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**ROOSEVELT SURRENDERS**

Roosevelt surrenders. He consents that the rate bill be amended to meet the demands of the railroads. He could stand the pressure no longer. He was not big enough for the job he had undertaken. Aldrich's confidence in the outcome is vindicated. Knox made the argument, and the cabinet and railroad senators took advantage of the spell created by the able and wily Pennsylvanian to renew their pressure upon the president, in the name of party, and lo, the supposed man of iron in the White House turned out to be only a man of straw.

The president was hedged about and beaten on all tacks by congress simply because he lacked the capacity to appreciate and utilize the power he possessed. If he had the nerve of a Cleveland he could have won, hands down. He had the people of all parties at his back and only needed to stand firm when the politicians must come to him.

But he has kept bad company. He surrounded himself with corporation attorneys. Every member of his political household are opposed to his avowed railroad policy, a suspicious circumstance.

Was he sincere in his efforts to relieve the people from railroad extortion, or was he merely making a grandstand play before the country? His great popularity was earned in a day. It resulted from his order to his attorney general to dissolve the Northern Securities company. He took the side of the people upon a vital question that was comprehended by all. They understand the railroad question now better than they did then, and cannot be trifled with. Does he not know that the public never gives a public official a second chance to retrieve himself? Great popularity once acquired and then forfeited is lost forever.

Bryan is strong because he has kept the faith. The most critical day in his career was when the Kansas City convention was demanding of him a modified expression of former views.

Had they succeeded in extorting from him the least concession in the way of a modification of his former position, his star would then and there have set, never to rise again. He would have forfeited the confidence reposed in him by the public and all would have been over.

Roosevelt's life and writings are full of inconsistency and contradictions, but notwithstanding these the people believed him to be honest, manly and courageous. And when he threw down the gauntlet to the confederated monopolies they gave him full measure of their confidence and their support. Many found it difficult to reconcile his spectacular and boastful performances and coarse manners, with that sturdiness of character and expansion of soul that lift men above their fellows, but all gave him the benefit of the doubt, and his popularity soared mountains high and with it the expectations of a trusting people.

"How great the fall!" The people were mistaken. Millions of his fellow countrymen, whose hearts thrilled with pride and hope at every mention of the name of Roosevelt now with heavy hearts turn from him.

**MOCKERY OF THE LAW**

The arrest of G. W. Perkins in New York last week charged with the larceny of \$48,000 from the New York Life Insurance company, suggests food for refection for all men who value freedom and desire to perpetuate our free institutions. The astounding attitude of District Attorney Jerome before Justice O'Sullivan's court, with reference to criminals who looted the insurance treasuries to promote the success of a political party, a couple of days previous to the arrest of Perkins, shocked the sensibilities of all whose consciences are not sored by familiarity with, and participation in crime against the public weal.

The little concern displayed by Mr. Perkins when placed under arrest for so grave an offense was an exhibition of moral turpitude resultant from association with men accustomed to disregard alike the moral and statute laws when either stand between them and the accomplishments of desired ends. The cool demeanor of Mr. Perkins is accounted for by his knowledge that the entire board of trustees of the New York Life Insurance company shared with him the crime committed against the policyholders of his company whom he plundered, and against the electorate of the United States whose verdict was sought to be influenced by the use of the money, and by the further knowledge that the officers of the other two great life insurance companies were guilty of similar crimes.

The conduct of District Attorney Jerome in seeking to shield men from the consequences of high crimes, because they are rich and powerful, calls down upon him the condemnation of all honest men. The farcical prosecution of Mr Perkins by the district attorney, under the circumstances, is a further exhibition of the moral obliquity of that individual.

The district attorney, who has been advertised as a man possessed of many virtues, has disappointed the public by his steadfast refusal to pro-

ceed against the big insurance thieves, ever since their crimes were made public by the Armstrong legislative committee, but they were shocked when the representative of the state wrought himself into a frenzy in Justice O'Sullivan's court room in his efforts to persuade the court and the grand jury that the acts committed, while admittedly illegal did not constitute a crime.

The claim that officers of a life insurance company can use the money held in trust for their policyholders to advance the fortunes of a political party, and then by false book entries disguise the uses to which the moneys were put, and in so doing commit no crime, is to ask mankind to repudiate and abolish the command "Thou shalt not steal."

The conduct of District Attorney Jerome in dealing with the rich and powerful thieves of life insurance is calculated to loosen the bands and rivets that hold together, civil society. His present position as prosecutor of Mr. Perkins under the circumstances, shows him to be a man possessed of monumental gall enclosed in a rhinoseros hide, and utterly insensible to the morality and decency of the age in which he lives.

Why does he insist upon conducting a case which his past conduct disqualifies him to prosecute in good faith? Is he so obtuse as to think any judge, jury or citizen will consider him sincere in the undertaking? Such conduct is mockery of the laws, and an insult to public decency. If Mr. Jerome is not utterly lost to all sense of self respect he will harken to the demands of decency and propriety and will turn the prosecution of Mr. Perkins over to some reputable attorney that the case may be tried upon its merits.

**CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**

The startling revelation that the most sacred pecuniary trust that civilization has so far evolved, namely, the custody of life insurance funds, has been violated, and the money representing the toil and sacrifice of millions of our people to provide against adversity and old age, and to sustain widows and orphans, stolen and given to campaign committees to influence elections, suggests to the thoughtful the danger that lurks in the use of large sums of money by campaign committees.

In the first place, a large campaign fund is not necessary for the conduct of an honest election, in either state or nation. And if a proper accounting were made of the uses to which large campaign funds have been put, it would be made plain that much of it was used for purposes that were immoral and hostile to good government. The legitimate expenses of campaign committees call for only moderate sums of money.

The right of individuals to contribute money to such committees is not disputed. But a corporation does not stand on the same footing as an individual in this respect. A corporation actively engaged in politics is neither more nor less than a conspiracy against the public. A corporation is a legal entity, for certain specific purposes, composed of a limited number of individuals who have put a portion of their means into a com-

mon pool, enjoying certain privileges and immunities conferred upon it by law. The objects of corporations are in most cases selfish, looking to the enrichment of the owners of its stocks. It owes its existence to a privilege granted by the people. It is possessed of no sovereign rights, and when it undertakes to influence elections such act is revolutionary in its nature. Contributions to campaign committees by corporations are clearly against public policy and illegal.

The enormous capital required to utilize science and invention in industry accounts for the vast aggregations of wealth operating under franchises from the states and the nation. The total capital thus employed represents a large percentage of the total wealth of the nation. This vast wealth is organized and in control of all the highly profitable avenues of production and distribution. Through consolidations, and otherwise, competition has been illuminated in many departments of industry, and the vast interests controlling them are now confederated to further their own selfish ends.

That corporations dominate the politics of state and nation is known of all men. They have held both political parties by the throat and exacted and received, with a few notable exceptions, abject submission to their will from public officials regardless of party for many years. The names

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