

NEW ERA FOR GREAT WEST

President Roosevelt's National Irrigation Act to Be a Wonder-Worker.

MILLIONS OF CHEERFUL, HAPPY HOMES

Avenue of Relief to Congested Cities—Health, Prosperity and Patriotism Fostered by Contact with Soil—Republican Party Leads the Way.

Even the Democrats are beginning to realize something of the possibilities for good which are to come to the whole United States through the national irrigation act passed by a Republican Congress, and signed by President Roosevelt June 7, 1902. The Democrats are now claiming that they "did it." Still, the facts remain that President Roosevelt, by the force of his own identity, put the measure through Congress and made it the law of the land with his official signature as President.

It is not a dream, but a fact, that the present population of the United States can be duplicated on the arid public domain in the West. This can be done without making new competitors for those already engaged in agricultural pursuits in the East and in the South. On the other hand, this wonderful act of planting a new nation in what is now all but an unbroken desert will confer enormous benefits on those sections which are already covered with farms, factories and towns.

Big Internal Problems.

In our great West, a population of 100,000,000 might live in prosperous contentment. There is everything to inspire and reward their industry—the charm of climate and of scenery, the fertility of soil, the unimaginable wealth of water, forest and mine, and, across the Pacific, new worlds to conquer. Our biggest internal question to-day is the preparation and colonization of this productive area. This nation must keep on with its historic work of civilization. It must continue that marvelous reciprocal process by which it has so rapidly risen to immeasurable heights of economic power—the making of new communities to feed the old, the enlargement of old communities to feed the new. The longest step yet taken to this end is adoption of the plan of national irrigation—chiefly through the instrumentality of President Roosevelt. It is a new policy, only at present in its experimental stage, but those who know most about it believe it is a measure big with national fate.

Momentous New Era.

We are entering upon a new and momentous era that calls for the highest qualities of constructive statesmanship. The movement must be broadly founded and firmly and intelligently managed. We are planning, not for ourselves but for future generations, for we are the forefathers of a mighty future in a mighty land. If we are equal to our duty and our opportunities, we shall make homes for a hundred million of the freest men who ever walked the earth.

We are living in an age of mighty achievement. Engineering works which the last generation would have thought an impossibility will be the completed task of this generation. The New York subway, the great tunnel of the Pennsylvania railroad, the Isthmian canal and the Salt River reservoir in Arizona and other mammoth irrigation projects will soon stand as completed monuments to the constructive genius of our people and this age. The future is potent with still grander undertakings which will, in a few brief years, also stand as accomplished facts. Egypt was for centuries the granary of the world. That land of mystery and romance was the cradle of our civilization. For countless ages the Nile has risen annually, to fertilize the land which has yielded, from year to year, the sustenance of teeming millions.

Greatest Question of the Age.

The question of irrigation which now confronts the people of the United States is one of the most important of the age. It is of more importance than the Isthmian canal or a deep waterway to the sea. It involves the solution of the forest and flood problem. It embraces the future internal development of the United States. It will require years of work to perfect the system of national irrigation, but it will be the greatest benefit ever conferred on the western people.

Men may be cruel and unfair, but nature is generous and utterly impartial. The earth, the sun and the waters are as kind to the poor as to the rich. The roses do not stop to look up a man's financial standing before consenting to bloom for him. They grow wherever planted. They cover the poor man's cottage as gladly as they do the rich man's villa.

Husbandry Makes Patriots.

Nations may spring into being, generated by the force of ideas alone, but the vigorous manhood, the mature growth of a State can only be nurtured and built up upon the abundant and manifold productions of the earth. The very existence and advance of civilization are firmly grounded on material resources. Nations become great and independent as they develop a genius for grasping the forces and materials of nature within their reach and converting them into a steady flowing stream of wealth and comfort.

To hold a people in industrious, productive, contented habits, habits of virtue and of patriotism, it is needful to give them an interest in the cultivation of land. This fact is seen along the shores of historic time. Wherever government has made laws which have given the people of the land its occupancy on fair terms, then content and plenty have been on every hand. Wherever it has been hard for the masses to obtain the use of the land, then discontent and difficulties have been rampant on every hand, and frequently national ruin has been the result. The noblest use to which any man or people can put history is to take it either as warning or wise instruction. In the United States we have in quality, quantity and variety such ap-

plies and resources as no one government in the world ever had before.

Danger in Congested Cities.

