

Referring to President Roosevelt's refusal to accept a flag, the gift of a Boston girl, the New York American says that the people have not yet been informed that checks have been sent from the White house to the various railroad companies over whose lines the president and his party have been deadheaded in special trains with everything supplied, including wines and cigars.

Those Special Trains.

There is a new Fowler bill and the American Banker presents its main features as follows: (1) Conversion of greenbacks into gold certificates. (2) Authorization to deposit any public funds in banks without security except a prior lien; and the payment of 2 per cent interest for such deposits. (3) Notes issued against general assets. The interest received for the deposits is to be devoted to the conversion of the greenbacks into gold notes.

The New Fowler Bill.

The governor of Michigan has surrendered a fugitive to the governor of Georgia, explaining that while it has been alleged that there was danger of lynching, "he could not assume that the laws of another state would not be enforced." In this connection the New York World suggests: "This ought to be a hint to Governor Durbin of Indiana, who has just received another, still more pointed, in the refusal of the governor of Arkansas to surrender an Indiana fugitive until the persons accused of the murder of Goebel have been given up to Kentucky justice."

Broad Hints to Durbin.

The Washington Post says: "When the cabinet meetings are resumed it will probably be a breach of official courtesy for members to ask one another how their department scandals are getting along." The Post should be more careful else it may find itself suddenly summoned to answer to the charge of treason. "Department scandals" under the republican administration are becoming so common these days that one need not be surprised if republican authorities determine to include in their list of treasonable acts reference to fraud and corruption in official circles.

An Approach to Treason.

Some republican papers have charged that large sums of money were used to defeat legislation in the Wisconsin legislature. Other republican papers have referred to these charges as libels. The Milwaukee Free Press says: "Whatever libel there is on the legislature consists in saying that people believe that money was used to defeat legislation during the session of 1901. We do not believe there is an intelligent man in Wisconsin who doubts it. Whatever libel there is in the statement that it is susceptible of proof that money was offered to members for their votes, and refused by them, is on the unnamed lobbyist, or lobbyist's agent, who offered it."

Money in the Legislature.

Concerning Mr. Roosevelt's refusal to accept the gift of a silk flag offered by Miss Costeau of Boston, a reader of the New York World says that the president "lays himself open to the suspicion of unsentimentality on a point where most people have most expected to find him supersentimental." This reader adds: "As the flag was offered to him by a woman animated only by the sentiment of affection for the flag of her adopted country the rejection of it by a president who had already accepted such comparatively sordid gifts as a saddle-horse, tree railroad pass; and the free use of government vessels for family outing trips, the act strikes me as a singularly ungallant one—to use the mildest possible term."

The Costeau Gift.

The Brooklyn Eagle says: "Now the farmers want a trust. The best trust for them is trust in elbow grease. It is the man who works his muscles and not his politics who gets ahead in this country." The Eagle has expressed itself very clearly in favor of trusts as they are now organized. It has declared that it believes in trusts and it is anxious to see the democratic party take its stand in favor of the system. But the Eagle believes in trusts

Suggests Elbow Grease.

that are operated for the special advantage of the particular classes represented by the Eagle. So far as the farmers are concerned, in the Eagle's opinion "the best trust for them is trust in elbow grease." Why not a bit of elbow grease for some of the Eagle's clients? Is it not really true that the men, represented by the Eagle, who work their politics make considerably more progress under the present state of affairs than the men who work their muscles? If the Eagle believes in a trust for the financier and for the manufacturer, with what reason does it object to the proposed farmers' trust?

The American Banker intimates that Secretary of the Treasury Shaw "has under consideration a plan by which he hopes to avoid the limitation of \$3,000,000 per month on the retirement of national bank circulation." The Banker says that "strictly speaking, the national bank act does not put any limitation on the retirement of circulation. The limitation is put on the amount of lawful money that can be deposited for any calendar month for the retirement of notes." The Banker's explanation on this point is reproduced in another column. Mr. Shaw has already arbitrarily put into effect the chief provisions of the Aldrich bill. If now he can avoid the limitation on the amount of bank notes to be retired, he will indeed be regarded as a legislature unto himself.

An Entire Legislature.

A correspondent asked the Philadelphia Public Ledger to explain what was meant by an elastic currency, and in the course of its reply the Ledger quoted the definition of elasticity as follows: "The power in any body of returning to the form from which it is bent, extended, pressed, pulled or distorted, as soon as the force applied is removed." There is something strikingly appropriate in employing this definition of elasticity in connection with the proposition to permit the financiers to arrange our currency system according to their selfish interests. "Bent, extended, pressed, pulled or distorted as soon as the force applied is removed" gives, vaguely to be sure, but gives nevertheless a hint of what may be expected when the currency laws are arranged in accordance with the wishes of the financiers as expressed in the Aldrich and Fowler bills.

Bent, Pulled and Distorted.

