

not the formidable proposition the country now confronts. Lucky would it have been for the country if it had appeared to the authorities a little more formidable. For if the Sher-

man law had been applied with energy from the outset and its full value shown, the later, larger trust evils would not have come into existence. Had the first trusts been strangled the breed would have disappeared.

But why condemn Judson Harmon for taking his cue from Grover Cleveland and Richard Olney? Why should he have girded up for battle when they were unbuckled and "in blissful repose?" He may wish now that he had tried his 'prentice hand as Attorney General in a way to stir things, but the sentiment of that day did not urge him to the step, and that is all there is to it.

**THE McNAMARAS**

The Herald has not commented on the trial of the McNamara brothers because it makes it a rule never to discuss the merits of a case that is before a court of justice, and now it would deal in the broadest sense with what this confession of astounding and terrible guilt means to the country.

No bomb these men ever exploded in their campaign of terrorism to enforce their dictum as to terms of employment ever did one-millionth part of the damage to property that was done to the honorable cause of labor by the bomb that exploded in the court room at Los Angeles.

Fraternalized workmen everywhere who have been contributing from their wages to the defense fund will now realize what they have not realized before. They have been led badly. Leadership that ends in such a situation for some millions of respectable men is not the leadership that will bring permanent improvement to the condition of wage earners.

It was under such leadership that organized labor leaped forward as one man to the defense of the prisoners. The type must change; the methods must change; the persistent widening of the breach must cease if the position of labor is to be benefited by organization.

Out of it all we believe good, great and lasting, will come. But it will surely not come through social revolution nor through the constant preaching against the courts and men who have money. It is time for a revolution in labor thinking.—New York Herald.

**"A Record of Bare Facts"**

AS PRESENTED BY A REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER

Following is an editorial that appeared in the Philadelphia North American, a republican newspaper, issue of Monday, December 18th:

Six months from today the republican party must nominate a candidate for president of the United States. As to whom the party will select as its leader the most astute politicians dare not hazard an honest guess at this time. The true significance of the present strange situation can be understood more fully by keeping in mind the following facts:

Since the first election of Lincoln every republican president, excepting Hayes and the two vice presidents advanced by the deaths of Lincoln and Garfield, has been renominated by the party.

Three years ago President Taft was elected by a united republican party and accepted the duties of office better liked and more admired by press and public, including the democratic opposition, than had been any predecessor in half a century.

During his three years in office there has been no great crisis, no national upheaval. Yet it is extremely doubtful if, even with his power as president, his control of patronage in general and his ownership of the herd of office-holding southern delegates from the states where there is no real republican party, he can obtain a renomination. And he himself has admitted that, if nominated, his re-election would be doubtful.

Such a radical change in party and public sentiment toward a president is without precedent. And it is the more remarkable because the revolution of feeling toward the man who took office with the admiring good will of the whole people is not the result of any one deed or happening, not the creation of enemies nor of any faction; but is due to the gradual increase of popular understanding of the character and limitations of Mr. Taft.

In short, it is due to the ever-increasing belief that Mr. Taft, while an excellent subordinate, as an executive is incompetent, undependable, vacillating and vindictive.

Mr. Taft has constantly alienated loyal republicans ever since the day he announced the selection of his cabinet. The character of his administration was only too plainly foreshadowed by his appointment of men generally known to represent the very forces which the people had elected Mr. Taft to combat.

The breach of pledges to support the Roosevelt policies, which alone had made his election possible, promptly followed. The real exemplars of the progressive policies were stricken down, one by one, and in their places men of reactionary views were installed.

A shameless alliance was made with Aldrich and Cannon, to the utter exclusion of the men who remained faithful to the policies which constituted the platform upon which Mr. Taft had been elected. A party division in congress soon developed. The progressives, both in the house and the senate, refused to be driven or bribed by patronage into deserting the progressive doctrines which had developed so greatly under Roosevelt.

The president's prime offense was the signing of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, which, despite its indefensible character, he proclaimed "the best tariff bill ever passed."

His abandonment of his own income tax plan and his joyful satis-

faction with a powerless, maimed excuse for a real tariff commission already had given to the public a distasteful inkling of his character as an executive. Distrust deepened when the Ballinger exposure disclosed the deplorable truths that the president had signed as his own judgment drawn by a Ballinger lieutenant and had caused his attorney general to antedate an official document and thereby grossly deceive the public.

That early, too, the American people began by degrees to perceive that the policy of the Taft administration was distinctly adverse to Doctor Wiley and tended toward the persistent lowering of the pure food standards.

There began, also, to be public understanding that the foreign policy created by John Hay and sustained by Root and Roosevelt, of which the nation was properly proud, was to be abandoned, and for it substituted a diplomacy for and by a group of Wall street financiers, making the United States government a mere bond-peddling salesman for private interests in the eyes of all foreign diplomats.

There followed the regular session of congress. Proposed legislation, palpably drawn to favor the interests, was prepared at the White house and sent to congress with the president's command that it must be passed without the change of a word or a comma. So brazen was this betrayal of party pledges that the best members of the republican party in both branches of congress openly raised the banner of revolt against the Taft leadership.

Yet within the last three months President Taft has so underestimated the intelligence of his countrymen as repeatedly to claim credit for the radical and beneficial alterations that were forced into that measure, in direct opposition to his dictation.

After that session the sentiment against the president greatly increased in the ranks of his party. Nor did the opposition cease to grow from that time until the calling of the extra session to ratify the reciprocity agreement which the president had secretly arranged with representatives of the Canadian government. That measure greatly changed the party sentiment toward the president. He made a deal with the American Newspaper Publishers' association to give to them free print paper, regardless of the fate of the general measure, in return for their support of the reciprocity pact.

That reciprocity bill, bearing the unqualified indorsement of the president, was a cheat and a sham, having only the merit of a popular party label. The progressives of the house and senate soon laid bare the suspicious nature of the measure and declared against it. The daily newspapers, however, almost without exception, gave unstinted support to the president's plan and misrepresented the position of the progressives. It is beyond dispute that the special session closed with a net gain of popularity for Mr. Taft.

But as the real character of the reciprocity agreement became better known, the opposition to Mr. Taft began to grow. His counselors foolishly advised the president to go out before the people and defend his variegated course. From the day his ill-advised tour began until it closed he succeeded only in stimulat-

(Continued on Page 15.)

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