It is not without serious meaning that so many of our people are massing in cities, that in cities rents are going higher, and hence people are living in fewer rooms or smaller ones, and that the attendant and consequent evils, moral, physical, industrial, intellectual and national, are seen on every hand. We are to-day passing through a period of prosperity in the United States without parallel in the history of all nations, this may not continue indefinitely. Our leaders must know that they have to do, not with supine men who have been trained to submissive obedience—a people who stand ready to shut their eyes, open their mouths and take whatever is given and be contented therewith. Adversity will bring commotion in our cities as "cold engenders hail."

Remedy in Irrigated Farms.

In contemplating the dangers of the future that may come to this republic, the wise citizen should reach out and seize whatever remedy may be within his reach and apply it so that all the years to come may be free from fear and disturbing forces such as are always at work in every nation. That remedy appears to be, to put the balance of our population back on the land and keep it there. There seems to be no other remedy. The man who has his home upon mother earth, the man who draws his living straight from nature's granary, the man who is free from all the uncertainties of a wage earner's employment, the man who gathers his wife and children around his own hearthstone and gets his living by his own labor from his own land, is the anchorage of this country. It behooves our statesmen to rise to the occasion and imbue the American people with a patriotic determination to turn the balance of our population back to the land and plant it there with homes that no social upheaval can ever disturb. This will safeguard this nation for all years to come.

All Can Have Homes.

The nation has land for every man who will make his home upon it in good faith—who will break the sod, plant crops, build a house and settle down to support his family from the soil, but the nation has no land—at least, it ought to have none—for the man who merely seeks to forestall the actual settler and sell out to him at a profit, or become a landlord, collecting income from his tenant.

Land monopoly robs men of a large portion of the products of their labor. It nullifies the spirit of constitutional guarantees which seeks to give assurance of political freedom. No man is free in the true sense of the term who is beholden to another for the means of his existence, and land monopoly makes rebels instead of patriots. In the case of Ireland it drove more than half the population away from its native soil. It filled their hearts with bitterness and even sent some of her children into the ranks of England's enemies in the hour of her great trouble.

Will Help the East.

The subjugation and settlement of the great empire of public lands means that every factory wheel in the United States must whirl faster, that every banking house must handle more money, and that every railroad must transport more passengers and freight. This, in turn, means a larger and busier population in every eastern and southern town, and that of course will quicken and enlarge the demand for all the products of the soil in the older sections of the country. In the meantime that which is grown from the soil, to be conquered by irrigation in the West, will go almost exclusively to the feeding of new home markets to be erected within the arid region itself and to the satisfying of unlimited demands in the Orient and in the frozen north.

Limitless Oriental Trade.

Visible increase in American tonnage in trade between the Asiatic East and the Pacific coast is beyond the conception of the ordinary citizen. This transportation issue concerns the merchant, the manufacturer and the mechanic of the Atlantic States, the Middle States and the far West as well as the Pacific coast. These merchants, manufacturers and mechanics have the same interest in the Asiatic trade that they have in the irrigation development of our arid and semi-arid land. The larger that trade, the greater the demand for the industrial products of the vast region east of the Rocky mountains, the greater the efficiency of trans-Pacific transportations, the greater our trade with Asia.

In a way the merchants, manufacturers and mechanics east of the Rocky mountains have more at stake than have the Pacific coast States. Increased trade with Asia, especially an increased demand for American food stuffs, means increased agricultural, commercial and industrial activity on the Pacific coast, and finally, the most important of all, a larger home market for what the people of the Pacific coast call the American East.

Improved Transportation.

The transportation issue is settling itself. The trans-continental railway companies face a globe circling competition that forces them to raise the efficiency of their systems, west of Chicago. The steam lines of the Pacific ocean are meeting the transportation demands, thus the American commerce with the Asiatic East is insured by such



UNCLE SAM—"I'm sorry, but I can't use anything with a string tied to it."

great promoter of trade known as swift and regular transportation. The complement of this transportation is a steady and reliable flow of freight. Here irrigation comes into play. Irrigation insures regular crops and therefore a fixed volume of freight; even as a reliable transportation insures regular trade. These phases of national life are part and parcel of the evolutionary process that has made the United States the trade leader of the world. The activities of the country are rising to the new economic standard. He who fails to see this should seek a new perspective.

To the ordinary man the term Asiatic trade lacks special significance. He knows it relates to trade with Asia, and that we are constantly exporting to and importing from Asia. He does not realize that all the leading countries of the earth are competing for the trade of several hundred million Asiatics, and that this trade is really the greatest commercial prize of the day. He does not realize that this trade may be the making of his own trade, calling or business.