The New York World "takes liberty to doubt and even to disbelieve the statement that Theodore Roosevelt is a party to a transaction so scandalous as the division of places in the national service within a state by a tacit agreement between two politicians, one of whom is the agent of the most notorious corruptionist in American politics." But Postmaster General Payne, who ought to know, says: "As to the agreement itself, it was made by the senators themselves with a view to avoiding party friction. It was drawn up and typewritten and placed in the hands of General Bristow during my absence from Washington. When I returned to the city I was informed of its existence, and I learned that it had been made with and had subsequently received the approval of President Roosevelt, who naturally wished to avoid factional strife concerning the Delaware appointments."

The Delaware Compact.

Fred White, who received the largest vote accorded to any democratic candidate for governor of Iowa since the days of Horace Boies, is a candidate for supervisor of Keokuk county. The Marshalltown Times-Republican says that "this indicates that a democratic office-seeker seems to be much like the pickerel—anything that glitters he grabs at." The Dubuque (Ia.) Telegraph directs attention to the fact that Mr. White has never sought public office, and that he pleaded with the leaders of the democratic convention which nominated him for governor not to choose him. The Telegraph might have added that it is entirely to the credit of a man who, like Fred White, has been chosen by his party for high honors, that he should accept the office of county supervisor. Doubtless the same principle which prompted Mr. White to yield to the demands of his democratic associates that he accept the gubernatorial nomination prompted him to become a candidate for a county office. There are, too, many instances in American history where men who had once served creditably in high office had subsequently accepted

Entirely to His Credit.

an election to a less conspicuous position. Although the editor of this particular republican paper may not be informed as to the facts, it is true nevertheless that these men occupy very creditable positions in the history of their country.

The Omaha Bee, a republican paper, says: "Charles Joseph Bonaparte has been selected by Mr. Hitchcock to take charge of the investigation of the operations of the Indian land speculators and crooked Indian agents in Oklahoma and Indian Territory. If the man with the Napoleonic ancestry had been detailed to pay a visit to the Omaha and Winnebago reservations in Nebraska he would have found a state of affairs just as scandalous as has subsisted in the southern Indian settlement." How does it happen then that our strenuous administration does not investigate the "scandalous" situation at the Omaha and Winnebago reservations? Is it possible that under the republican administration fraud and dishonesty thrives in official circles to such an extent that with all the resources of the federal government, the administration finds it impossible to cope with the situation?

Why Not Investigate?

After saying that the next congress will do nothing on the currency question which is radical and may not do anything which is moderate, the Chicago Tribune says: "The agitation for an asset currency will not die out because of the refusal of the next congress to do anything. Many bankers believe there would be money for their banks in such a currency, and they will not let go of any scheme which has money in it. There will be many discussions, arguments, and votes before the asset currency project is finally disposed of." Is it not also fair to believe that if the republican party remain in power after these discussions, arguments and votes, the asset currency project will be adopted because there is money for the bankers in such a currency; and have we not, also, the right to believe that after the republican party shall have adopted that system the Chicago Tribune, faithful to its characteristics, will be found apologizing for a currency system against which it has repeatedly protested?

The Asset Currency.

The New York Commercial complains of "a currency system that each fall threatens the business interests of the entire country and which forces the secretary of the treasury to continually seek for technical loopholes through which the spirit of the law can be evaded." The Commercial suggests as a remedy that congress pass a law repealing the restrictions on the retirement of bank notes and allow custom receipts to be deposited in national banks the same as internal revenue receipts. It is difficult to understand how a law repealing the restrictions on the retirement of bank notes would result in an increase in the volume of currency which the financiers say that we so greatly need. Washington dispatches say that the applications now on file for retirement of bank notes exceeds the sum of \$7,000,000. The limit is \$3,000,000 per month. If the restrictions did not exist at this time, at least \$7,000,000 would be retired and from reports from Washington one is justified in believing that new applications for permission to retire will be presented.

To Remove Restrictions.

Rear Admiral Charles S. Cotton, to whom general attention is now being directed, is responsible for an interesting story. On one occasion Admiral Cotton sat at a dinner party beside the bishop of Durham, a clergyman noted for his wit. Near the bishop there was a millionaire manufacturer, a stout man, with a loud, coarse laugh, who ate and drank a good deal and who cracked every little while a stupid joke. One of the man's jokes was leveled at the brilliant bishop of Durham, whom he did not know from Adam. It was enough for him that the bishop's garb was clerical. He was a parson; here, therefore, a chance to poke a little fun at the parson's trade. "I have three sons," he began in a loud tone, nudging his neighbor and winking toward the bishop, "three fine lads. They are in trade. I have always said that if ever I had a stupid son I'd make a parson of him." The millionaire roared out his discordant laugh, and the bishop of Durham said to him with a quiet smile: "Your father thought differently from you, eh?"

Cotton's Good Story.