

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THE PRESIDENTIAL CIRCUIT-RIDE.

The circuit-rider was a central figure of the days of primitive Methodism. Going on horseback from settlement to settlement, he ministered to the spiritual needs of a rugged but sterling people. The mutual confidence of pastor and flock was confirmed by long acquaintance. It was a relation founded on sound understanding and community of interest.

Our opening smile is suggested by the fact of the president's itinerary. We fear it is also partly deduced from force of contrast. The visits of the old-time circuit-rider had a genuine and very deep significance, both to himself and the communities along his route. Can the same be said of Mr. Taft's 13,000-mile "swing-around-the-circle?" We do not think so. Let not the spirit in which we make this remark be misapprehended. Our negation is reluctant rather than otherwise. We would be glad to find reason to believe that the people of the United States are likely to get some substantial returns from the presidential tour. But the more we examine the conditions and the probabilities of this mammoth railroad jaunt, the more we are inclined to relegate it to the category of events which are brilliant and pleasing on the surface, which derive a certain importance from the distinction of the chief personage concerned, which are attractive because of blazonry, blare and parade, which include the charm of social amenities, but are fruitless of real results.

Let us first look at the tour in its political bearings. It was announced from the outset that Mr. Taft was going to discuss the Aldrich-Payne tariff. That statement, dry and naked as it is, is quite enough to set in a painful light the pitability of the president's dilemma. What does Mr. Taft intend to say about the tariff? Better ask, "What can he say?" Turn to view any facet of the subject he will, he must find himself narrowed down to a kind of triangular alternative. He must either defend, explain or apologize. Defense is impossible. Explanation is superfluous. Apology is confession. It is a humiliating choice for Mr. Taft. Whatever he says, he will find himself framing a tacit indictment against his party.

We believe no man realizes this better than William Howard Taft. His experience, both as a lawyer and judge, must have taught him the difference between a defensible and an indefensible cause. He has had plenty of time for lucubration. The mortifications of the special session of congress, its gross betrayal of the republican pledges, the weak presidential compromise with the stand-patters at the end, have been followed by weeks of reflection on the president's part. Mr. Taft is a man of far from romantic temperament—he is characterized by a certain good-natured impassibility. But if he were to tell all he has thought, during these times when he has been hugging the tariff to his pillow, it would be found that the subject has been little better than a nightmare. It is a procrustean couch—that hammock in which Mr. Taft has been reclining in the intervals of his vacation golf-playing.

The first of the speeches mapped out for the president's itinerary was delivered in Boston. If it was intended to strike a keynote, it was a failure. Naturally, inevitably, a declaration was expected on the tariff question. Mr. Taft kept as far as possible from that ticklish subject. He informed his hearers that he must save something for other audiences—an excuse we would call childish if saying so did not imply a certain dis-

respect to the president which we are far from intending. So, let us call it an instance of Mr. Taft's constitutional weakness—the tendency to temporize. He deferred the hateful theme for another occasion. But if Mr. Taft wined at tariff mention before a Massachusetts audience, one can't help but wonder what he will do with it when he gets into the middle west, and finds himself face to face with that phalanx whose chieftains are men like Cummins, Beveridge, and LaFollette. If he did not care to tackle the New England heifer, will he be very liable to take the western bull by the horns? Well—there is hardly enough of the treader about Mr. Taft for that. Unless we greatly mis our guess, the upshot of his tariff speeches will be a kind of plea in abatement, a "wait-and-see" species of advocacy, which, by the way, was distinctly foreshadowed in the Boston remarks that now the tariff bill is passed, business conditions will be more settled. Yes, they will. But what has that to do with a cast crime of sweeping violation of party pledges, of a mighty national issue, with justice on one side and plunder on the other? Mr. Taft should realize that the situation is not one which can be glazed over by the smooth casuistry which strives to obliterate the boundary lines between right and wrong. Now is the time, if ever, for clear-cut affirmation, or repudiation. If Mr. Taft ventures on the former he shames himself. If he dares the latter, he brings himself into fierce collision with his party. That is the wretched alternative of the fork in the roads at which he has arrived, and one of which he must tread, willy-nilly, or else take a boggy bypath across the marshes of sophistry.

