

## Spiking a Cannon

Below will be found Congressman Murdock's reply to Speaker Cannon. Uncle Joe went to Kansas to read the riot act to Bristow and Murdock, but he only increased the commotion. The peace of the Sunflower state is more disturbed than before. The insurgents are saying rude things about the gentleman from Illinois. Murdock has spoken most forcibly, but he has not overdrawn the picture. He knows Cannon's record and has rendered a public service in presenting it. He has spiked the cannon. The question may be asked, Why did the insurgents support such a man for speaker? But we must not be too inquisitive. Let us be grateful that they have turned, at last, and are now ready to fight. The people have been robbed of representative government and the insurgents—before they became insurgents—helped to elect the man who has had the largest share in the robbery; but if these insurgents will now help restore representative government no questions will be asked. Mr. Murdock says:

"Speaker Cannon, for thirty years, has been opposed to locomotion in any direction. For more than a quarter of a century he has stood out against progress. He is not only a stand-patter, but a stand-stiller. During his political life he has opposed about all the progressive legislation that has been offered and the wonder is that so much of it has managed to creep into the statute book.

"He opposed the federal inspection of meats, he stood opposed to irrigation, to currency reform, to pure food laws and regulations, to civil service reform and to practically all progressive legislation since the civil war.

"Now, listen to me; I want to tell you something that Cannon did not mention in his speech yesterday. While posing as a partisan, as an ardent advocate of party fealty, he has played in the dark with Tammany. He did not hesitate to rejoice when his boon companion, Lorimer of Illinois was elected to the United States senate by a coalition with the democrats and by a deal that was rotten to the core; that has made a stench in the nostrils of the nation. Cannon has thoroughly poisoned the springs of representative government for thirty years. He has helped block the way to light and freedom.

"Speaker Cannon was interested in trust things in the tariff bill—the protection of petroleum and its products and the tariff on women's gloves. When the insurgents offered an amendment reducing the tariff on petroleum, Cannon left his chair and raged over the floor of the house like a wild man. He said the house could not make the reduction. Then the insurgents became revolutionists. We appealed from the decision of the chair and we won our fight.

"The greatest thing the insurgents have done has been to put Cannon off the committee on rules. It is no longer necessary for members of the committee to get down on their marrow bones before the chairman for fear of an adverse report to the speaker. The insurgents not only wish to take the power away from Speaker Cannon, but from all future speakers. The bulwark of the speaker's power is his authority to appoint the committees. They want to take that away from him. It will then be impossible for him either to reward or to punish members.

"Pretending to stand before the country as a simple man, favoring low expenditures, he has in reality promoted loot and plunder without stint, if it would reward his henchmen, or serve a factional end. Pretending to a democratic sympathy and making a display of homely language and meanest manner, he has been the bulwark of every plot and cabal of the aristocracy to swindle and cheat and oppress the people. Don't be deceived by that pose of the great commoner. He has been a living, breathing denial of the right of this people to representative government ever since his ascension to power.

"Look at your speaker, my friends. Stand with me and with your own gaping congressman in line as your speaker comes from his private room. See the stenographers and clerks and minions back out of the room before him. See the crowd, bug-eyed with awe, watch the departure of this man from his privacy, who has he with him?

"Look, there goes a congressman, who wrote to Mr. Archbold, of the Standard Oil company; 'I have a senator who wants a thousand; shall I invest?' He's a boon companion, an intimate of your ruler; also touching shoulders with him

as he comes out is Billy Lorimer, a boon companion of this staunch defender of party regularity.

"Yes, there he goes, and beside him, elbowing with the speaker is Lucius Littauer, the greatest manufacturer of gloves in the United States, Taint, and more—the mouthpiece and representative—of what? Of Tammany.

"All night the 14th of March a light burned in Cannon's office. I know, for I was watching it from a cubby hole of my own that night and Lucius Littauer was telephoning. I do not know to whom he was talking. But, I do know what happened, and I do know that Herbert Parsons, chairman of the county republican central committee of New York, publicly charged in a statement that a bargain was made with Tammany, with the democrats of Tammany for their votes to save Cannon.

"The next day came the fight, March 15. The old rules were voted down and, suddenly, to the astonishment of the regulars, upon a signal from some one, Cannon recognized Fitzgerald, a Tammany democrat, who made a motion to stop the tide against Cannon, and I sat where I could hear Dalzell of Pennsylvania turn to that panic-stricken bunch of regulars and say: 'Your vote is aye' and it was aye.

"There have been corrupt votes in the American congress. There have been servile votes in the American congress. But I stand here to tell you never was a more servile and slavish vote cast in your congress by your representative than when under the lash of Dalzell, the slave driver of Pennsylvania. Your representatives in Kansas, from all the districts but the Seventh and Eighth, voted under the lead of that Tammany democrat to bind that corrupt bargain with Tammany and the New York machine.

"Can you imagine Webster voting with that gang? Or Clay? Or Jefferson? Or Jackson?"

### "MEETING THE ISSUES"

A New York newspaper prints the following extracts from speeches delivered by Henry L. Stimson, republican nominee for governor as a sample of the manner in which Mr. Roosevelt's candidate is meeting the issues:

"I am deeply impressed with the importance of the mission of the republican party as a leader in progress.

"The past decade is a long record of progressive legislation.

"The honest business man \* \* \* does not fear progressive and well-considered legislation.