Your Personal Interest.

Farmers, ranchers, miners, lumbermen, merchants, laborers of the West, do not vote against your own interests, that of your family; and yours and their future. Vote for Roosevelt and Fairbanks. They have brought you glad tidings in the national irrigation act. Its workings have already begun. Under its operation there will be a tendency to balance interests and thus help in a powerful way to keep the government steady. It will settle the beef question, every acre irrigated would produce more than thirty times as much as is now produced on any of our wild arid lands. It will produce new towns of moderate size, where all the vocations of trade, of learning, literature and religion will flourish. It will change the face of the earth. It will change the face of the sky. It will modify the atmosphere. It will change the climate. It will give life, health, joy and prosperity to the people.

Work for Republican Party.

When we come to contemplate the whole field of natural western resources, available for food, for industry and for commerce, when we attempt to grasp in one act of thought the length and breadth and depth of the riches with which Providence has loaded this section; when we try to realize how every possible want, every material aspiration of man can be bountifully provided for; when we consider how measureless are the values which will spring into being at the touch of modern industry, and how these values, when once created, are solid and real and become incorporated into the enduring structure of human society, we may begin to estimate properly the measure of responsibility which rests upon this nation and its chosen rulers. This is not merely to preserve unharmed the priceless boom of civil liberty which leaves the individual citizen free to do his share in work of development, but to adopt such measures as will prevent the waste of natural resources, clear the way of progress and promote the triumph of civilization. The record of the Republican party shows it to be a party of progress.

A Sign of Prosperity.

There is no better criterion of general prosperity than the postal business. When times are good the postal revenue increases, and vice versa. The report of the Postmaster General shows that for the year ending July 1, 1895, the receipts from postal revenue were \$76,171,000. For the year ending July 1, 1902, they were \$119,958,229, an increase of 57 per cent during seven years of continuous Republican rule. During the year ending July 1, 1895, the receipts from the money order business were \$812,088; for the year ending July 1, 1902, they were \$1,889,817, an increase of 133 per cent during seven years of Republican prosperity. The Postmaster General in his annual report for 1902 said: "The increase in the postal revenues attests the wonderful prosperity of the people and the activity of business interests throughout

the country." It would not have been proper for the Postmaster General in an official report to attribute this wonderful prosperity in 1902 to the operation of the Dingley tariff law and other Republican measures, but such was the fact.

WHAT IS TO BE WILL BE

Growth of the Asiatic Demand for Products of the United States.

The Asiatic nations have lived upon rice—stating things in a general way—and the Teutonic races have for some generations lived upon flour. It has become standard within the last year or two, that at least one of the Asiatic nations has come to live upon flour. Those desperate little fighters, the Japanese, have taken to hard tack, as did our own American fighters during the Civil War, as a part of their subsistence, and the same regard as to whatever is made from our wheat has already extended, in a measure, to the more vast Asiatic empire of China. That clever correspondent, William E. Curtis, speaking of the extent to which our flour is already used by Japan, says:

While the imports of flour within the last year or so have been much greater than ever before on account of the preparations for war, nevertheless there is reason to expect a continued expansion of the market. Japanese families generally are beginning to use wheat flour for various purposes. Nearly every household is now using it to make the little cakes and sweetmeats which they use with their tea several times a day in large quantities. A still larger amount of a cheaper quality is used for paste by the manufacturers of screens, umbrellas, fans and other articles of that kind. Since the war began hard bread has been introduced into the army as an alternate ration with rice. The soldiers relish the variety; hard-tack is easy to handle and carry, the nutritive value of a pound of flour is equal to that of a pound of rice, and it costs less. The Japanese export their best rice to France, England and China, where it brings big prices, being of the very highest grade. They import vast quantities of cheaper rice for the consumption of the coolies and the laboring class from Korea, Burma, China, Singapore and other parts of the East Indies. It is entirely practicable to substitute cheap brands of flour for this low-grade rice, and it will be easy to do so when the soldiers come home with their appetites for hard-tack and wheat bread.

Could there be, under any circumstances or conditions, expressed a vaster idea of the enormous trade relations that must henceforth exist between America and the Asiatic countries! America produces bread. The Asiatics have learned to eat bread with the rest of the world. We are going to supply them with it. We have to ship it across the Pacific Ocean over the commercial pathway which we have made and beneath which underlies our cable system. There is nothing in the world that can stop the Asiatic demand for the wheat products of the United States, and the wheat products of the United States have made this country, to a great extent, the tremendous power it is.

