

the subcommittee which will undertake the investigation in behalf of the committee on privileges and elections.

But outside of its bearing on the lively controversy over Standard Oil contributions to the republican national campaign of 1904, Colonel Roosevelt's acknowledgement of responsibility for the publicity given to the alleged telegram signed John D. Rockefeller has served to bring to light the interesting circumstances involving the publication of that reputed communication.

The alleged telegram itself read as follows: "We are opposed to any anti-trust legislation. Our counsel will see you. It must be stopped. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER."

Mr. Roosevelt, in giving this message to the newspaper correspondents, stipulated that his connection with the disclosure must not be mentioned. While most or several of the senators who were named by him as having received the message were convinced that the then president was responsible for the publication, it was not until Colonel Roosevelt acknowledged his responsibility in the letter printed Monday morning that more than a few persons knew positively that the bull moose candidate had caused the alleged Rockefeller telegram to be published.

DON'T FORGET PENROSE

Commenting upon Senator Penrose's speech the Denver News says: "Senator Penrose, in his 'defense,' makes no mention of the letters that show him to have consulted with Mr. Archbold regarding the commission's report, but devotes himself to proving that the \$25,000 remittance—marked 'Personal' and sent to his private residence—was a campaign contribution, not a bribe.

"Of a certainty, his 'defense' is almost as bad as the offense."

Penrose must not be forgotten. While it is desirable that all of the trust transactions with members of congress and other public officials be investigated Mr. Penrose has not yet explained satisfactorily the \$25,000 paid to him while he was a member of the commission, and failing to make a better explanation than he has already given us. Mr. Penrose ought to retire from the senate.

Public sentiment drove Lorimer out of the senate. Is Penrose powerful enough to resist where Lorimer yielded?

BOOSTING THE COMMONER CIRCULATION

Geo. Gargett, Alma, Mich.—Please find enclosed draft for \$50.00 for which send The Commoner to the enclosed list of 200 subscribers. This list of subscribers is the work of the Wilson, Marshall and Ferris club of Alma, Mich. Our membership hopes to see other clubs follow this example as we believe there can be nothing done which will be more effective to insure the election of the whole democratic ticket. Our club is gaining strength each day and we feel certain that you will hear good news from old Michigan next November.

J. C. Anderson, Chillicothe, O.—Enclosed find draft to pay for the club of 206 subscribers to The Commoner handed you herewith. Mr. Silas F. Garret, John M. Vanmeter, G. S. Claypool, Robert Alexander, J. B. Long, W. H. Woodrow, Gottfried Fried, Elmon R. Terry and L. A. Sears each gave me material assistance in securing this club of subscribers. Mr. H. W. Woodrow is an uncle of Governor Wilson.

Geo. E. Edmann, chairman, and E. E. Hite, secretary, Democratic Central committee, Greensburg, Ind.—We hand you herewith draft to pay for the enclosed club of 50 campaign subscriptions to The Commoner. Please begin these subscriptions with the issue of August 23.

Judson E. Richardson, Ewart, Mich.—I hand you herewith check to pay for the enclosed list of 218 campaign subscriptions to The Commoner. Other names will follow as rapidly as we can get them ready.

J. A. Jaycox, Mo.—Enclosed find draft to pay for the enclosed list of twenty subscriptions as per your special campaign offer. Every loyal democrat should be on the firing line from now until the 5th of November.

John B. Jameson, N. H.—I am sending you herewith a list of 83 subscribers in Antrim, N. H. Please mail The Commoner to these subscribers at our special campaign rate until after election. I enclose my check in payment of the same.

Perry G. Alfred, Weston, W. Va.—Chairman Executive Committee: We accept the proposition to furnish our committee The Commoner until the 15th of next November at the special campaign rate, and herewith enclose the first list of 136 subscribers.

Mr. Roosevelt and the Campaign Funds

SOME REMINDERS OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1908 WHEN MR. ROOSEVELT WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND IN POWER IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

The following appeared in the Chicago Dispatch, in October, 1908: President Roosevelt, having laid down his fountain pen and stopped writing letters because of his inability to answer Mr. Bryan, has now directed his attention to two other important branches of his work of attempting to elect Mr. Taft as his successor. He is now putting forth his best efforts to increase the size of the republican campaign fund and to deliver the labor vote to his party's nominee. The scandals which have followed the exposure of previous campaign contributions from favored corporations, trusts and insurance companies to the republican war chest have made it difficult for Treasurer Sheldon to fry the fat from these special interests, and hence it has been necessary for the president to go forth with the big stick to get a slush fund. Mr. Roosevelt is an expert in raising republican donations; he has had past experience which was very successful. Toward the close of the 1904 campaign he called upon Mr. E. H. Harriman, the railroad magnate, for funds to procure his own election, and that worthy responded within twenty-four hours by raising \$260,000. This amount Mr. Harriman said in his now famous Webster letter, changed 50,000 votes—a difference of 100,000 in the total—in the city of New York alone. There can be no doubt that Mr. Roosevelt knows how to raise a campaign fund to aid his proxy.

