The Commoner.



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directors would decline to aid in the national campaign if there was any Roosevelt and Mr. Cortelyou."

"At these interviews was anything said about Mr. Roosevelt's views on the tariff?" "It was generally understood that he stood for a protective tariff as outlined in the republican platform since 1896," answered Penrose. "Was anything said about his attitude toward so-called 'big business,'" asked Pomerene. "There was a general assurance on the part of Mr. Bliss that the power of the presidential office would not be used in a harsh way for demagogic effect."

Penrose was a member of the industrial commission.

In his last word, Colonel Roosevelt thanked both Messrs. Archbold and Penrose for "making it clear beyond possibility of doubt that I am the man the Penroses and Archbolds of the country most dread in public life."

Colonel Roosevelt's statement was: "In the first place, I wish to call attention to the fact that even if Mr. Archbold's statements are true they amount only to saying as far as I am concerned, that Mr. Bliss told him that I had knowledge and approved of a request for \$100,000 from the Standard Oil company, which was granted, and a further request for \$150,000, which was not granted. This is a pure hearsay statement and even if made in good faith would be utterly valueless.

"Not only did I never know anything of such a request being made but my published letters and telegrams show that when the rumor that there had been a contribution to me, I acted at once, reiterating my demand again and again that the money should be immediately returned, if it had been given, and bemoney had not been received and would not be received. Therefore, even on the assumption that Mr. Archbold is telling the truth, his testimony, so far as I am concerned, consists of the repetition of hearsay assertions which were instantly disproved by the production of my letters and telegrams.

"I wish to reiterate that until Mr. Penrose made his speech, I never had heard it suggested that Mr. Archbold had contributed to the campaign or been the means through which any contributions had been made.

"But I do not believe for one moment that Mr. Archbold's testimony is truthful. He apparently possesses such a moral standard that he does not understand the infamous accusation he is making against Mr. Bliss. Mr. Bliss is now dead. But during me about my conduct toward corthe seven years that elapsed before porations except to say that he knew secrecy about the matter-if their Mr. Bliss' death, after Mr. Archbold that I would act fairly and justly toclaims he made the contribution in wards all, and I told him that I up any statement of this kind.

bold states that he and the late Hi H. Rogers visited me at the White House, and that I then remarked to them there had been some critcisms about campaign contributions. This is a falsehood. Neither on that occasion, nor on any other occasion, was one word said either by me to Mr. Archbold or by Mr. Archbold to me about campaign contributions.

"Mr. Rogers and Mr. Archbold called on that occasion to protest against any government action being taken against the Standard Oil company. This was one of a number of calls which Mr. Archbold made on the bureau of corporations under the department of the interior and by the department of justice. If Mr. Archbold had really believed that Mr. Bliss had told them that I knew of any contribution by Standard Oil or had felt that he was jeopardized by having refused to make a contribution, or was entitled to immunity for having made one, he would certainly in one of those calls have said as much. He never broached the subject.

"He merely said, over and over again, that Mr. Garfield and Mr. H. K. Smith were treating him unfairly ing assured by Mr. Cortelyou that the and he denied again and again, that the Standard Oil ever got any rebates or ever did anything that was not absolutely proper, and he would keep on with these denials, even when I would tell him that I had in my possession reports from the bureau of corporations and the secretary of the interior which conclusively showed that the Standard Oil had been taking rebates on the largest possible scale.

> "Inasmuch as Mr. Archbold does not tell the truth in his interview with me, I have no doubt that he does not tell the truth about the man who is dead and who, living, he never dared to accuse as he now accuses.

"Mr. Bliss never spoke to me about asking or receiving a contribution from anyone and he never before or after the election said anything to question, Mr. Archbold never brought should never dream of acting any other way. Neither Mr. Bliss nor "He now says that Mr. Bliss anyone else ever suggested or hinted warned him that he was making a at in any shape or way the idea that I should take or refrain from taking the extra amount of money and that any action in connection with any later on, when the administration be- corporation because of any contribugan to deal with the Standard Oil tion whatever. Specifically he never people, Mr. Bliss said it would have said one word to me about any conbeen different if they had done as he tribution from the Standard Oil corporation, and never said one word to me about proceeding or not proceeding against the Standard Oil corporation. I saw Mr. Archbold again and again, while the department of justice was contemplating proceedings against him (always at Mr. Archbold's request, of course, listening to all he had to say and heard him repeat the same statements over and over again when I was entirely convinced that they were false, and directed the attorney general to proceed only when it had become evident that Mr. Archbold had nothing to tell me which would give any war-



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MR. ROOSEVELT'S ANSWER

Associated Press report: Oyster Bay, N. Y., Aug. 23 .- Colonel Roosevelt sat on the porch at Sagamore Hill for an bour and a half tonight and dictated a statement in reply to the testimony before the senate investigating committee. He reiterated his declaration that he knew nothing of a contribution from Mr. Archbold or the Standard Oil company to the republican campaign of 1904; declared he did not "for one moment believe that Mr. Archbold's testi-mony is truthful;" charged Mr. Archbold with a "wicked assault on a dead man;" added that during many calls which Mr. Archbold made upon him while he was president to urge him not to prosecute the Standard Oil company, Mr. Archbold never referred to any contribution to his campaign fund, and concluded with proportion. the suggestion that the senate com-

serious mistake in not contributing had asked them.

"This is an assertion that Mr. Bliss was deliberately trying to blackmail the Standard Oil company into contributing by scarcely veiled threats as to what would happen if they did not contribute, and that Mr. Bliss in effect told them afterwards that if they had contributed the administration would not have proceeded against them for violating the law -for this was all the administration did.

"This is a wicked assault on a dead man, whose high standing and probity was such that no human being who was himself honest, would ever rant for directing the attorney genimpute evil motives to him. Mr. eral not to act. Bliss was incapable of conduct such and whom Mr. Archbold never ventured to assail while living.

"Meanwhile Mr. Archbold shows perfectly clearly, as published rewith the expectation of receiving a

mittee should make Mr. Archbold that Mr. Bliss made any such re-and Senator Penrose testify at once marks to Mr. Archbold, as Mr. Arch- two of their representatives had come GOVERNMENT ARBERS WANTED 200.00 and Senator Penrose testify at once marks to Mr. Archbold, as Mr. Arch- two of their representatives had come concerning their relations while Mr. bold says. For example, Mr. Arch- down to Washington to oppose it and

"During all that time neither Mr. as Mr. Archbold imputes to him, and Archbold, nor anyone else ever I can not too strongly denounce the hinted to me that the Standard Oil baseness of making such an attack people had contributed or that there upon an honorable man who is dead was any expectation by any human being that I should show favor to the Standard Oil.

"Moreover, let it be remembered that long before the campaign of ports say, that his corporation had 1904 I had had a sharp run with the contributed in order to get value for Standard Oil and had shown them its gift and that the gift was made just what they could expect from me. This was when we were tracing the bureau of corporations' acts. I found "I do not for one moment believe out the Standard Oil people were