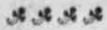


These men know that the phrase, "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," is not a collection of idle words but is the most solemn warning that was ever directed to the ears of freemen. This warning forces itself upon thoughtful Americans today. Let it be pressed so hard upon the attention of Americans everywhere that they will learn to appreciate its importance before the last vestige of Jeffersonian government shall have perished from the earth.



CHAMP CLARK, MINORITY LEADER

The selection of Representative Champ Clark of Missouri by the democrats to be the minority leader on the floor of the house of representatives, is an honor worthily bestowed. Representative Clark has all the attributes of leadership, and possesses the confidence of his party colleagues to a marked degree. His long experience in congress, his great ability as a debater, his familiarity with pending legislative questions—all these fit him for leadership. His unswerving democracy and his devotion to principle are marked characteristics. There has been no stauncher defender of democratic principles upon the floor of congress or upon the stump than Champ Clark. In honoring him with the leadership the democratic minority has honored itself and the party. Champ Clark of Missouri will "make good."



INVESTIGATE

Even the Sioux City, Ia., Journal demands investigation of the Panama Canal. The Journal says: "Nobody believes, of course, that President Roosevelt or President-elect Taft had anything to do with promoting such a stroke of speculative enterprise. The democratic national committee recognized their immunity from suspicion and refused to sanction exploitation of the 'scandal' as a campaign expedient. But now that the story has been given so much publicity it would be interesting to know who got the money that was made when a bunch of worthless French securities suddenly become worth \$40,000,000. Did any Americans get any of it? If so, who were they? The facts should be easily ascertainable in Paris, if not in this country. When the facts are known the public can easily decide whether any morals or ethics were violated."



THE "INSULT" TO CONGRESS

Washington dispatches say that members of congress are greatly disturbed because of the "insult" offered them in the president's message. It will be remembered that in his message the president recommended that an amendment adopted last year providing that there should be no detail nor transfer from the secret service be repealed. He said that this prevents the giving of promotions to faithful secret service agents. In referring to this amendment he said: "In its present form the restriction operates only to the advantage of the criminal, or the wrongdoer. The chief argument in favor of the provision was that the congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men."

He added: "I do not believe that it is in the public interest to protect criminals in any branch of the public service, and exactly as we have again and again during the past seven years prosecuted and convicted such criminals who were in the executive branch of the government, so in my belief we should be given ample means to prosecute them if found in the legislative branch. But if this is not considered desirable a special exception could be made in the law prohibiting the use of the secret service force in investigating members of the congress. It would be far better to do this than to do what actually was done, and strive to prevent or at least to hamper effective action against criminals by the executive branch of the government."

It must be admitted that the language employed by Mr. Roosevelt was uncalled for and unbecoming to a president's message. But Mr. Roosevelt is not—and we say it in the best of spirit—famous for his good manners. His chief boast is that he is the apostle of the "square deal" and yet on many notable occasions he has been guilty of cruel injustice in dealing with his fellows. He has needlessly and wantonly insulted many individuals and although the public has borne this shortcoming patiently, it is plain they are now growing weary. While the indignation of congressmen is excusable they will, The Commoner believes, do well to ignore the insult put upon them. Mr. Roosevelt will

retire within a few months and thereafter White House messages will at least be free from billingsgate. Congress has more important work to do than the resenting of insults. The Panama canal, for instance, needs a searching investigation. Indeed, the administration's strongest friends should be foremost in demanding this inquiry—and foremost, also, in seeing to it that the investigation is of such a character as to avoid all possible suspicion of a whitewash.



ROOT AND PLATT

The Washington Times prints this editorial: "One thing about Mr. Root! If he is elected he will be a United States senator and no other kind. In that light alone New York will honor herself in sending him to Washington. But there are other lights: He will not represent an express company; he will not represent a party; he will not represent a machine, and a defunct one at that; he will represent all the people of New York; he will represent them more ably and more squarely, if his ten years in the cabinet is any indication, than New York has been represented for generations. It will be a good thing for the country to have Elihu Root in the senate. But it will be a better thing for New York—even if the new senator shall refuse to be an errand boy to hustle appointments."

This is a fair sample of some of the stuff that is palmed off on American newspaper readers as editorial wisdom.

When Thomas C. Platt is superseded in the United States senate by Elihu Root there will be vast improvement so far as concerns personal appearance and personal character. But the simple fact remains that in place of the inane Platt the special interests of this country will be represented by their ablest and most resourceful champion—the lawyer whose genius has had much to do with the building of the great trust system under which the American people are struggling today.



WHY THIS CLASSIFICATION?