In Boston, Mr. Taft devoted the main part of his speech to a plea for a central national bank. The audience received the proposal in grim silence. It is only fair to assume they would rather have heard some ringing sentences in favor of a postal savings bank. But they cheered when Mr. Taft referred to the necessity of curbing the corporations. The silence, and the cheers, contained pregnant hints for Mr. Taft, if he is shrewd enough to take them.

Will the president eulogize Senator Aldrich in the west, the way he did in Boston? That's an interesting speculation. We wait to see, but we do not hesitate to say that eulogy of Aldrich, coming at this time, will be considered an endorsement of the Aldrich policies. And we recommend Mr. Taft to consider whether he can afford to do that.

All of which goes to bear out our opening statement, that this much heralded circuit-ride of Mr. Taft is a large but purely surface episode. It has no real bearings on his administration, or on the welfare of the people under it. The logical inquiry then is, "Is it worth while?" In all candor, we fail to find it so. Assuredly it is not worth a \$25,000 traveling expense appropriation. Mr. Taft will get little out of it, and the people still less.—National Monthly.

Any Democrat in Cass county can point with pride to the ticket they have nominated. Every one upon that ticket is competent to fill the position in every respect.

For several days the Omaha Bee has failed to show up at the Journal office. Occasionally we have given Little Vick a round-up, and this may have something to do with its stoppage. If it has, Little Vick has not only shown himself to be little in personage, but little in his every-day walk of life. He is very eager to go after other people, but when he receives some of the medicine himself he gets his back up. The Bee is not the only Republican paper in Nebraska, and we can get along without it.

Here is another agitator. A preacher down east offers a box of candy to every young woman who will bring two young men to church service.

Window glass was revised downward by congress, and now twenty-three glass manufacturers have gotten together and advanced prices 10 per cent. If they can't get you with the tariff they will get you with a trust.

With hogs on foot at \$8.15, cattle in the pen worth \$7.75, corn in the crib at 62 cents, and wheat at Chicago hitting the \$1.13 mark, who will deny Jim Hill's warning that more farmers and fewer city dudes are essential to the welfare of the nation?

We learn of numerous Republicans who will not vote for a third-term under any circumstances. John D. McBride was defeated four years ago, because he was running for the third term, and we don't believe the people of Cass county are going to elect a third-termer this year.

Andy Snyder, candidate for recorder of deeds, should be elected because he is a clever gentleman. Gentility and qualifications go hand in hand in making a good county official. Andy was reared on the farm, and comes of a pioneer family of Cass county. He was nominated because it was thought he would be the "right man in the right place." And he will.

In a conversation with several Republicans Saturday they told us that they had voted for John D. McBride twice for sheriff, but when it came to voting for him for the third term, they refused to do so. So, they say, it will be in the case of the present incumbent. The voters are willing to give an official two terms, but they draw the line on the third.

People should not be so eager to condemn a man who has been accused of wrong-doing until they have heard both sides of the case. But it seems the American people are built that way. Gossip sometimes makes more trouble for an accused than real charges preferred. People should be sure they are right before they talk too much about matters and things they know nothing about. The community would be better off if they would follow these rules.

Clell Morgan is gaining friends in every section of Cass county. There is not a better qualified man in the county for the office of clerk. He has served in the capacity of assistant to County Clerk Rosencrans for nearly four years, and every one who has had business in that office knows well how efficient and faithfully he has performed his duties. Clell Morgan is every inch a gentleman, and every one is treated as gentlemen by him. He was brought up in Cass county and has always proved a trusty employe in every position he has been employed.

QUESTIONS FOR MR. TAFT.

The Omaha News propounds the following questions to President Taft, but the editor is liable to wait a long time before he receives an intelligent answer, even if he receives any at all:

"President Taft tells us that a central government bank of issue (as proposed by Senator Aldrich) will be a fine thing for us all.

"But, says the president, it must not be controlled by Wall street.

"President Taft points out a danger, and he owes it to us all to tell us how that danger may be avoided. Answers to these three questions will help:

"What do you mean by Wall street control?

"How could Wall street be prevented from controlling the central government bank if its stock is owned by individuals or national banks?

"Do you favor the ownership of the central bank by the federal government itself?"

A HOPELESS FIGHT.

Progressive Republicans of the cen-

tral and western states are already beginning to talk, with considerable frankness, about making a fight against Taft's nomination and for the control of the national convention in 1912.

