempest of rage. There were no fewer than twenty-five men, most of them members of congress, in the president's room at this time, and the violence of his language and the loud tones in which it was uttered drew the attention of every one of them. The North Carolina senators, embarrassed upon their own account, and also on account of the president, tried to smooth matters over.

They suggested to Mr. Taft that he was too much wrought up to discuss the matter properly, and that they would come back again and take it up with him. He denied that he was

wrought up, and continued his tirade against Shaw, calling him a traitor, an ingrate and other names which could not well be published. The president had so far lost control of himself that his language, it is declared, would have sounded extreme had it come from Speaker Cannon.

The North Carolina members finally withdrew much discomfited and have not been back. But the president has been informed by Senator Root and by others that he has gone altogether too far in barring Shaw from the right to practice before the departments, and he has, therefore, referred the matter to Attorney General Wickersham for a legal opinion upon his rights. As has already been published, the president told the North Carolinians that Shaw would be barred so long as he himself remains president of the United States.

Somewhat nettled, Senator Overman is quoted as telling the president that if he were to bar every lawyer in the United States who fails to approve the administration, the great majority of the legal profession would be proscribed.

Representative Page has been interviewed for some of the North Carolina papers upon the visit to the White House, and has told the story substantially as set forth here.

He suggests that possibly Shaw is being disciplined until it has been discovered what he will testify to before the Ballinger investigating committee. The whole incident has made a most unfavorable impression, revealing, as it does, the president in a vindictive effort to punish the men who have fought for the public interest against the efforts of Ballinger to sacrifice that interest.

WHAT WILL ROOSEVELT DO?

Washington dispatch to the Buffalo (New York) Times:

After Colonel Roosevelt is safely home and the shouting has died down the nation will naturally look to him to choose his company as between the standpatters and the progressives. President Taft and Senator Aldrich are symbolic of the reactionary group, while LaFollette and Clapp are representative of the progressive element of the republican party.

If the ex-president disowns Mr. Taft, it will be accepted by many as an admission of the oft-made charge that he enticed the American people into electing as president a man wholly unfit for the office.

If Roosevelt places his approval on the Taft administration it will be accepted as a slap in the face of the progressives and progressive sympathizers.

It would appear that whatever course Mr. Roosevelt takes, he will come in for criticism. But it may be that he has already mapped out an ingenious "policy" that will enable him to meet the vexatious situation with a minimum of irritation to all concerned.

There is as wide a difference of opinion among Washington newspaper correspondents as to what Roosevelt will do, politically, upon his return as among the politicians.

Frank B. Lord, Washington correspondent for Norman E. Mack's National Monthly, sums up the situation this way: "Depend upon it, Roosevelt will make no move unless he sees beforehand that he can win. Even though he may desire a renomination as president, he will say nothing until he has sized up the situation carefully and can see victory ahead. Therefore, Roosevelt's first active stroke for a renomination will signalize the defeat of Taft. If Roosevelt is convinced that the stand-pat element of his party can not be routed, he will not show his hand as to wishing another term in the White House."

TAFT WILL FIGHT DOLLIVER

Washington dispatch to the New York World: President Taft has put on his armor and started the fight. His fight is to find out whether the people who are damning his administration are right or whether he is right. He is convinced that he is right and he is going out to meet the wrong where it lives.

The president is going to start his fight in Iowa. That state is the home of insurgency and the home of Senators Dolliver and Cummins. The president is not angry with Cummins. He does not like him, but believes that Cummins represents one opinion and that he, the president, represents another.

The president is not angry with Senator Dolliver. He does not believe that Dolliver is sincere, and he does not believe that Dolliver truly