

"WHILE NEWS IS NEWS"

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat says that "the democratic papers are again telling stories about the alleged discord between the president and that body (the senate)." The Globe-Democrat insists that "the republican line is solid" and that even on rate regulation there will be no serious difference between the president and the republican senators.

Let us see. The last we heard from Senator Foraker was the reiteration of his charge that the railroad rate program, as outlined by Mr. Roosevelt, is "a democratic measure." If there are no differences between republican senators and the president with respect to the railroad question, then, accepting Mr. Roosevelt's program at its face value, Foraker, Elkins and their associates have surrendered.

If these gentlemen have, in fact, surrendered then the Globe-Democrat has missed an opportunity for providing its readers with a mighty interesting piece of news.

If on the railroad question "the republican line is solid," then somebody has surrendered. And the Globe-Democrat ought to "print the news while news is news."

A FAITHFUL EMPLOYEE

Raymond Lynch, known wherever printers work as "Judge" Lynch, has just retired from the employ of the Louisville Courier-Journal after service upon that paper for seventy years, lacking one month. Mr. Lynch wanted to round out the full seventy years, but ill health prevented. The management of the Courier-Journal, in recognition of his long and faithful service, gave Mr. Lynch a pension which will amply provide for him during the rest of his life. Mr. Lynch began work with the Courier when he was fourteen years old.

The Commoner makes mention of this for two reasons, first, because such long and faithful service is unusual, and second, because the action of the Courier-Journal in making acknowledgement of that service is an example that other employers could follow with benefit to themselves. It is impossible, almost, for a man to realize the changes that have taken place since the day Raymond Lynch entered the Courier-Journal office as "devil." And in no other branch of industry has the improvement been more radical than in the printing trade. From the old handpress and inkball to the modern web press; from the old candelidip and hand composition days to the modern linotype machine; from the old postchaise with its slow delivery of news to the modern press association that flashes the news of a day around the world in the twinkling of an eye; from scattered newspapers and few books to the modern newspapers and magazines and multiplied books—these changes have all been wrought since Mr. Lynch first picked up a stick and rule. Seventy years ago 500 an hour was the limit of speed on a newspaper press; today that many a minute is quite common. The span of Raymond Lynch's industrial career covers the most wonderful era in the world's industrial development.

WHY NOT PLATT?

Mr. Brackett, a member of the New York legislature, introduced a resolution calling upon Chauncey M. Depew to resign his seat in the United States senate. After a heated debate, the resolution was, for the time being, withdrawn. In a newspaper interview Senator Depew says he will not resign.

During the debate in the legislature Mr. Depew's friends made quite a point when they demanded to know why the resolution did not also insist upon Senator Platt's resignation.

Perhaps the explanation is that the author of the Depew resolution concluded that there would be small chance for the adoption of a resolution calling for the resignation of Senator Platt in a legislature that was recently organized with the aid and approval of the Platt machine.

THE MORAL LAW

Andrew Hamilton, the life insurance lobbyist, declares that of the \$800,000 expended by him in his lobby work, not one dollar was expended contrary to the moral law. It is fortunate for the country that the Hamilton idea of morals does not generally prevail. The idea that the use of money to debauch legislatures and corrupt judges is not contrary to morals would, if generally accepted, make government a farce and reduce the people to abject slavery. There was a time when many thoughtful men believed that the Hamilton code of morals prevailed generally, but recent de-

velopments prove that, after all, a majority of the people are honest and will insist that public business be honestly cared for. It required a long time, and multiplied persecutions, to arouse the people to a realizing sense of the fact that the Hamilton code of morals prevailed in high financial circles, but when they were finally aroused they took speedy action with the result that a great many men who had long posed as statesmen, patriots and "defenders of national honor" were exposed to public contempt. The Hamilton code of morals will be ably defended by the Amalgamated Association of Porch Climbers, the Burglars' Benevolent and Protective Association, the Sandbaggers' Mutual Association, and kindred organizations. But it will be scored by men who believe in the moral code handed down upon Sinai and who are trying to live upright and pure lives.

PUBLICITY EASY

Referring to former Governor Odell's threat to "disclose how a large sum for campaign purposes was raised last year at the president's personal request," a New York paper says that Mr. Roosevelt will unquestionably welcome publicity. This paper points out that in his recent message to congress the president said:

But if it is possible to secure by law the full and verified publication in detail of all the sums contributed to and expended by the candidates or committees of any political parties, the result can not be but wholesome.

In the light of this statement this New York paper concludes that Mr. Roosevelt will welcome any assistance which Mr. Odell can give in turning on the searchlight.

Well, Mr. Roosevelt does not really need to wait for Mr. Odell; nor need he wait for the passage of a law requiring publicity with respect to campaign contributions. Mr. Roosevelt's postmaster general is chairman of the republican national committee. He can "turn on the searchlight." While he can give all information possessed by Mr. Odell, he can doubtless tell many things of which Mr. Odell is in ignorance.

