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COMMENT ON TIMELY TOPICS

In view of President Taft's whole experience it is not strange that he does not take kindly to the judicial recall. Neither is it strange that he fails to grasp the meaning of the new order of things. Until elected to the presidency William H. Taft had never held elective office, though many years the holder of public office. His whole public life until three years ago was spent in a sort of hedged in divinity that kept him apart from and in ignorance of the desires and growing hopes of the people. His criticism of the judicial recall that it makes the judiciary liable to become the victims of popular clamor is peculiarly Taftian, in that he does not seem to realize that these same judges may have been elected through exactly that sort of thing, therefore unfitted for the office. His disapproval of the Arizona-New Mexico statehood bill will serve no good purpose. On the contrary it will arouse greater popular resentment against what has come to be deemed the usurpation of power by the judiciary. It merely means the postponement of statehood for a couple of years. Then Arizona may present a constitution with the prescribed clause stricken out, and immediately after securing statehood the citizens of Arizona may adopt the judicial recall and wiggle their fingers at the executive of the nation.

In exercising the veto on the statehood bill President Taft merely exhibits his lack of confidence in the wisdom and integrity of the whole people. He is of that

once strong, but happily disappearing, school of statesmen that believes that an educated minority should be allowed to govern a less educated majority; that holds to the Hamiltonian doctrine that the people need a strong, repressive hand to protect them from themselves. This is characteristic of the men trained in the school from which William H. Taft has graduated. It is of this school of men that Lincoln said "bestrode the necks of the people, not because they wanted to ride them, but because the people were better off for being ridden." It is the doctrine of kingcraft—a doctrine that William H. Taft clung to so tenaciously in his administration of the Philippine islands, and which he now seeks to more securely fasten upon the people of the republic.

Mr. Bryan has put it up to the World-Herald. His recent strictures upon Mr. Underwood were founded upon a special Washington dispatch to the World-Herald, sent by that paper's representative, Judd Welliver. "If your special dispatch is correct, then I have nothing to retract," says Mr. Bryan. "If it is not correct, then I am ready to apologize and withdraw my charges against Mr. Underwood." Just now we are much more interested in the corn crop than we are in the outcome of the Bryan-Underwood imbroglio, but just the same we would like to have the esteemed World-Herald come across with its answer.

Governor Harmon may well worry

over the attitude of Mr. Bryan. It is one of the humors of politics that the men loudest in denouncing Bryan for having bolted Dahlman last fall are foremost in boosting Harmon, the man who twice bolted Bryan and on the third occasion gave him grudging support.

And just as Governor Harmon may well worry over Mr. Bryan's attitude, so may William H. Taft worry over the attitude of La Follette. Not always has the "federal brigade" been able to deliver either a re-nomination or a re-election. In the case of Chester A. Arthur one of the best oiled federal machines ever set to running could not deliver the goods. And while the federal brigade delivered a re-nomination for Benjamin Harrison, it failed miserably when it came to a re-election. It must be conceded that President Taft has grown greatly in the estimation of thoughtful and fair-minded people, but it must also be admitted that at the same time he has alienated the support of many former admirers. He has offended many by his advocacy of reciprocity, still others by his bourbon attitude towards the growing demand for the judicial recall, and still others—and the most powerful of all—the tariff beneficiaries who see in his reciprocity measure a threat against the perpetuity of the robber tariff. Clearly Mr. Taft, as well as Mr. Harmon, have their political worries these days.

Of course Governor Aldrich spoke in humorous vein at the Epworth assem-