

## The Case of Mr. Roosevelt

representatives was elected. In May, 1911, the house authorized the creation of a special committee, of which Representative A. O. Stanley, of Kentucky, was made chairman, to investigate alleged violations of the Sherman anti-trust act by the United States Steel corporation.

Three months later, as a first result of this investigation, President Taft was forced to order Herbert Knox Smith, United States commissioner of corporations, to publish evidence of the guilt of the steel corporation and Smith's own positive conclusions that it was a monopoly in restraint of trade.

In October, 1911, President Taft ordered the attorney-general, as a result of this investigation by a committee of a democratic house, to prosecute the United States Steel corporation for violations of the Sherman anti-trust act. In the government's petition, filed October 26, it was charged that President Roosevelt had been deceived by Messrs. Frick and Gary.

Colonel Roosevelt is reported to have become very angry. The newspapers quoted him as saying that he could never forgive that act in Mr. Taft. Herbert Knox Smith resigned as commissioner of corporations and is now a moving spirit in the third term party.

In March, 1912, Colonel Roosevelt threw his hat into the ring. George W. Perkins enlisted to see that it remained there.

On June 18, 1912, the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, the republican national convention opened at Chicago with President Taft and Theodore Roosevelt battling for negro delegates from the south—and the presidential nomination. Perkins was there with luxurious headquarters and his check book. Taft won.

On August 7, Theodore Roosevelt and George W. Perkins went again to Chicago and organized the third term party, with Roosevelt and Perkins candidate for president and chairman of the executive committee respectively.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Casting the fierce light of relentless investigation behind the scenes of Colonel Roosevelt's theatrical struggle for the republican nomination, then to become the nominee of a third party, has left him in a sorry plight in the minds of impartial lookers-on.

If the colonel had not been so eager to denounce everyone who contradicted him as liars, and to stand before the country as the one, brave, unpurchasable and unconquerable enemy of predatory wealth, and defender of the interests of the plain people, the expose might not have been so fatal to his claims.

Faith in Colonel Roosevelt was badly weakened when several years ago it was developed that at his personal solicitation shortly before the election of 1904, then being a candidate for the presidency, E. H. Harriman, dictator of the great Union Pacific monopoly, collected from a few other great railroad magnates the enormous sum of \$250,000 with which to carry the state of New York for him and the republican state ticket. It was on a visit to the White House, solicited by the then President Roosevelt, that Harriman agreed to get this money. Of the sum, he contributed \$50,000 himself. Colonel Roosevelt's explanation was that he made the request at the solicitation of Mr. Bliss, treasurer of the republican national committee, not to help his own candidacy—for his election was then assured—but for use in New York for the state ticket, the success of which was at that time doubtful. He does not deny the request, nor does he deny the contribution from the Harriman crowd. He simply eliminates his own candidacy as a necessary beneficiary and has it all donated for the benefit of the New York local ticket. Mr. Harriman in his lifetime took issue with Colonel Roosevelt as to the uses for which the vast sum was solicited. According to him it was to make certain that New York was carried for not only the state but for the national ticket.

The investigation that was resumed at Washington the other day gives to the country other startling information. In the spring of 1904 when Roosevelt was hard at work to insure his own renomination Harriman was repeatedly and urgently invited to lunch and dine with Roosevelt at the White House, and Harriman was as earnestly attempting to avoid going there. Both letters and telegrams from Colonel Roosevelt and his private secretary to Harriman were put in evidence and their authenticity not denied. Following the Chicago convention which nominated Roosevelt, Harriman declined to return to New York by way of Washington, lest it might do Roosevelt's candidacy some harm, and Colo-

Senator La Follette handles "the case of Mr. Roosevelt in this way: Bryan at Baltimore, foregoing all chances of his own nomination, marshalling all his forces, braving Tammany and the trusts to rescue his party from their domination, carrying the convention for the adoption of the most progressive democratic platform yet offered, and the nomination of the most progressive democratic candidate available, was a towering figure of moral power and patriotic devotion to civic righteousness.

Roosevelt at Chicago, backed by money derived from the stock watering operations of the steel trust and the harvester trust, organizing what are now confessed to have been "fake" contests as to nearly two hundred delegates in order to control the republican convention and secure his own nomination, refusing to aid in making a progressive platform, bound to have the nomination or destroy the republican party, was a most striking example of misdirected power and unworthy ambition.

Roosevelt had as great an opportunity to serve the progressive cause at Chicago, as Bryan had at Baltimore. But Roosevelt was serving the man, not the cause. He wanted one thing—he wanted the nomination. And yet he did not have enough votes to nominate himself upon any honest basis. He did have enough delegates in that convention ultimately to have nominated a real progressive and adopted a strong progressive platform. He could even have nominated Hadley on such a platform, and progressive republicans could have supported Hadley in much the same spirit as hundreds of thousands of them will now support Wilson. Neither Hadley nor Wilson are veterans in the progressive ranks. Neither of them has been tried by the severest tests. Both appear to be men of high ideals whose records, though short, give promise.

But Roosevelt would not consider Hadley. He would have no one but himself. At the first suggestion of Hadley he ordered the third party maneuvers, lest he lose his followers.

