

United States that I be the nominee. He labored hard and succeeded in electing me and I have felt deeply gratified ever since. Neither in thought, word or act have I ever been disloyal to the friendship I have had with Theodore Roosevelt.

"But, like other presidents, I have been willing to have the people approve my first term by re-electing me for a second. I signified this and Mr. Roosevelt said he did not intend to become a candidate. But his resolution grew less and less, and finally upon the solicitation of a number of state governors, he announced that he would be a candidate.

"Then he went out to Ohio and gave out what he called a charter of democracy, offering propositions which strike at the roots of the independence of the courts and of our liberties.

"I was impersonal in my judgment. I said to myself I shall never attack Roosevelt. He can not make a quarrel with me because I won't quarrel with him.

"But the charter of democracy was not so effective as he thought it would prove to be and so he departed from the course and took up my administration and myself for attack. And ever since he has been engaged in an abuse of my administration and myself.

"So far as my personal feelings are concerned, I would rather never reply to him. I am willing to let the future show whether or not I have been sincere in my administration of the laws. But I represent the cause, the element in the party of which believes in the sacredness of the constitution.

"Mr. Roosevelt has misled many honest people to believe his charges against me. The cause I represent is entitled to have my defense.

"He says I favor an oligarchy of bosses; that I represent the special interests; that my administration has not been productive of anything progressive; that I am a reactionary and other charges so numerous I can not think of them all."

The president then proceeded to answer those charges, one by one, practically anticipating the speech he had planned to deliver first at the Boston meeting tonight. The crowd applauded enthusiastically and seemed to delight in seeing for the first time the president in the role of a fighting man. The president spoke for nearly an hour to a crowd which filled the central square of the town, cutting short his remarks just in time to get to the station for the Boston train. He declared:

"The renomination or re-election of ex-President Roosevelt for a third term would be dangerous.

"He has forgotten the standards of the square deal," said Taft.

The president pointed out how his position, he said, had been misrepresented by Colonel Roosevelt.

"Mr. Roosevelt said I had the support of the bosses," declared Taft. "His definition of a boss depends upon whom the boss is supporting. If he is supporting Colonel Roosevelt, he is a leader; if he is supporting me, he is a boss."

In a voice choking with emotion Taft concluded his speech with a solemn warning to the people of the United States that in Roosevelt they "were in danger of a dictator, who, once he received a third term, would cling like a leech to the white house and never leave it until death removed him."

"I am sorry to say it," said President Taft, "but Mr. Roosevelt is a man of strong personality. He is a leader of men and is a man of much strength of purpose, and has so little regard for the constitution or legal procedure and the courts that he is not to be trusted with the presidency. I am sorry to say it, but I believe

it in my soul, and must state my convictions."

MR. ROOSEVELT'S REPLY

Worcester, Mass., April 26.—Merciless denunciation of President Taft was Colonel Roosevelt's reply tonight to the president's attack upon him yesterday. Some of Colonel Roosevelt's assertions were:

That President Taft had not given the people of the country a "square deal," but owing to a "quality of feebleness" he had "yielded to the bosses and to the great privileged interests."

That one part of the president's attack upon him was "the crookedest kind of a deal," and "deliberate misrepresentation."

That the president "has not merely in thought, word and deed been disloyal to our past friendship, but has been disloyal to every canon of ordinary decency and fair dealing which should obtain in even dealing with a man's bitterest opponents."

That the president's statement regarding the influence of federal officeholders in the campaign was "not only an untruth but it is an absurd untruth."

That Mr. Taft convicted himself of insincerity when he signed the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill.

That in speaking of Colonel Roosevelt's position in regard to the trust problem, President Taft "is himself guilty of a crooked deal."

Colonel Roosevelt took up President Taft's attack on him point by point, assailing the president in one scathing sentence after another.

When Colonel Roosevelt reached here at the beginning of his Massachusetts trip he found the streets thronged. A band and a torchlight procession escorted him to Mechanic's hall, where he delivered his main speech. Later he addressed an overflow meeting.

Colonel Roosevelt said in part:

"In this campaign I regard the issues at stake as altogether too important to permit it to be twisted into one of personalities between President Taft and myself. But Mr. Taft's speeches yesterday contained statements that I must answer. Most of what he said needs no comment from me. When, for instance, he said that I have endeavored to minimize the importance of my Columbus speech he says what he must know to be untrue; he can not have read my Carnegie hall speech; my speech before the Massachusetts lower house; my noonday speech at St. Louis; my Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and Louisville speeches without knowing that I have elaborated and emphasized what I said at Columbus.

"Again, when Mr. Taft, in any speech, speaks of me directly or obliquely as a neurotic or a demagogue, or in similar terms, I shall say nothing except that to point out that if he is obliged to use such language he had better preserve his own self-respect by not protesting that it gives him pain to do so. No man resorts to epithets like these if it really gives him pain to use them. I have never alluded to him in terms even remotely resembling these. I have never quoted his private letters or private communications. I have discussed exclusively his public actions. Even where I was obliged to be severe I was always parliamentary and never hypocritical. Nor do I intend today to deviate from this standard, although the president's speech makes it necessary for me to speak more plainly on certain subjects than I have yet spoken."

Colonel Roosevelt referred to President Taft's explanation of his statement "that ours is a government of all the people by a representative part of the people."

