

# Washington News

The Washington Post printed a story to the effect that Mr. Taft had received assurances that Theodore Roosevelt would give the Taft administration cordial support upon his return to America. Friends of Mr. Roosevelt deny that any such assurance has been given.

Representative Harrison of New York has introduced a resolution calling upon the president to produce the original letter written by Attorney General Wick-ersham to Mr. Taft in transmitting the testimony in the Glavis charges against Secretary Ballinger. The investigating committee presided over by Senator Nelson refused to make an order upon Attorney Brandeis' request that the letter be made public. Commenting upon his resolution, Mr. Harrison says: "As the investigating committee has persistently refused to call upon the attorney general for the documents named in my resolution I think it is only just that the house should insist on having the full data before it. The attitude of the republican members of the committee and the attorney general would be much more enviable if they would allow the facts to be known. If the letter has no bearing on the case and does not contain data which will hurt Ballinger's case, it will do no harm to have that fact known."

The president's railroad bill got into such hot water that Mr. Taft, visiting in Pittsburg, wired Senator Aldrich to urge republicans to stand firm for the measure. An Associated Press dispatches announces that 45 "republican conservatives" had agreed to stand faithfully by the administration. They are as follows: Aldrich, Bradley, Brandegee, Briggs, Bulkeley, Burnham, Burrows, Burton, Carter, Clark (Wyo.), Crane, Cullom, Curtis, Depew, Dick, Dillingham, Dupont, Elkins, Flint, Frye, Gallinger, Guggenheim, Hale, Heyburn, Jones, Kean, Lodge, Lorimer, McCumber, Nixon, Oliver, Page, Penrose, Perkins, Piles, Richardson, Root, Scott, Smith (Mich.), Smoot, Stephenson, Sutherland, Warner, Warren and Wetmore. As utterly impossible for the conservatives to reach, the regulars have classed Beveridge, Bristow, Clapp, Cummins, Dolliver and LaFollette.

Senators Dolliver and Cummins went to Des Moines where, on the evening of May 10, they addressed an insurgent meeting in support of Warren Garst's candidacy for the republican nomination for governor and in opposition to that of the present governor, B. F. Carroll.

Secretary Ballinger concluded his direct testimony before the investigating committee with the statement

that his every official act had been conscientious. He was cross-examined by Attorney Brandeis. At various times Mr. Ballinger refused to answer questions and the republican members with the exception of Representatives McCall and Madison supported him in his refusal.

The senate committee on naval affairs has accepted the house provision for new battleships.

The following is an Associated Press report: "Through the formation today of an organization which its leaders claim represents a clear majority of the entire senate and to be made up wholly of republicans of the 'regular' wing, a movement was started with intent to settle the question whether the senate shall remain conservative, become radical or be thrown into political chaos as far as concerns any coherent policy in regard to the administration's legislative program. Senator Aldrich called the 'regular' republicans together and confronted them with a grim description of the possible effect of their apparent defeat at the hands of the 'insurgent' republicans and democrats in the fight over the traffic agreement section of the administration railroad bill. He asked his associates whether they were ready to submit to domination by such a combination. Any surrender, he warned them, meant the failure of the Taft policies and the downfall of conservative control, not only in congress but in the republican party generally. Some one reminded Senator Aldrich that senators then and there gathered together were not in agreement on all points. Whereupon he replied that they must get together and agree to stand together and let the details be secondary. Otherwise, he said, congress would adjourn without a single item of the Taft program accomplished. The entire tone of this conference was belligerent toward the 'insurgents.'"

Upon learning of the death of King Edard, President Taft sent to Queen Alexandra the following cablegram: "On the sad occasion of the death of King Edward, I offer to your majesty and your son, his illustrious successor, the most profound sympathy of the people and of the government of the United States, whose hearts go out to their British kinsmen in this their national bereavement. To this I add the expression to your majesty and to the new king of my own personal sympathy and of appreciation of those high qualities which made the life of the late king so potent an influence toward peace and justice among nations." The president also send his military aide, Captain Archibald Butt, to the British embassy to express his condolence on the death of the king to Ambassador Bryce.

