

represents Iowa sentiment. Accordingly the president's fight is to begin on Dolliver.

Mr. Taft summoned some people to the White House today to frame up the fight. He called Representative Walter Smith of Iowa, a stand-patter in congress and a member of Speaker Cannon's committee on rules. He called Representative Kennedy of Iowa, another conservative. With them were former Representative Hepburn and Representative McKinley of Illinois. Mr. McKinley is chairman of the republican congressional committee. Hepburn is an old-time congressman who was defeated by the insurgents.

They would not discuss their visit to Mr. Taft when they left, but from all of them, to quote none, it was gleaned that Dolliver is to be fought by all of them and that the fight is to be against the whole insurgent idea, with Dolliver as the immediate target.

Dolliver's seat is not in immediate jeopardy, because it will not be vacant until 1913. But the Dolliver idea is to be opposed. The opposition is to be directed against insurgency with Dolliver as the type of insurgent.

The campaign management does not think that insurgents are bad, but it does think that some insurgents are not representative.

Among them is Dolliver. He is not regarded as an insurgent, and is not respected as such by the administration. He is held to be an "opportunist," and he is going to be shown up.

The men who went into the conference today will have to carry the burden of making the Taft campaign in Iowa this fall. They will go into the fight with the Taft banner, and the president of the United States wishing more power to their elbows.

#### "THE END OF ROOSEVELTISM"

Washington dispatch to the New York Herald (Taft organ):

Can it really be that the wave of "Rooseveltism" has run its course in congress? Is it possible that the insurgents have concluded to work within the republican party? Is it conceivable that "the Back from Elba Club" has been forced to disband because of non-payment of dues?

Washington began to rub its eyes today over a realization that the party weather is likely to change. The signs of spring were not the only portents of a shift from bleak days. Nor was the passage of the postal savings bank bill in the senate yesterday, with the solid republican vote behind it, the most important of these other signs of evolution.

True, the passage of a bill favored by the president, with the votes of Senators Dolliver, Cummins, LaFollette, Beveridge, Burton and Clapp cast for it, is of itself an event of considerable importance after a period of loudly heralded insurgency. But that incident does not stand alone in this first burst of political springtime on the Potomac.

Coming from the house are rumors that there is not the slightest doubt of the postal savings bank bill passing that body. Coming from the senate are reports that when the interstate commerce bill comes to be put to a vote it will pass and Senators Cummins and Clapp may do their worst and Senator Dolliver may talk about the government being run by "amateurs" until the rafters ring.

Back again to the house and Representative Mann, whose truculent attitude has always suggested the question, "Who said administration?" it is said will not go to the extent of opposing the Taft railroad measure or even advancing the cherished schemes nurtured in his own bill.

In plain language, the "insurgent" ice jam seems to be broken. It has not taken anything like as much dynamite as was used at the Herkimer Bridge, but the current is passing through.

One must not be unkind, yet it is impossible to describe this situation without making a passing allusion to the evil fortune that has befallen Mr. Gifford Pinchot. It is, perhaps, significant that the change came over the senate about the same time that Mr. Pinchot passed from the stage in the investigation of the interior department. The unconscious humor of Mr. J. J. Vertrees, counsel for Secretary Ballinger, of addressing the deposed forester as "Mr. Roosevelt" had in it more melancholy association with reminiscences than with aggressive intentions for the future.

Somehow the impression is going abroad that the "Back from Elba Club" has been "busted." Those who admire Mr. Pinchot for his course in bringing forward the importance of conservation are disposed to let rest in peace the collapse of the movement that was to disrupt President

Taft's cabinet and bring confusion and ruin on the Taft administration.

Whether the senate will be equally kind as the public when the agricultural bill comes up for discussion tomorrow and an opportunity is afforded for discussing the various violations of the law done under the head of "executive order" and the "exercise of official discretion" is another question. There are some who never like to hit a man when he's down.

The whole situation here would seem to indicate that strong reports have come from the western country that republicans are in favor of upholding the republican president. This certainly will be true of Indiana, if reports are to be believed. On no other ground can be explained the action of Senator Beveridge in making the political welkin ring with appeals to Mr. Taft to come and save his re-election in the Hoosier state. His friends are now laying the danger in which the brilliant senator from Indiana is believed to be at the door of the corporations rather than at the door of the republican voters in the state who believed in not too low a tariff.

President Taft appears ready to fight it out with the "insurgents," who have made trouble through the entire extra session of congress and three months of this session by employing tactics known as "Rooseveltism." The withering sarcasm which he has directed in every conversation at the "insurgent" senators during the postal savings bank debate for taking a position against the banks, as if banks were not necessary to the nation's business, and solely because they thought enmity to the banks would be popular, shows that he is likely not to forget the men who have been seeking to wreck his administration and the party at the same time.

Hereafter the "insurgent" senators and representatives who have been talking so loudly of "Cannonism" and "Aldrichism" in their home states and districts will have to alter their tactics or else also inveigh against "Taftism." Mr. Taft clearly intends to fight his fight for his legislative program and for his renomination on the lines laid down in New York in February.