They talk about "Imperialism!" There is no "Imperialism!" This continent is producing what the rest of the world needs, and the inhabitants of this continent, under the rule of Republican administration, associated with other intelligent governments on either side, propose to supply Asia with these products that Asia needs. The fact that the United States has completed its pathway across the vast ocean and has its intermediate stations, and its possessions close to the Asiatic coasts, is but an incident of events which are part of the industrial history of the world. Does anyone imagine that the present majority of the American people are going to neglect their ostensible duty, not merely to themselves but to another portion of the human race? They will hardly do it.

This is but talking of the products of the wheat fields that Asia now demands. It has nothing to do with iron and steel and the thousand and one other products of all our fields and all our factories which they will otherwise demand. This is but referring to the simple affair of one single product, but it is enough to afford an illustration.

And yet they talk about "Imperial-

ism!" There is no "Imperialism." We are but brothers who are going to assist in feeding the rest of our brothers of the world; to give them the benefits of it all and to reap ourselves the benefits of it all. To submit to anything else would be silly. It is but a problem of common sense.

Export of Manufactures.

Figures recently issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor at Washington show that during the month of July last our exports of manufactures amounted to \$40,000,000, against \$31,000,000 of agricultural products. During June the exports of manufactures were nearly \$42,000,000, against \$37,500,000 of agricultural products. This is the first time in the history of the country that the exports of manufactures have exceeded those of the farm. This does not mean that the exports of farm products are falling off, but that those of manufactures have greatly increased. This is due to a protective tariff which, while it benefits American manufactures, also increases the home demand for American farm products.

Democracy's Bad Record.

When the veterans of the Civil War were with Gen. Grant before Richmond or with Sherman marching to the sea, a Democratic national convention declared the war a failure and demanded a dishonorable peace. When the business men of the wage-earners and honest men of all classes were battling for sound money and the gold standard the Democratic party, as an organization, was clamoring for free silver at 16 to 1. When the Republican party was contending for protection to American manufacturers and workmen, its opponents were advocating a policy destructive to both. What good thing has the Democratic party ever done, anyhow?

Not the Only Important Question.

Admitting that the gold standard is "irrevocably fixed," as Judge Parker says, though he did not help fix it, that is only one of many important financial questions that may come up in relation to financial matters. The question of the preservation and extension of our system of banking and currency; the refunding of our national debt as it may, from time to time, become due, and many other questions of like importance may arise. To place the settlement of these questions in unfriendly hands might result in such a disturbance of business as would shock the whole country.

Personal Abuse Will Not Win.

The Democratic party has been so long in the opposition and its every day work has so long been criticism, that it forgets that no battle was ever won by swearing at the enemy. Abuse of Mr. Roosevelt will make votes for him. He is a very popular man. Personal criticism will not draw away from him any man who admires him, but it will stir his admirers to the more earnest support of him.

According to the Banker's Monthly for August there are 7,305,228 individual depositors in the savings banks of the United States, and it is safe to say that 7,305,000 will vote for the Republican ticket, at least all who are legal voters will.

"No more important question can engage our attention, and none should receive more earnest and thoughtful consideration, than one which seeks to guard and preserve the high standard of our population and citizenship,"—Senator Fairbanks in the Senate, January 11, 1898.

The passage of the National Irrigation Act marked a new era for the West. Its effect upon actual settlement may not unfairly be compared to that of the Homestead law, signed by President Lincoln in 1862.

Under the Wilson low tariff exports increased \$94,000,000; in three years under the Dingley tariff they increased \$155,000,000.

PARKER'S FAVORITE POEM.

(Alton B. Parker is very fond of the poetry of James Whitcomb Riley.—Current Note.)

Uncle David Bennett Hill's at Parker's house to stay,
To help him fix his fences an' to tell him what to say;
David says: "Be keerful, now you are a candidate,
Or else they'll git the best of you—that's just as sure as fate;
Now don't send any telegrams, creatin' further doubt,
Or Roosevelt 'll beat you,
ef you
don't watch out!

"Wunst they was a candidate 'at thought he'd have a chance
If he'd tell the people what he knew about finance;
Went about th' country with a holler an' a whoop—
When the votes was counted he was underneath the soup.
Stick to what I tell you, or you'll amble up the spout,
Fer Roosevelt 'll beat you,
ef you
don't watch out!