While waiting for an easy-going republican congress to pass a publicity law, let Mr. Roosevelt call upon his postmaster general to take the American people into his confidence. Let him tell them where the republican party obtained its campaign funds.

It might also be well for the president to insist that the chairman of the republican national committee, now serving as a member of his cabinet, shall restore to the policyholders of various insurance companies the money embezzled from those policyholders for the use and benefit of the republican party.

"DEFENDERS," INDEED!

Remembering how some of these money-mad men posed during the presidential campaign of 1896, how they assumed for themselves a monopoly upon the virtue and the patriotism of the country, and how some of our own neighbors gave indorsement to these high-sounding claims, it is interesting to consider with some degree of particularity the revelations of this day.

It would require a great many chapters for the telling of the whole story. But in order that one may be impressed with the rapidity with which these exposures concerning the "defenders of national honor" and the "representatives of integrity" crowd upon one another, let him carefully read the daily newspapers of December 31, 1905.

Glancing over a newspaper of that issue we find considerable attention paid to these "defenders of national honor."

For instance, we are told that:

The federal grand jury in session at Chicago returned indictments against several of these "defenders" holding positions in connection with one of the great railroad companies, twenty-six accounts being named, and the charge being that they had violated the anti-rebate law also.

One of the most conspicuous of these "defenders" having died, it developed that during the early days of his career he had been imprisoned as a convict in a state penitentiary, and that during all the days of his imprisonment his wife had displayed great devotion. It further developed that soon after he was released from prison he deserted that faithful wife, and the next thing that was heard of him he turned up in the city of Chicago with a brand new wife, and became one of the noisiest assailants of the democratic party and one of the most vehe-

ment champions of "national honor." It developed further that just before he died this man was preparing to desert his second wife and to install in his home a third favorite. Apologizing, as we must, for making any reference whatever to the dead, it is certainly not out of place, when it comes to the discharge of a duty to the living, to direct attention to this revelation of what we make bold to say has come to be a characteristic of some of the conspicuous assailants of the democratic party and pompous "defenders of the national honor."

In the same issue of this publication, the faithful wife of one of these "defenders of national honor" living at Boston tells the story of her husband's perfidy and describes the great embarrassments to which she has been put in the protection of her simple rights.

In the same issue a San Francisco dispatch informs us that as soon as the president of one of the great trusts of this country—a man who on his own account has posed as "a defender of national honor" and to whom republican newspapers have pointed as a model for the young men of the country—obtains a divorce from the wife who during the days of his poverty was ever faithful to him, he will proceed to wed an actress.

In the same publication great pains is taken to deny a report that the organizer of one of the great trusts will soon marry a variety show performer.

"Defenders of national honor," indeed!

WHERE LOBBYISTS FLOURISH

In his final message to the Ohio legislature Governor Herrick recommends that the lobby be abolished. Commenting on this the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "This is excellent advice, not only in Ohio, but to all of the states, and to congress as well."

It is greatly to be feared that the Globe-Democrat has not weighed its words well from the g. o. p. standpoint. If Governor Herrick's advice were to be followed where, we ask the Globe-Democrat, would its party be? What influence would it wield in the senate? Imagine if you can what small influence would be wielded in the senate if Senator Nelson W. Aldrich should be forever prohibited from representing Standard Oil and United States steel interests in that body. If all lobbyists were driven from the senate, pray tell us how Senator Thomas Platt could protect the express company interests. And what would become of railroad interests if that genial, if somewhat subdued, lobbyist, Chauncey M. Depew, were to be suddenly shorn of his opportunities? And if it were possible to prevent the sugar interests from having lobbyists wearing senatorial togas what would become of two or three gentlemen who now draw senatorial salaries with charming regularity? Surely the Globe-Democrat did not realize the real inwardness of its declaration, or realizing it sought to make what the sportively inclined would call "a grandstand play," for if its declaration were put into practical effect it would leave the republican side of the United States senate looking like the ancient and dilapidated last year's bird's nests of which we have so often heard.

BUT THE ROCK IS CRUMBLING

One of the insurance companies whose president has confessed that it has been a regular contributor to republican campaign funds, uses a cut of the rock of Gibraltar as a sort of trade mark. R. T. Davis of Thompson, Mo., directing attention to this fact sends a clipping from the Sturgeon (Mo.) Leader news columns as follows:

The great rock of Gibraltar is crumbling and the rotting masses of the rock must be continually bound together with huge patches of masonry and cement.

Mr. Davis also sends another news clipping as follows:

The Hungarian chemist, Brun, says he has discovered a liquid chemical compound which renders certain kinds of matter proof against the effects of time. He says it doubles the density of nearly every kind of stone and renders it water proof.

Mr. Davis suggests that this particular insurance company should be a ready purchaser of this preservative.

It seems to be slowly dawning upon the minds of several West Point and Annapolis cadets that the idea they must be cowards and bullies in order to be soldiers and sailors is an erroneous one.