Hope springs eternal in the human breast. The same men who are planning now to defeat Taft were planning, last year, to nominate him. They want to defeat him in order to wrest control of the Republican party from Aldrich, Cannon and "the system." A year ago they wanted to nominate him for the same reason. They won a great victory then—they thought. They have found since that it was no victory at all; that "the system" knew what it was about, and secured the nomination and election of a candidate as safely reactionary as any whose name was before the convention.

How can progressive Republicans hope to fare better next time? Under whose banner shall they make the fight? Roosevelt's? It was Roosevelt who stood sponsor for Taft. It was Roosevelt, moreover, who during the entire seven years of his administration never raised a finger to lessen the iniquities of the tariff or to resist Wall street encroachments on control of the national currency and finances. Under Roosevelt and Cortelyou, with Piepont Morgan for their principal adviser, the United States treasury was as close to Wall street, as subservient to Wall street influences, as ever in the history of the country. What reason is there for believing, then, as to either tariff or currency and finance, that Roosevelt would be any improvement on Taft?

Shall some other candidate, as (for instance) Cummins of Iowa, be taken up? What hope would there be of procuring his nomination in a Republican convention as against Taft with "the system" at his back? We can see very little.

Supporting Taft, in the first place, will be found the solid New England states, and the great trust states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Next will be found all of the southern states, lined up by the federal brigade, which not only controls, but largely constitutes the Republican party of the south. The state of Ohio will without doubt continue loyal to Taft. Trust and railroad ridden western states like California, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Montana may be expected to line up with the regulars, herded by the railroad and mining and big sheep and cattle interests. Even Oregon and Washington would be fair fighting ground.

What is there left for the progressives? Simple the central states, bounded on the east by the Ohio, on the west by Colorado, and on the south by Kentucky and Missouri. Among these central states is Michigan, heretofore always controlled by the railroad, lumber and copper interests; Illinois, which has been true to Cannon, Hopkins and Lorimer; Indiana, where Senator Beveridge faces the mighty Fairbanks machine, and Wisconsin, where LaFollette's supremacy has already been successfully challenged, and where the progressives must fight to hold every single inch of the ground they have gained. Even in Iowa the stand-patters need only a leader of the Allison type to make them formidable, while right here in Nebraska they are in complete control of the party machinery and are conducting this year's campaign as a stand-pat campaign for stand-pat candidates!

It is little wonder that Mr. Taft, in his Winona speech, kindly gave the "insurgents permission to continue their fight within the Republican party." He knows it is a hopeless fight—and that their votes come in handy for reactionary Republican candidates on election day.—World-Herald.

Any other person going through the country, other than the president of the United States, defending the Payne-Aldrich tariff, would have been hooted at. Out of respect for the name president they greeted him, not with that cheerful spirit, however, they would have greeted him. All through Iowa his speeches were very chilly. When Mr. Aldrich comes, if he has the courage to do so, he will bring cold weather before we are ready for it.

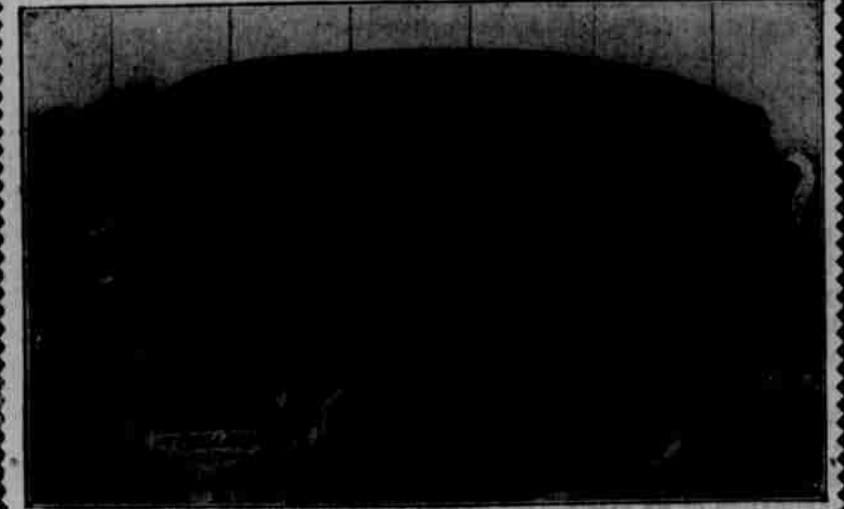
E. M. SMITH

Will Sell

36 POLAND CHINA HOGS

October 11, 1909 at 1 p. m.

