

"A RECORD OF BARE FACTS" (Continued from Page 12.)

ing the growing sentiment against him. Meanwhile Canada, at a special election, repudiated the reciprocity pact, and it seemed an example of fate's grim humor that the chief cause of Canada's demolition of President Taft's solitary actual achievement was the Canadian disinclination to make an alliance with a country ruled by the same big interests which the Taft administration had striven to protect.

Other things were happening, but all with the seemingly preverse result of failing to make a favorable impression upon the American people. For example, the mobilization of the army on the Mexican border had only a fortunate outcome for the Taft administration. But there lingered everywhere the memory of that foolish and needless official falsehood that our troops were sent

to the Rio Grande merely to engage in maneuvers. And the American people have a fixed dislike of being distrusted by their presidents.

Mr. Taft, in his superlative eulogies of the sanctity of courts and judges, might have struck a sympathetic chord. But meanwhile he was making such notoriously unfit judicial appointments as those of Archbald and Knapp.

Mr. Taft and his attorney general were prosecuting trust after trust. But all they have succeeded in doing so far has been to nag the big financiers into disgusted enmity. For the farcical results of the "dissolution" of Standard Oil and the Tobacco criminals have made it apparent to the people that they gain absolutely nothing and rouse the suspicion that perhaps in some anti-trust procedure there lurks a desperate playing for the recovery of a forfeited popularity.

The two extra sessions of congress called by Mr. Taft—the first for tariff legislation and the second for the ratification of the reciprocity agreement—had left business hanging in the air. Neither session settled anything definitely, but, on the contrary, increased uncertainty and unrest. The Payne-Aldrich bill really opened the tariff controversy anew, and reciprocity succeeded only in directing the public to the abuses of Big Business. All this made up a record of deception, futility and utter weakness.

The opposition to the renomination of Mr. Taft has not abated, but has increased with the passing months. The interests which he has sought to serve have been forced to admit the hopelessness of his re-election. Business, with its costly uncertainty due, in a large measure, to the unstable qualities of the president, at last has been compelled by the spirit of self-preservation to advise the dropping of Taft's name.

The last hope of his admirers was swept away when the president's last vague and self-contradictory message to congress on trust legislation was read. The most loyal Taft supporters among all ranks of thinking business men were forced to accept that document of the president as final and conclusive proof that his capacity could not be counted upon to lead the country out of the maze of doubt and uncertainty of the present complex economic conditions.

Thus this amazing situation exists. The great body of progressives is steadily growing and taking state after state in the west away from Taft. The business interests of the east, big and little, good and bad, are against Taft. The president's own state of Ohio is in revolt against his renomination. New York, largely dominated by Wall street, can not be carried for Taft, according to the republican national committeeman from that state.

Virtually all other eastern states would like to see Taft eliminated and are only sullenly acquiescent because they do not yet know which way to turn. Every practical politician, little and big, now realizes that the renomination of Taft means the defeat of the republican party next November. And back of all this shrewd body of spoliemen is an overwhelming army of independent citizens, divorced from their old party fealty against their will by just such leadership. Here stand the millions of Americans cut loose from party ties, but united in being filled with angry determination to defeat next time the man who once obtained their ardent support by false pretense.

What will happen six months from today we have not the least idea. But each week the likelihood grows less of the deliberate commission of suicide of the republican party.


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Burglar—"You be quiet, or I'll wake your wife and give her this letter I found in your pocket."  
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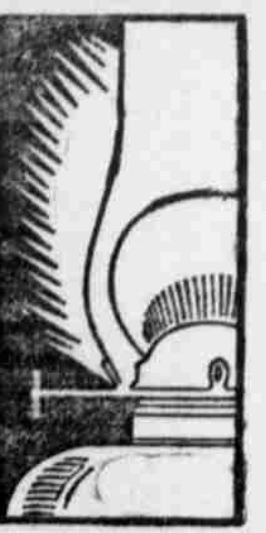
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