

# The Commoner.

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## "The Old Ship Is Leaking Now"

The following newspaper dispatches show the progress of the great war now going on in the republican party:

Oyster Bay, N. Y., May 5.—Colonel Roosevelt issued a statement tonight in reply to President Taft's speech in Baltimore last night. He read the speech carefully and prepared his answer with equal care, writing it out with pencil instead of dictating it to his secretary.

"He stands guilty of approving and encouraging fraud which deprives the people of their right to express their will as to who shall be nominated," he wrote.

Cincinnati, O., May 6.—In one of his speeches Mr. Taft said: "I have followed the administration of Theodore Roosevelt on his policies in every respect but one, and that one was that I directed the prosecution of the steel trust and also the prosecution of the harvester trust."

Montgomery, Ala., May 6.—Booker T. Washington, head of Tuskegee institute, is at war among the negro delegates to the republican national convention to switch them from Taft to Roosevelt, according to statements made by republican leaders.

Washington is influential among the negroes of the south, and some of the administration leaders are beginning to feel that they made a serious mistake in giving the negroes equal representation.

It is understood that Washington is working on the negro delegates in all of the southern states and in Mississippi. It is certain that two of the delegates, P. W. Howard of Jackson, and Charles Banks of Mound Bayou, will not vote for Taft, despite the instructions of the state convention.

Banks is Booker Washington's closest friend and ally in Mississippi and is quietly at work lining up the negro delegates for Roosevelt.

It is said Washington has agents at work on negro delegates in Georgia, Florida and other states, and that as a result of his work the Taft leaders will not be able to hold the negro delegates in line.

Washington, May 6.—President Taft was sharply criticised in the senate today by Senator Cummins, who charged him with attempting to coerce congress in tariff legislation. Mr. Cummins, speaking in support of his metal tariff revision bill, said he understood the president was opposed to any legislation on the metal schedule until the board reported upon it.

"I deplore the action of the president in interfering in any way with the work of congress," he declared. "I have heard a great deal lately about the recall of judiciary and judiciary decisions, both of which I oppose, but I regard these as inconsequential in comparison with the encroachments of the legislative

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branch of the government during the last few years."

Senator Cummins declared he believed it was improper for a president to attempt to unduly influence courts as to take his power to influence the judiciary in performance of duty.

Columbus, O., May 6.—President Taft charged here tonight in a speech in Memorial hall that Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, his campaign manager, Senator Dixon of Montana and democrats in the senate were responsible for the emasculation of the arbitration treaties with Great Britain and France and that in consequence of their action the pacts were so changed as to be of doubtful utility. These treaties, the president declared, would have made "wide steps toward universal peace; would have signalized a movement for a universal arbitral court, and were as progressive measures as ever were suggested to the American people."

"For some reason unknown to my puzzled brain," said the president, "Mr. Roosevelt opposed these treaties, and by these men who supported that opposition, his manager, Mr. Dixon and the democratic votes in the senate those treaties were so emasculated that it is difficult to see whether they contain anything of value which ought to be ratified into a treaty. My idea of having the highest progress possible was in those arbitration treaties, because I saw in them a step toward a universal arbitral court to which any nation in the world might resort in order to solve a controversy that it might have with any other nation, and until we get such a court, war will not disappear, and this was a decided step toward that end, as progressive a measure that has ever been suggested to the American people."

President Taft concluded a three days' visit to his native state here tonight with a speech at Memorial hall, in which he vigorously denounced Colonel Roosevelt's attack on him. The president was repeatedly interrupted with cheers in his defense of his advocacy of Canadian reciprocity. As to many of the issues upon which his predecessor is fighting him, he said they were policies which Colonel Roosevelt himself has advocated, both as president and as a private citizen. He scored Colonel Roosevelt as an advocate of class hatred and a man who is appealing to the element of discontent.

"It is dangerous to put such a man in the office of president," he said. Mr. Roosevelt is not a safe man for this country to trust with his ideas as to the recall of our court decisions," he declared with emphasis.

Answering the colonel's charge that he was using public patronage to obtain his renomination, he said 70 per cent of the present office holders were Mr. Roosevelt's appointees and a majority of them are now fighting for the colonel's re-election.

Special to the Chicago Record-Herald: Washington, May 7.—Saved in Massachusetts; set back in Maryland; now depending on Ohio.

That, in a nutshell, is the situation affecting President Taft's chances of renomination. The lines are tightening every hour with respect to the unparalleled fight between the president of the United States and the only living ex-president. As the lines tighten the dark horse phantom grows dimmer and dimmer.

