

THE ROOSEVELT-TAFT CONTROVERSY

(Continued from Page 10)

"The facts themselves, of which Mr. Taft is undeniably aware and which are capable of complete demonstration, show:

"First—That Mr. Taft was present at the cabinet meeting where the matter was discussed and the final decision reached and that he not only had full knowledge of the matter but a deciding part in the determination.

"Second—That the senate upon being made aware of the situation by Senator Hansbrough, distinctly refused to stop the investigation by the bureau of corporations and permitted the department of justice to go ahead with its prosecution.

"Third—That Senator Hansbrough, an inveterate opponent of the harvester company, was the first man to be advised of the situation by the attorney general and that he immediately attempted to secure action by the senate which would permit the department to begin court proceedings."

The statement reviews the investigations of the harvester company made in 1906 by R. D. Townsend for the department of justice and in 1907 by the bureau of corporations, which was acting under direction of the Hansbrough senate resolution. In the summer of 1907, it stated, Attorney General Bonaparte began a special investigation with a view to prosecution. He did not learn until August of the activities of the bureau of corporations, but then suggested that the latter be continued.

"Early in January, 1908," the statement continues, "Attorney General Bonaparte had received sufficient information from the special investigators of the department of

justice to lead him to believe that a prosecution of the harvester company should be undertaken. In a recent letter, discussing this matter, Mr. Bonaparte says:

"I then told the president that I was prepared now to recommend a prosecution. According to my recollection, he assented, certainly he did not forbid one, but soon afterward ascertained from Mr. Smith, commissioner of corporations, probably through an inquiry on my part, that his investigation, which I had supposed was concluded, was still in progress. I then submitted the matter at a cabinet meeting. From reflecting a good deal on the subject recently I have a rather distinct recollection of the discussion which ensued.

"I stated the question without expressing a positive opinion either way. Secretaries Straus and Garfield advised against a prosecution substantially on the grounds set out in Mr. Herbert Knox Smith's letter of September, 1907, to the president. Secretary Cortelyou, in a very few words, deprecated any important trust prosecution at that moment, since the money market was just recovering from the recent panic.

"Secretary Root then suggested that, as the law gave the senate the right to order such an investigation by the bureau of corporations, the bureau must be considered as a legal agency of the senate for the purpose of making the investigation and the situation, was the same as if a committee were engaged in such inquiry and requested that a suit be postponed for a reasonable time until this investigation could be completed, in which case, he argued, that due comity would require that the request should be granted.

"I said, in substance, that I could

not agree with the views expressed by Secretary Cortelyou, Garfield and Straus, but I thought there was a good deal of force in the advices by Secretary Root."

"Mr. Taft and his managers have sought mendaciously to establish no responsibility for Mr. Taft's part in this matter, through the false pretense that, because Mr. Taft was out of the country in the fall of 1907, he was not in position to know about or have anything to do with the matter. It is not only an affront to the intelligence of the American people for him to say to them, as he does, that a man occupying the position of the administration which he then occupied would not of necessity be thoroughly informed upon a matter of such importance, but it is a positive falsehood.

"Mr. Taft returned to the United States from his trip around the world in December, 1907. He was present at the cabinet meetings in January, 1908, and, as Mr. Bonaparte's letter specifically shows, he not only took part, but the deciding part, in the determination of the cabinet to postpone prosecution of the harvester company pending the investigation of the bureau of corporations."

PERKINS TAKES A HAND

Associated Press dispatch: New York, May 19.—Publication of all correspondence relating to the prosecutions of the International Harvester company was suggested today by George W. Perkins, the New York financier, who, upon his return to New York today, issued a reply to the statement given out at the White house last Friday night by Charles D. Hilles, secretary to the president.

The statement reads: "I have read Mr. Hilles' version of the harvester matter and fail to find anything in it that in the remotest degree answers my letter of April 29, last, to Chairman McKinley. If Mr. Taft and his managers had at any time meant to be fair and square and frank with the public in this matter they would have complied with the senate's recent request and published in full all that has taken place in regard to the harvester company during the Taft administration; especially during the last twelve or eighteen months.

"The public is being deluged daily with the Taft version of how Mr. Roosevelt held up Mr. Bonaparte's suit against the harvester company and why; but great care is being taken to keep from the public all knowledge as to whether or not Mr. Taft held up Mr. Wickersham's suit against the harvester company and why.

"Full publicity regarding the whole affair would enable the public to form its own judgment and reach its own conclusion. It would also show that Mr. Hilles regards as proper favors for a private secretary to appear so kind as to ask from the officers of a corporation threatened with prosecution by the self same president."

TAFT MAKES BITTER ATTACK

On Sunday, May 19th, President Taft gave out the following statement: "On Thursday, last, I gave a statement to the press in which I said that with 520 delegates then elected to the convention and with the immediate prospect of the election of enough to exceed the necessary 540, the success of the cause of constitutional government seemed assured. The delegates elected since that time have confirmed this conclusion.