## Letters From the People

W. L. Williamson, Stillwater, Okla.—I send you a clipping from the Sayre Standard, which is of great importance just now, and being on Mr. Bryan's line of argument and never seeing it in The Commoner that I remember, I concluded to send it, so you might publish it, if you liked, with some comment upon it. It is exactly my idea of a model government. If the United States was

run under the same form of government it would be the greatest power in the world, with the most contented, happiest people in the world. **Good Example Made By Switzerland** Farmers Mail and Breeze: J. Warren of Burlingame, has been moved by the editorial on the plans of the British prime minister to abolish poverty, to write of some observations and experiences of his

own in Switzerland that seems to me to be interesting. He says:

"Something like twenty-five years ago I was in Switzerland and my business called me to a little province called Zurich. Where is Zurich? If you had asked that question to that covey of school ma'ams that met at Topeka a short time ago how many of them could have located Zurich? And yet it is the most wonderful country beneath the sun. It has the most intelligent people, the happiest people, the wealthiest people; the most contented people and as near a national government people as it is possible to be.

In Zurich there are no poverty stricken people; no poor houses. In Zurich twenty-five years ago I found a school system with which the school in this country does not compare in excellence. With no standing army, every man a soldier, taught the use of a gun in his school days, and when he is 16 a gun is placed in his care.

In Zurich they have the best road systems. Their laws are passed by the general assembly but must be ratified by the people before they can take effect. This form of government has stood the test for more than 100 years. It has derived all of its revenue from income and its taxes are arranged on a sliding scale so that the rich not only pay more absolutely but more in proportion than the poor. Taxes are levied on the progressive plan that to whom is given of him much is required.

The man who owns only \$4,000 or less of property pays on only half and he who owns \$25,000 worth pays on eight-tenths of it and he who owns \$100,000 worth pays on the whole, so that in case the tax is one per cent, for example, the man who owns \$4,000 worth of property pays only \$20 while the man who owns \$100,000 worth of property pays not 25 times as much as much but 50 times as much. The income tax is levied in a somewhat similar manner.

The first \$100 earned is not taxed. The man with an income of \$500 is taxed on only half of it, while incomes above \$800 per annum are taxed in full. The system works well and lifts a part of the burden from the poor and puts on the rich, who, while they may complain, would not exchange positions with the poor in order to save the tax.

Railways are subject to state control. Monopolies are not allowed. No one is supposed to be worth more than \$200,000. A fortune of \$500,000 is undesirable as it would be taxed all it could earn. There are no large private fortunes; no paupers; no overworked population crying for bread; no labor strikes, although Zurich is a great manufacturing country. Wealth is largely created but not unjustly or arbitrarily divided. Each one has his own. The system of taxation makes it to the interest of the large producers to divide voluntarily as fast as made to save tax. Zurich is a model government.—Sayre, Okla., Standard.

C. S. Collins, Little Rock, Ark.—Referring to your remark under title "Privilege Without Responsibility," in which you criticize the reasons given by Judge Munger in justification of his action in suspending the Nebraska guarantee of deposits law, while they are sound in themselves, and, if there were no other reasons, should lead to a reversal. It has always seemed to some of us old time lawyers who have not forgotten elemental and "dog ear" principles, that this question has been discussed on both sides, overlooking the fundamental principles which should govern. The business of banking is not a natural right. It is a "privilege," as much so as the liquor

business; the business of peddling; the business of conducting a hotel, or a place of public amusement or any one of a half dozen other callings or employments which might be mentioned. Being a privilege, the sovereign has the reserved and inherent common law right to require a license tax, which may be uniform or graduated, for the privilege of conducting the business. The fact that the sovereign omits for a period the requirement of such license tax does not change the principle. It is within the recollection of older citizens that, prior to 1861, there was no such tax as a license tax required of the liquor traffic by the federal government, and the same was true (Continued on Page 15)

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