The following appeared in several issues of The Commoner in October, 1908:

"OPEN THE BOOKS," IS A POPULAR CRY THESE DAYS

The people called upon both the political parties to "open the books" on campaign contributions. The democratic party responded with a publicity plank unanimously adopted. The republican convention defeated a publicity plank by a vote of 94 yeas to 880 nays.

The people called upon both national committees to "open the books" and make public their campaign contributions. The democratic committee responded on October 15, 16, and 17 by publishing the contributions to their campaign fund. The republican committee promises to open the books "after the election."

SHALL THEY BUY IT

In October, 1908, the following appeared in the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal: Mark how a plain tale shall put all republican professions of integrity to rout and bring shame to every upright republican.

Mr. Nathan Straus, head of the Democratic Business Men's league of New York, in immediate co-operation with the national democratic committee, is a brother of Mr. Oscar Straus, secretary of Mr. Roosevelt's department of commerce. He is a merchant of the highest credit and a philanthropist who has done incalculable service to humanity. His word would pass anywhere that he is known for as good as the bond of most men. He tells us that Mr. George Rumsey Sheldon is laying Wall street under tribute to the republican campaign fund. Mr. Sheldon denies this. Therefore Mr. Straus says that if Mr. Sheldon will name three respectable citizens as a court of inquiry he will go before them and prove it. Mr. Sheldon, sullenly refusing to do this, confesses judgment.

MONEY TO BURN

The following article appeared in the New York Herald of Sunday, October 18, 1908:

Herald Bureau, No. 1, 502 M street, N. W., Washington, D. C., Saturday.—When Mr. Taft takes breakfast with President Roosevelt at the White House tomorrow, he will learn, among other things, that his campaign has been well financed, and that Frank H. Hitchcock has ample funds to carry on the canvass in the doubtful states.

The Herald reporter is informed that the republican campaign fund now numbers 6,000 contributors and that additional subscriptions are coming in hourly, not only from New York city, but from the larger cities and indeed from every state in the union.

This is quick action as a result of the conference between the president and George R. Sheldon, the treasurer of the republican national committee, and the collections are due first to

a comprehensive scheme approved by the president and to a final plunge toward Taft on the part of the business interests. This change is understood to have been due largely to the fear on the part of business men that if Mr. Bryan were elected he would have the appointment of four or five members of the supreme court of the United States and would probably pick men on whom he could carry out the Gompers policy regarding injunctions and boycotts.

The final breaking of the ice in the matter of financial aid for Taft and Sherman is said to have been dramatic. It occurred at the Union League club last Sunday, where there was a large gathering. Many of these men have been lukewarm toward Taft and had got used to saying that they did not care whether Taft or Bryan were elected, because Taft with the senate against him could do no harm. But at the League Sunday night there was some plain talk, not only about the prospect of the senate going Bryan's way, in case he also carried the house of representatives, but also a full discussion of the supreme court features of the campaign.

The result was that the statement was advanced that the republican national committee needed money, and needed it badly. It was said that the democratic campaign fund was already larger than the republican fund and that about \$400,000 ought to be immediately available. Various plans were discussed. A finance committee was organized, with instructions to get "down to business" with men of means.

As a result there were many meetings of boards of directors in New York Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday morning the report was made that \$350,000 had been raised and the amount was growing.

Similar efforts were made in other states, and a prominent New Yorker who was here today said that as a result of the relax feeling toward Mr. Taft, a million dollars could be raised.

It was the sudden accession to the republican campaign fund, all made in contributions not very large, by individuals that startled the democratic campaign managers and made Nathan Straus say that George R. Sheldon was levying tribute on the Wall street brokers.

PUBLICITY DEMANDED

The following appeared in The Commoner of October 30, 1908: Prior to election day in 1904 democrats charged that representatives of the special interests were providing the republican party with campaign funds. Mr. Roosevelt hotly denied the accusation, denouncing the democrat who made it as a liar.

Later it developed that E. H. Harriman had collected \$250,000 for the use and benefit of the republican party in that campaign. This money came from Standard Oil officials and others, the detailed contributions being as follows:

Edward H. Harriman.....	\$ 50,000
H. McK. Twombly (representing the Vanderbilt interests)	25,000
Chauncey M. Depew (personal).....	25,000
James Hazen Hyde.....	25,000
The Equitable Life Assurance Society	10,000
J. Pierpont Morgan.....	10,000
George W. Perkins (New York Life Insurance Company)	10,000
H. H. Rogers, John D. Archbold, William Rockefeller (Standard Oil Co.)	30,000
Cornelius N. Bliss (personal).....	10,000
James Speyer and Banking Interests..	10,000
"Seven Friends" of Senator Depew, \$5,000 each	35,000
Sent to Mr. Harriman in smaller donations	20,000
Total	\$260,000

Does any one believe that Mr. Roosevelt would have dared tell the people, PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY, that these men had contributed \$260,000 to his campaign fund?

Will any one contend that the people were not entitled to know these facts PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY?

Now in 1908 publicity concerning campaign funds is demanded, PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY.

But Mr. Roosevelt insists that the people must trust the republican managers and that the source of the republican party's campaign fund will not be revealed until AFTER THE ELECTION!

And Mr. Taft—Mr. Roosevelt's candidate for