At Rainey's Livery Barn, Union, Neb.



15 BOARS—Fall and Winter. 21 SOWS—Yearling and Fall

This stuff is strictly expansion Wan 36278, Onward Price 57756 and S. P. of the Perfection Blood.

The lot will be thin fleshed, but no better blood lines can be found in this part of the state. You are invited to attend this sale.

COL. R. WILKINSON, Auctioneer,
JOHN R. PIERSON, Clerk.

Mr. Wattles, the president of the street car company, may think he is the whose cheese in Omaha. He should learn, however, that others have some rights which he must respect, even if they are poor.

With the street car strike on and the Ak-Sar-Ben this week, those who go to Omaha to see the latter will have a fine time in "hoofing" it all over the city. It will probably result in good for the shoe stores and corn doctors.

Some of the Republican papers throughout Nebraska are afraid to come right square out for the Aldrich tariff. Many of these papers say so, but others beat around the bush in a way that they are neither for or against it. Let them "fish or cut bait." Don't be cowardly about it.

Some papers are kicking because Governor Shallenberger gave the publishing of his corporation proclamation to a Lincoln paper and an Omaha paper. The governor has shown the non-partisan spirit in this respect. He could only place it in two papers, and he selected one Democratic and one Republican paper—the Omaha World-Herald and the Lincoln Star.

Notwithstanding the effort to shield the present incumbent in his race for the third term for sheriff, every one of those who are attempting to do this know there is not the least excuse for their doing so. They do not think it is right; besides there was a good man out for the office, but the ring threw him overboard and sent the edict broadcast throughout the county that the present incumbent must be nominated at all hazards. We believe the majority of the voters of Cass county are op-

posed to a third term, and will so decide at the polls in November.

ABANDONING ROOSEVELTISM.

The most severe criticism of President Taft comes from the Wall Street Journal, one of the most discriminating supporters President Roosevelt had:

Even personal gentility and magnetism do not compensate for the lack of larger qualities, and Mr. Taft's greatest admirers will find it hard to show that he has not made a very poor start in his campaign of education. He began by blessing altogether Senator Aldrich, perhaps the most sinister figure in our public life, and praised him not for what he has done in the past, which even the most tactful president would find difficult, but for what he is going to do in the future. We hope to do the fullest justice to those good intentions when they materialize, but Mr. Taft has quite enough to do at present in dealing with the price we pay for unsound legislation and misgovernment.

The Journal plainly forecasts an alignment between the president and the reactionaries as the inevitable outcome of his present course:

There are two kinds of tact, and President Taft's so far is the wrong kind. There is that sort of tact which enforces its will quietly but effectively, and there is the other kind which meets a problem by telling the people that there is no problem at all. Mr. Taft is trying to align two irreconcilable elements; he will end by throwing in his lot with the party of reaction and unfair privilege at their own sordid price. He has already comprised himself upon both sides of the tariff question, with the result of leaving his judgment open to serious misgiving upon any question in which the present dominant element in the Republican party is interested.

Whatever any reader may think of this unsparing criticism, he knows, if he has ever given a moment's thought to public matters, that the president cannot be both a progressive and a reactionary at the same time, and that from the very exigencies of the situation in the coming congress he will be forced to abandon even the pretense of maintaining the Roosevelt policies.—Des Moines Register-Leader (Rep.).

Low Rates for Autumn

TO THE NORTHWEST:—Cheap one-way Colonist fares to the Northwest, Puget Sound and California, September 15th to October 15th; daily through trains to the Northwest via the Great Northern; also via the Northern Pacific. To California, daily through tourist sleepers via Denver, Scenic Colorado and Salt Lake City.

ROUND TRIP TO PACIFIC COAST:—Very low Seattle and California round trip excursion tickets on sale during September. This is the last chance to obtain these cheap rates for the greatest railroad journey in the World.

EASTBOUND:—Special round trip rates to Chicago, Kansas City, Lincoln, Omaha, St. Joseph, St. Louis, August 28th to September 5th and from September 11th to September 19th. Daily low thirty day round trip rates from Chicago to Atlantic cities and resorts.

September is the last month for the special vacation rates to Colorado. Homeseekers' excursions September 7th and 21st.

Consult nearest ticket agent; he has latest advice of special rates.

W. L. PICKETT, Ticket Agent.
L. W. WAKELEY, G. P. A., Omaha.

Burlington
Route