If he had the evidence to prove that Taft could not be honestly and fairly nominated, why did he not direct his lieutenants to present that evidence to the national committee, and then to the convention and the country, so clearly that the convention would not have dared to nominate Taft and that Taft could not, in honor, have accepted the nomination, if made?

The reason is obvious. An analysis of the testimony will, I am convinced, show that

nel Roosevelt reluctantly accepted the excuses of Harriman.

But leaving the Harriman episode out of the question the sources from which the money came for Roosevelt's campaign for the republican nomination at Chicago this year and his organization of the third party upon his defeat in Chicago, leads to the conclusion that his sources for financial help are polluted, and that the vast sums used in his behalf have not been contributed from either disinterested or patriotic reasons.

Twenty-one individuals contributed \$278,458 to alone secure his nomination, and of that amount William Flinn, the Pittsburgh boss of unsavory reputation, gave \$144,308, George W. Perkins contributed \$22,500, and Dan R. Hanna \$25,000. Hanna is an indicted rebater, his trial is yet to be held. George W. Perkins is the organizer and controller of the Harvester trust, under whose exactions the agriculturists of the entire land are groaning. Why should a man like William Flinn of Pittsburgh pay out of his own pocket \$145,000 to secure any man's nomination for the presidency?

This man Flinn was put under oath by the investigating committee. He was forced to tell how but a few years ago in Senator Quay's lifetime he entered into a contract signed, sealed and delivered for their mutual business and political advantage. In this contract Flinn agreed in cold blood to deliver delegates to both state and national conventions in exchange for certain legislation at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capital, which related to Flinn's contracts in Pittsburgh and out of which he expected to make heavy sums of money. Then Flinn was forced to tell of his own ambition to succeed Senator Quay in the United States senate, and how through friends he solicited the support of the notorious Archbold of the Standard Oil company to support him. In the light of these developments, not one of which is denied, it will be quite difficult

neither Taft nor Roosevelt had a majority of honestly or regularly elected delegates. This the managers upon both sides well understood. Each candidate was trying to seat a sufficient number of fraudulently credentialed delegates, added to those regularly chosen to support him, to secure control of the convention, and "steam-roll" the nomination. It was a proceeding with which each was acquainted and which each had sanctioned in prior conventions.

This explains the extraordinary conduct of Roosevelt. He could not enter upon such an analysis of the evidence as would prove Taft's regularly elected delegates in the minority, without inevitably subjecting his own spuriously credentialed delegates to an examination so critical as to expose the falsity of his own contention that he had an honestly elected majority of the delegates. He therefore deliberately chose to claim every thing, to cry fraud, to bully the national committee and the convention, and sought to create a condition which would make impossible a calm investigation of cases upon merit, and to carry the convention by storm.

That this is the true psychology of the Roosevelt proceedings becomes perfectly plain. He was there to force his own nomination or to smash the convention. He was not there to preserve the integrity of the republican party, and make it an instrument for the promotion of progressive principles and the restoration of government to the people. Otherwise he would have directed his floor managers to contest every inch of the ground for a progressive platform before the committee on resolutions and in the open convention.

But Mr. Roosevelt was not governed by a suggestion of that spirit of high patriotic and unselfish purpose of which Bryan furnished such a magnificent example one week later in the democratic convention at Baltimore. Instead, he filled the public ear with sound and fury. He ruthlessly sacrificed everything to the one idea of his being the one candidate. He gagged his followers in the convention without putting upon record any facts upon which the public could base a definite, intelligent judgment regarding the validity of Taft's nomination. He submitted no suggestion as to a platform of progressive principles. He clamored loudly for purging the convention roll of "tainted" delegates, without purging his own candidacy of his tainted contests and his tainted trust support. He offered no reason for a third party excepting his own overmastering craving for a third term.

to convince many of the hitherto ardent supporters of Colonel Roosevelt that he isn't made, so far as his political aspirations go, of very common clay. Posing as a monument of political chastity, denouncing from every platform the boss and the trust magnate, he in secret solicits from this very class of nefarious interests immense sums which were expended to procure for him a nomination that he lost, and then to help him in his efforts to destroy the republican party because he failed to control it that another might be organized, of which he was to be made the idol.

The News refers to these developments of Colonel Roosevelt's insincerity with genuine sorrow. It has learned to esteem and admire him. Even now it gives to him the credit of having done more than any other agency to force into the public mind a conviction of evils that had to be remedied before the country and the people could be independent and prosperous.

But whatever may be said in that regard it can no longer be claimed that he is a sincere man, and that many of his pretensions of virtue and disinterestedness are not mere hypocrisies.—Denver News.

## WHERE DID HE GET IT?

At Staples, Minn., Mr. Bryan attacked Mr. Roosevelt's claim to be a friend of labor. "Four years ago he fastened on the American people the greatest enemy of labor that ever sat on the United States bench," said Mr. Bryan. "His convention rejected the demands of labor in the platform four years ago. Now he is demanding a labor representation in the cabinet. Where did he get that plank? From my platform four years ago."

Collier's offers pretty strong evidence that Senator Warren considers public office a private snap.