"Mr. Roosevelt's speech in Cleveland shows him in such a light that the certainty of his defeat for the republican nomination must be a source of profound congratulation to all patriotic citizens who can now

see the utter wreck that he would have made in the party if nominated, and the great danger to which the country would have been exposed had there been any chance of his election to a third term.

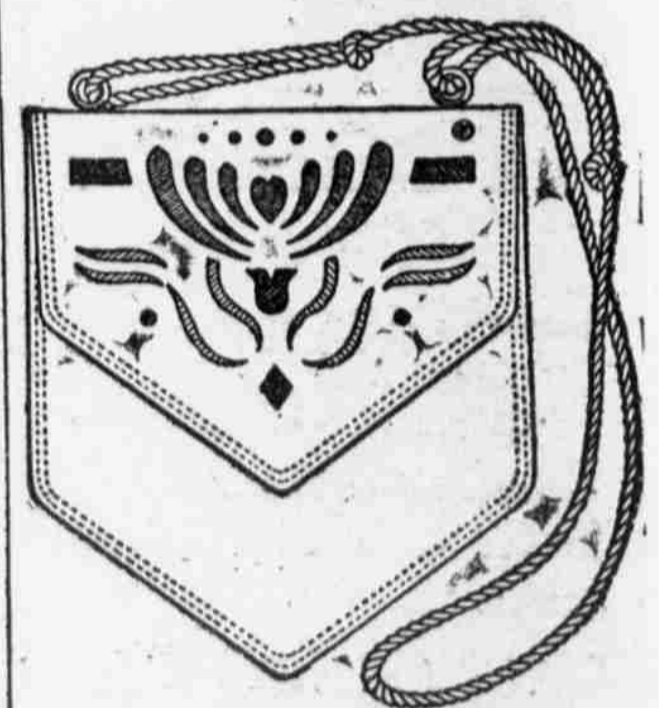
"Mr. Roosevelt says that he is the republican party and if the republican national committee in passing on the credentials of delegates for the preliminary roll in the convention shall hold to be unfounded, his many flimsy contests, he will decline to abide by the judgment of those having authority. The inference from this is that he will bolt the convention because a duly constituted republican national committee, shall after a judicial investigation, refuse to seat his contesting delegates. If his edict is to be heeded, then the holding of any convention at all is perfunctory and superfluous.

"The arrogance of his statement that he is the republican party and that failure to comply with his views and wishes, puts those doing so in the attitude of bolters, finds no parallel in history save the famous words of Louis XIV, 'The state—I am it.' It is on a par with his declaration that 'I typify and embody' the progressive sentiment of the age.

"With clearly traceable premeditation he projected contests without the slightest reason therefore, in many cases weeks after the regular conventions had been held, merely to make a basis for a campaign of bluff and bluster. Now he threatens that unless this campaign is carried on so that he is recognized as successful and unless honestly elected delegates shall be thrown out in sufficient numbers to give him a majority, he will break from the party and try to ruin that which he can not rule.

"I appeal to all republicans to say whether a man who assumes this attitude does not forfeit his claim to any right to become a candidate in a republican convention? Honored with the nomination to the presidency by that party, and with the most sacred obligations resting upon him to be loyal to its origin, to respect the rules governing its nation and to recognize the authority of

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Plan Now to Reduce the Winter Feed Bills

This is a timely subject for every stock raiser and dairyman. Everywhere farmers are buying expensive feed and roughage and complaining because they are obliged to do so and that the prices are so high, due, principally, to the drouth of last summer that made the hay crop short.

But, blaming it on the weather doesn't help out the situation. A wise man doesn't get caught in the same predicament twice. If the severe dry season last summer teaches us how to avoid such a shortage of roughage as we are now experiencing in some states it will have been almost worth while. The very best time to learn the lesson well is now, before we forget about it. Why not begin now to fortify ourselves against another such season? We know of no better way than to buy a silo and fill it with corn or some supplementary crops.

Our advice to all owners of stock, and especially to dairymen, is to buy silos this summer. Those who have none can not afford to be without one, and those who have one may well consider whether it will not pay to build another or a better one. Think it over and take some action to reduce next winter's feed bill.

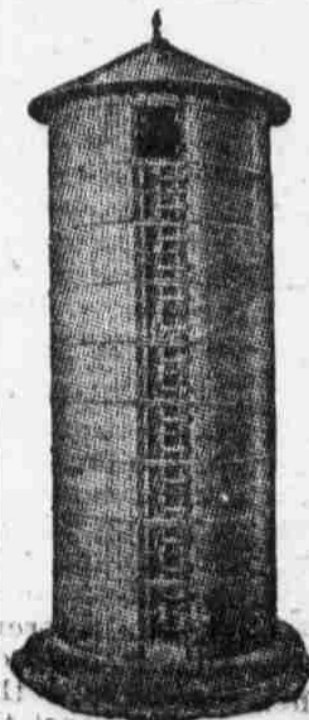
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P. O.

The Commoner, May 24, 1912.