He is not supporting Senator Aldrich and Speaker Cannon any more than he is any other member of congress working for the republican policies. But he has turned his back definitely on the insurgent senators who would go to him and say: "We are seven in the senate; if you will come with us we can get enough republicans to work with the democrats and beat Aldrich and those fellows. We are twenty in the house, if you will join us we will be enough to work with the democrats, depose Speaker Cannon and have things our own way."

#### ROOSEVELT'S RESPONSIBILITY

Editorial in Indianapolis News (rep.):

We trust that those reformers and progressives who are now criticising President Taft so severely, and for the most part so justly, have memories long enough to carry them back to the summer of 1908 when the national administration was exerting every power it possessed to force the nomination of Mr. Taft. The action was justified on the ground that it was necessary in order to save the people from falling a prey to the interests. We were told that if the president did not choose his successor the interests would pick the nominee and then all the fat would be in the fire. So Mr. Hitchcock, even before he retired from the office of first assistant postmaster general, and much more after that time, worked night and day to round up delegations for the president's candidate. Primaries and conventions, notably in the south, were packed with federal officeholders. The president issued his orders and the men in office obeyed. The convention was controlled from Washington. And thus, for the first time in our history, we saw one president dictate the nomination of his successor.

When the campaign began it was again Mr. Roosevelt who was in control. The campaign was his campaign. It was he who summoned labor leaders to the White House, his purpose being to break up the labor vote. One of the men so summoned was, immediately after the campaign, appointed to an important federal office. For a time we had almost daily letters and bulletins from the White House. The battle was one, not between Bryan and Taft, but between Bryan and Roosevelt. Nothing like it was ever seen before in the history of the country and we trust that nothing like it will ever be seen again. It seems strange now to think of it, but all this was done to insure the carrying out of the Roosevelt policies, and, as we have said, to save the people from the interests!

It seems specially strange when we reflect that the first piece of legislation enacted under the new administration—the tariff bill—was made by the interests. But there is worse to come. For the first time in our history we have a "presidential program" embodied in bills drafted by the executive and sent to congress to be passed. Even this program has been whittled down to the vanishing point, and it is doubtful whether we shall get even the residuum.

Such are the fruits of the personally conducted campaign of 1908. Are they really worth while? Can it be said that the violation of all our principles and precedents has even the mean justification of success? It seems to us that the events which are writ so large in our recent history ought not to be forgotten or passed over. For they are "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Who is in control of the senate if not Nelson W. Aldrich, the chief representative of the interests that were supposed to have been defeated; Aldrich, without whose consent and permission the president himself admits that he can do nothing? Who is dictator of the house if not Speaker Cannon, a man who has always stood in the way of all reform? And what can be said of the president himself, if not that he is doing what he can to discredit the insurgents, the very men who were Mr. Taft's most earnest and zealous supporters? In short, we have done evil that good might come, and the good has not yet arrived.

#### PLUTOCRACY DOOMED

Editorial in Indianapolis Star (rep.):

Events are moving so rapidly at Washington that it is almost profitless to speculate upon the outcome of the present crisis, which hangs so portentously over everything and everybody there, over congress and the president, over both parties. The president's program is not moving in proportion to his blind and stubborn faith in Aldrich and Cannon; the Ballinger inquiry is obviously surcharged with electrical and dynamic possibilities. No one can tell what a day may bring forth.

For eight years insurgency has been conquering a continent like a new evangel. The voice of Theodore Roosevelt, crying in a wildness of stand-pat desolation, has stirred the universal heart. Every book that falls from the press, every play that occupies the boards, has beaten and driven in upon the national conscience the wrongs of shipper, producer, consumer, taxpayer, and the guilt of organized privilege. Looking out upon the fields white unto the harvest, the people asked for a master husbandman and Roosevelt pointed to Taft.

When the Venezuelans would make a sword for their deliverer, they made a virgin anvil and laid upon it a bar of iron from a fallen meteorite; but tradition tells us that the sword of Bolivar was sheathed in ignominy amid the execrations of his countrymen. Such is not the situation of Mr. Taft; yet though the popular esteem of him as a man and patriot has never turned or failed, disappointment is well-nigh universal that his praise seems always for the exponents of organized privilege and his rebukes for those who are trying to uphold the people's cause.

Out of the Ballinger inquiry and the legislative grace of Aldrich and Cannon shall come what shall come. On this score all is speculation and uncertainty. But on the fact that insurgency is spreading over the land from Maine to California and from Maryland to Texas, no discerning observer can entertain a doubt. It is the logical thing that of this reform spirit of the hour the republican party, by its inheritance and recent leadership, should become the exponent, the custodian and the instrument. It may do this and gloriously succeed, or it may neglect to do this and miserably fail.

It is a time when party shibboleths and professions of party loyalty count for little or nothing at all, but when individual character counts for much; and when the men of both parties are apt to sift the wheat from the tares. The dominion of plutocracy—its doom is set as much as that of slavery in 1860 or the dishonest dollar in 1896.

#### MR. TAFT AND INSURGENCY

Washington, D. C., March 4.—Dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald: "Insurgency, the president believes and openly declares, is a menace to the fulfillment of the policies which he has set himself to carry out, and in terms more unmistakable than any previously stated, he has made his feelings in the matter known to visitors within the last few hours. A point has been