"Wunst I wore a feather plume: 'I Am a Democrat.'
Till a cyclone from th' west jest blew away my hat—
When they ast me what I was, I answered cool an' ca'm,
With another feather plume which read: 'I Guess I Am.'
Bet your life that David knows jest what he is about—
An' Roosevelt 'll beat you,
ef you
don't watch out!

"Best be purty keerful how you talk about th' trusts—
If you want to roast one, better wait until it busts.
An' th' money question—don't have very much to say
As to plutocrats—remember Henry Gas-saway!
Stick right to a whisper, don't you never dare to shout,
Or Roosevelt 'll beat you,
ef you
don't watch out!

"Have your picture taken—out be keerful what you wear—
Put on all th' overalls an' look like 'county fair';
Take your little plunge into the Hudson every day,
Keep below the water when you've anything to say.
Mind your Uncle David—his suggestions never flour—
For Roosevelt 'll beat you,
EF YOU
DON'T WATCH OUT!"

TRIBULATIONS OF A GREAT GRANDFATHER.

(Over Teddy's Letter.)
Eikins, W. Va., Sept. 15, 1904.
Dear Sonny—I've just finished readin' Teddy's letter and haven't had so much fun since I was tussled in a blanket that grand old rough rider, Andy Jackson, was elected for a second term. It tusses us up so high that it seems as if we'd never come down.

I never did see a paper so full of interlocking points as that letter, and every derred one of them like a jolt on the solar plexus that Steve is so fond of talkin' about.

"Nunky," said Steve, as I hobbled into breakfast this mornin', the first time since I posed as Methuselah pickin' the shoe strings out of his eyes, "Nunky," says he, "why does Teddy's letter remind you of a cowboy road?"

"Because it's so full of bumps," says I, guessin' his comundrum the first crack. "There's nothin' like a few sharp jolts on the spine to sharpen an old man's intellects."

No wonder you thought it a mile long. A short piece of road like that goes a long way when your wagon hasn't any springs or straw on the bottom, an' your old hams lack fat like mine.

I tell you, Alton, that's the matter with us. The Democratic band wagon hasn't got any springs nor straw for cushions, and I'm gettin' all fired tired furnishin' all the axle grease.

This letter of Teddy's doesn't run on rubber tires. He may mean well, but what right has he pryin' into our convictions? What business is it of his if we are like the man stakin' a right on the end of a train who never sees anything until it's passed? If he was as old as I am, he'd bless his stars if he could see anything, behind or before.

This havin' foresight is all a Republican gift. We Democrats haven't got it. We're always stakin' the hind foot.

We never saw anything in infant industries till the Republicans adopted the foundlin' and brought it up on Protection money.

We never saw that the Union had to be preserved, if there were to be enough offices to go round, until the Republicans saved it and filled the offices for high onto forty years.

We never saw that two things could not occupy the same place at the same time until the Republicans adopted the gold standard and left us holdin' the bag between bimetalism and free and unlimited silver.

I tell you, we've no faculty for foresight—and, as far as I can see, mighty little for hind-sight, either. No wonder the monkey is our party emblem. Do you know, I've been lookin' in mother's lookin' glass lately, and I swan, if my chin whiskers ain't grown like a goat's and my ears are gettin' so long they droop, Steve says it's only an optical hallucination, superinduced by too much brooding over Republican cartoons?

But, say, Alton—on the quiet—have you consulted your glass since you made that speech to Charlie Knapp and the other Charlie horses?

Donkeys have this advantage over men: they can get their ears to the ground without crawlin' on their bellies.

Wish to see you put Teddy on the grid-iron, your old uncle,

HENRY GASSOWAY.

Party Records.

In every national campaign for forty years past the Republican party has stood upon its record of things done, of laws enacted, of policies established under which the country has progressed and prospered. The record of the Democratic party made in two administrations was so full of disaster, of commercial shipwreck of industrial paralysis and business failures that its chief business in recent years has been to get as far away from its record as possible.

Parker Would Be Unsafe.

Without questioning the sincerity of Judge Parker's expressions on the money question he was, by his own statements, more devoted to his party, in 1896, than he was to his sincere convictions of right. That being the case, we have a right to assume that he might, at an extreme moment, again surrender his principles for the sake of his party. Such a man cannot be held up as a safe candidate for the highest position in the government.