The Taft leaders are proceeding on the assumption that the president will hold his entire strength, providing he shows a clear majority when the convention is called to order at Chicago. They are not alarmed over any detrimental "moral effect" due to the failure to carry Maryland, although they mourn the loss of the delegates that might have been gathered in that state. Delegates now constitute the all-important factor. It is regarded as essential that President Taft shall have more than a bare majority in sight at the start of the convention, and it is felt that if the president does not have a majority on the first ballot he will be defeated.

Washington, D. C., May 7.—The Taft and Roosevelt national headquarters clashed today over the Maryland primary result. The word "lie" was used freely by Senator Dixon, head of the Roosevelt committee. Early in the day the Taft headquarters put out a statement on the Maryland results, part of which follows:

"More than half of Mr. Roosevelt's entire delegate vote came from the city and county of Baltimore, where it is stated the Roosevelt managers placed \$10,000 among their workers at an early hour yesterday."

Another part said:

"In Prince George county, which definitely decided the contest so far as present returns in-

dicating, Roosevelt money in large amounts was poured into the county. Rolls of small bills, accompanied by checks to be used if needed, were sent out from Washington on Sunday to at least one well known leader in the district having voluntarily exhibited such a 'roll' in Washington on Sunday afternoon."

This statement was duly delivered in the Roosevelt headquarters about noon, the rival organizations having an amicable arrangement whereby they exchange daily bulletins and statements.

Here is Senator Dixon's answer:

"Every one of these statements is a deliberate, wilful lie. Every man connected with their concoction and circulation is a deliberate, wilful liar. The lies are circulated for the purpose and for the only purpose possible for which liars always lie."

President Taft's managers today stated that "the president is entitled and will receive the vote of four of the delegates from the state of Maryland" to the republican national convention.

The presidential primary in that state yesterday gave Col. Roosevelt apparent control of the state convention which is to select Maryland's entire delegation of sixteen to Chicago, and reports from Maryland have indicated that the delegation would be solid for Roosevelt.

The Taft managers claim that the naming of a solid Roosevelt delegation by the state convention would defeat the expressed preference of the electors of the two districts. It is understood this point will be pressed and the national committee asked to rule on it unless four delegates are given to the president.

Special dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer: Washington, May 8.—Following the charge of the use of money in the interests of Roosevelt in the Maryland primaries, which Director McKinley and those under him made yesterday, there emanated today from the Taft bureau an indictment against the third-term candidate which equals, if it does not exceed, anything which the democrats have said against him.

Says the statement: "While posing as the acme of all virtue in politics, Theodore Roosevelt has been guilty in his official capacity of some of the grossest outrages ever perpetrated upon the good faith of the people of the United States, who like to believe that their presidents are all they pretend to be. No more blaring examples of betrayal of public trust has ever been exhibited in public office than by Theodore Roosevelt in his.

"1. Official refusal to allow the harvester trust to be prosecuted, thereby loading on the farmers of the country an increase in the cost of farm implements of one-third their price.

"2. Refusal to prosecute the steel trust.

"3. Dismissal without trial of the battalion of colored troops involved in the Brownsville affair.

"4. Refusal to revise the tariff during his seven years as president.

"5. Fawning upon political bosses while pretending to flay them.

"6. Acceptance of contributions from E. H. Harriman to bring about his own election as president, while pretending to oppose Harriman.

"7. Accepting the word of George W. Perkins, of the harvester and steel trusts, as against the word of the sworn law officers of the government.

"8. Determination to run for a third term as president as specifically stating his decision to abide by the 'wise custom' that no president should do so.

"9. Demagogic speeches in this campaign, including misrepresentations of his opponent. "These are only a part of the unwritten planks in the national platform of Theodore Roosevelt. They should be carefully considered along with his proposed recall of judges and judicial decisions and other known socialistic vagaries for which he has announced himself, although now attempting to dodge them and fool the people again."

Director McKinley took all up and made comment upon Manager Dixon's lie-in-every-line statement of yesterday, which the Taft representative characterized as a "brainstorm."

Editorial in Harper's Weekly: Briefly put, here is the gist of this exchange of personalities:

Roosevelt charged Taft with being in league with Lorimer. Taft proves that he was himself the originator of the main fight against Lorimer, and that Roosevelt knew all about it. Roosevelt charged Taft with being in league with the standpat bosses against the progressives. Taft