"Alarm against progress is not only groundless but inconsistent.

"It is well to bear in mind the long list of such progressive enactments.

"Such is the record of our party as a progressive party.

"Such progress in the past has never been inconsistent with permanent prosperity.

"When we consider the obstructive attitude toward progress of Tammany Hall, etc.

"Progressive reforms in the public interest have been frequently throttled, etc.

"I pledge myself, if elected, to the principles of constitutional progress."

It must be admitted, however, that the Stimson speech has a familiar sound. Plainly Mr. Stimson is eligible to a place on the Outlook.

### MR. ROCKEFELLER'S GIFTS

Mr. Rockefeller has contributed \$450,000 toward a fund of about \$1,000,000, which is being raised to erect Y. M. C. A. buildings in a number of foreign cities. That is better than using the money to silence college presidents and professors in this country. His gifts are harmless in proportion as they do not subsidize institutions into submission to trusts. He might use some in establishing colleges in the countries where education is backward.

### SAW HIM COMIN'

"Did Kunnel Roosevelt convert de Affkin heathen?"

"Well, ef he didn't, it's my beliefs dat w'en de heathen seen 'im comin' he riz up an' holered dat he had mo' religion than he could tote, kaze he well knowed dat he'd a had ter anyhow."—Goodwin's Weekly.

### STOP THE RAID

The ship subsidy is a matter that is of no slight interest to the people of the middle west. It is part of Taft's declared program; it has been supported by Beveridge. A democratic congress is needed to prevent this raid on the national treasury.—Evansville, Ind., Courier.

## Interesting Reminder

A Commoner reader sends a clipping from The Commoner of August 2, 1907, and saying "this is an interesting reminder at this time," asks that it be republished now. The article follows:

(From The Commoner of August 2, 1907)

H. H. Kohlsaat, of Chicago, Mr. Roosevelt's intimate friend, has a somewhat remarkable interview in the July 27 number of the Saturday Evening Post.

Mr. Kohlsaat, it seems, was the gentleman who introduced Paul Morton to Mr. Roosevelt when the latter was governor of New York. Mr. Kohlsaat says:

"After Mr. Roosevelt became president he invited Mr. Morton to become a member of his cabinet. This offer of a portfolio was repeatedly declined, but President Roosevelt insisted. In the course of the conferences on the matter Mr. Morton declared that the navy portfolio was out of his line, and that all the practical knowledge he had of ships was gained in touring Kansas in a 'prairie schooner.' More than this, he bluntly told President Roosevelt that his own road, the Santa Fe, had been technically guilty of rebating. But the president still urged him to come into the cabinet, and gave as his reason that he wished to have a strong, practical railroad man at his elbow, as an adviser, because he wished to become thoroughly familiar with the railroad question from a practical viewpoint. He felt that the federal supervision of railroads was one of the biggest problems of his administration, and he wanted to know all about it from the inside. Later, when the matter of persecutions for rebating was at a sensational pitch, and the newspapers were pointing at Mr. Morton, the president stood pat and stuck by his faithful cabinet adviser. And on this point Roosevelt covered the situation by saying: 'I'd have been a skunk if I'd done anything else.'"

This is, indeed, "important if true."

According to Mr. Kohlsaat, when the navy portfolio was offered to Mr. Morton he bluntly confessed to Mr. Roosevelt that his road had been guilty of rebating. In spite of this confession Mr. Roosevelt urged him to enter the cabinet. Then when the American people learned what, according to Mr. Kohlsaat, Mr. Roosevelt had all along known, Mr. Roosevelt, in the language of Mr. Kohlsaat, "stood pat and stuck by his faithful cabinet adviser." And on this point Mr. Roosevelt, in the opinion of his friend Kohlsaat, "covered the situation" by saying: "I'd have been a skunk if I'd done anything else."

Mr. Roosevelt might, at least, have put it on the ground of comradeship.

It will be remembered that Judson Harmon of Cincinnati, and F. N. Judson of St. Louis were retained to investigate the charge that the Santa Fe had violated the anti-rebate law. These gentlemen reported that the road had been guilty of that offense and recommended the prosecution of its officials, among them Paul Morton. But why were Harmon and Judson appointed by Mr. Roosevelt to make an investigation as to a fact confessed to Mr. Roosevelt himself by Paul Morton at the time Mr. Morton was offered a position in the president's cabinet?

Mr. Roosevelt sustained his attorney general who rejected the Harmon and Judson report, saying:

"I entirely agree with your conclusions. In my opinion you would be wholly without justification in proceeding individually against the owners of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway for contempt when neither the interstate commerce commission or the special counsel you have employed have determined a single fact of any kind beyond the holding of their offices tending to implicate any one of these officers."

But now, according to Mr. Roosevelt's intimate friend, Kohlsaat, Paul Morton himself confessed the fact to Mr. Roosevelt. Yet after that confession Mr. Roosevelt not only appointed Mr. Morton to the cabinet but refused to permit proceedings to be commenced against him, on the charge of rebating, on the theory that there was not sufficient evidence to justify suspicion against Morton!

If Mr. Kohlsaat has not made a terrible mistake then Mr. Roosevelt did something more than blunder in the appointment and in the defense of Paul Morton.

Now if they will only spike the Illinois Cannon Thanksgiving day will be celebrated with great enthusiasm.