"For him to try," said Colonel Roosevelt, "to escape the conse-

quences of his statements by saying that he alluded only to women and children, is trifling with the intelligence of the people. To speak of such action on his part as a 'square deal' is itself the crookedest kind of a deal. He is trying to dodge the consequences of his statement by deliberate misrepresentation of that statement."

Colonel Roosevelt defined the political "boss" as "the man responsible for the alliance between crooked politicians and crooked business, which has been responsible for nine-tenths of the corruption of American political life.

"If there is any such man among my supporters," he continued, "I do not know him. Mr. Taft says that Mr. Flynn of Pittsburgh is a very bad boss. There is an element of grim comedy in Mr. Taft weeping over the thought of Pennsylvania being put under the rule of a boss through Mr. Penrose being ousted from control of the party organization."

The bosses, Colonel Roosevelt declared, were on the president's side.

"Mr. Taft says," he continued, "that in my various campaigns I accepted the assistance of these bosses. So I did, when they chose to go my way and to support the cause of the people. The trouble with Mr. Taft is that he gets their assistance at the price of going their way and opposing the cause of the people.

"Mr. Taft said yesterday that never in thought or deed had he been disloyal in his friendship for me. It is hard for me to answer such a statement save by calling it the grossest and most astounding hypocrisy. When Mr. Taft made that statement he had just sent to the United States senate on half an hour's notice, obviously in collusion with the Lorimer democratic senator who made the request, papers which were intended to convey the impression that I had improperly favored the harvester trust by declining to prosecute it in 1907.

"When Mr. Taft, obviously to influence the Massachusetts primary and obviously in collusion with one of Mr. Lorimer's senatorial supporters of the opposite political party, takes the action he did he has not merely in thought, word and deed been disloyal to our past friendship but has been disloyal to every canon of ordinary decency and fair dealings such as should obtain even in dealing with a man's bitterest opponents. Such conduct represents the very crookedest kind of a crooked deal.

"This is not an exceptional instance of how he has behaved to me. The same course was followed last summer in connection with the Tennessee Coal & Iron company. The assaults upon me by Mr. Taft's campaign managers made in Washington under Mr. Taft's very eyes have been foul to the verge of indecency. But, remember, I am not complaining of these things; I care nothing for Mr. Taft's personal attitude toward me; I allude to it only in passing and merely because Mr. Taft lays such emphasis on the matter."

RETURNS TO THE ATTACK

Newark, N. J., April 26.—President Taft renewed in Newark tonight his attack on Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

Carrying his "fighting" campaign into New Jersey, the president spoke to several thousand persons in the armory here, declaring it was with the utmost reluctance that he had decided to answer Mr. Roosevelt's criticisms. He did not reply to Mr. Roosevelt's charges in detail, but endeavored to make it plain that Mr. Roosevelt knew most of the charges to be groundless.

"If I consulted my own wish,"

said the president, "I would be silent under Mr. Roosevelt's attack. I represent the republican party that stands for wise progress under the constitution and stands for liberty regulated by law. I must do my duty and answer the charges of Colonel Roosevelt. It is not a pleasant thing to do. But I am forced against the wall with my back to it and I'm bound, if I have any manhood, to fight."

The president spoke with evident emotion. He walked the platform, pounded the rail in front of him and as he warmed up to his subject, grew red in the face with anger.

He referred briefly to many of Mr. Roosevelt's charges, which he answered in Boston last night; his alleged friendship for Senator Lorimer and for the "bosses" in several states; to the declaration that he was in favor of an oligarchy and against government by the people and to many others.

"The thing that sinks deepest into my heart," said the president, "is the charge that I am oligarch and don't believe in the ability of the United States to govern themselves. If there is anything I have to pride in, it is that I am an American citizen and a party of the American government that has shown itself to be the finest and most beneficial in the world."

Taking up the charge that he was not a progressive, Mr. Taft said he did not think a progressive could be judged by his looks or his appreciation of poetry.

"I think progressiveness is determined by what is done and not by what is said," cried the president.

In reply to Mr. Roosevelt's accusation that the president had gone into the White house a "progressive," but became a reactionary by association with former Speaker Cannon, former Senator Aldrich and others, Mr. Taft explained that it was at Mr. Roosevelt's suggestion that he consulted these men.

"Of all the men in the world who advocate practical work in politics, Theodore Roosevelt is a notable example. Read his works and see how he defends himself for his association with bosses because he said they were the men who do things."

In closing the president called attention to what he called "the danger of a third term."

"Are the conditions so peculiar," asked the president, "that he is needed to do the job, as he calls it? Then why not a fourth term and a fifth?"

All through his speech the president voiced his belief that Mr. Roosevelt had not given him a "square deal."

Mr. Taft came to Newark from New York by automobile. His trip across the New Jersey meadows was uneventful, and he was only recognized by a few thousand persons who saw him pass.

TAFT DENIES IT

Washington, April 28.—President Taft, before leaving the White house today on his return to Massachusetts, issued a personal statement denying Colonel Roosevelt's allegation that Mr. Taft, while secretary of war, had at a cabinet meeting approved Mr. Roosevelt's decision not to immediately prosecute the International Harvester company. President Taft's statement says he never heard the International Harvester company discussed at any cabinet meeting and that the records of the war department will show that he was out of the country when the incident referred to by the colonel occurred.

President Taft's statement was issued as follows:

"The following personal statement of the president was issued from the White house this evening:

"Mr. Roosevelt, in his speech at