The New York Evening Post prints an editorial from which the following is taken:

"Why, Mr. Bryan should ask himself, did newspapers like the Times, the Evening Post, the Springfield Republican, the Baltimore Sun, and a host of others of this type refuse to support the democratic party in 1908? The answer is the same that must be given when anybody examines frankly the causes of the democratic defeat; because Mr. Bryan was the candidate. So long as he is at the head of the party it will regularly be defeated, and will as regularly repel the valuable newspaper support it could regain by choosing a stable, trustworthy and statesmanlike leader."

In the light of these remarks the more interesting question is "why does the Evening Post class itself with the Springfield Republican?"

It is true the Republican did not support Mr. Bryan, and so far as The Commoner is informed no one questioned its motives. No one has ever charged nor, as The Commoner believes, suspected that the Springfield Republican is more deeply concerned in some special interest than in the general welfare. The Commoner protests, therefore, that the Republican has done nothing to justify such a classification as the Evening Post's editorial would put upon it.



A BIG SUM CARRIED

Twenty-two million dollars is a considerable sum of money and it represents the aggregate of loans made by a branch of the Standard Oil trust to one Trainer. But the government representatives admit their inability to persuade Standard Oil officials to explain these items. When John D. Archbold was on the stand, Mr. Kellogg, the government counsel, asked him a number of questions on this line. The Associated Press report says:

"The accounts of the Southern Pipe Line company from 1899 to 1905 showing loans to P. S. Trainer, carrying from \$2,500,000 to \$4,000,000 each year and aggregating \$22,000,000 were inquired into by Mr. Kellogg.

"The balance sheets of the Southern Pipe Line company show the following loans," he said. "In 1899, \$2,607,000; 1900, \$4,999,000; 1901, \$2,745,628; 1902, \$3,256,967; 1903, \$2,663,729; 1904, \$3,915,836; 1905, \$2,341,344.

"Now, Mr. Trainer has testified that he knows nothing about these loans and that the

money was never paid to him. Do you know anything about these loans?"

"I do not," said Mr. Archbold. "It may have represented adjustments between refining companies which Mr. Trainer supplied. I don't know the reason."

Every one will admit the importance from the standpoint of the public of solving this mystery. Is it possible that the great American government can not obtain accurate information concerning a twenty-two million dollar loan by the greatest of all trusts? It has already occurred to a great many people that in spite of the fine boasts of administration representatives, John D. Rockefeller was treated more than kindly while he was in the witness chair. Sometime the people will grow weary of buncombe and then men like Rockefeller will not have the impudence to preach morality to the reporters and other bystanders when leaving the witness stand.



IN THE INDEPENDENT, TOO!

In a story relating to the new secretary of the treasury, the Independent (New York) prints this tale:

"During the kaiser's visit to England, an enthusiastic German was dilating to an English prelate on the extraordinary qualities of his emperor. He frequently interrupted himself with the sigh of admiration:

"Ah, but the kaiser is great!"

"At last the wearied prelate replied:

"But God is greater."

"So He is," said the German. "But you must remember, the kaiser is young, yet."

Can it be that the memory of the editor of the Independent is failing? How could he have permitted such a hoary old chestnut as this to be palmed off upon his exact and exacting publication? Does he not know that this story was familiar to every printing office "devil" more than thirty years ago? Then the story was given in describing a dialogue between two South Carolina negroes who were discussing the merits and demerits of Robert Smalls, a member of congress.

It is a good story, however, and perhaps grows better with the years.



A PRESENT FOR LITTLE BOY BLUE

The Saturday Evening Post printed in a recent issue one of the sweetest little poems ever written. It is, indeed, a perfect poem; that at least will be the verdict of every one whose heart is open to receive it; and every parent of a "Little Boy Blue" will understand it. These verses were written by J. W. Foley. Here they are:

Our Neighbor, he calls me his Little Boy Blue
Whenever he goes by our yard;
And he says, "good morning," or "how do you do?"

But sometimes he winks awful hard.
I guess he don't know what my name really is,
Or else he forgot, if he knew;
And my! You would think I am really part his—
He calls me his Little Boy Blue!

Our Neighbor, he told me that Little Boy Blue
Once stood all his toys in a row,
And said, "Now, don't go till I come back for you"—

But that was a long time ago.
And one time, at Christmas, when I had a tree,
He brought me a sled, all brand-new
And smiled when he said it was partly for me
And partly for Little Boy Blue.

Our Neighbor, he's not going to have any tree,
So he says the best he can do
Is try to get something to partly give me
And partly give Little Boy Blue.
Because, if he's here, it would make him so glad,
And he said he knew it was true
That ever and ever so many folks had
A boy just like Little Boy Blue.

Our Neighbor, he calls me his Little Boy Blue,
And said he would like to help trim
Our tree when it came—he would feel that he
knew

It was partly for me and for him.
He said he would fix it with lights and wax
flowers,

With popcorn and berries—you see,
He'd like to come over and help to trim ours—
He's not going to have any tree!