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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1910

REES' INSINCERITY.

Salina Union: Judge Rees says that Taft is surrounded by false friends, who persuaded him to hand the American people a gold brick in the Payne-Aldrich tariff law.

Who are these false friends? Are they not the entire Republican representation in both houses of congress? Only a score in the lower house and seven senators of the Republican side opposed the tariff bill. Does Judge Rees claim that these handful of insurgents represent the Republican party?

If the tariff law is a "gold brick" is not the Republican party the confidence man who imposed it upon the country? Can Rees be consistent and still claim that the people should elect such a party to power? Why does not the Judge leave such a rotten party?

Why does he have the cheek to ask for a nomination at the hands of such a corrupt party? The trouble with Rees is that he is not sincere. He wants office so badly that he exposes his want of political conscience.

This inordinate desire for office made the judge pollute the ermine two years ago, and now it makes him act in such an insincere manner, as to cause people to lose confidence in him. Rees should be fighting the Republican party, instead of begging it to give him an office.

Is not Rees a "gold brick"?

MAY BE ONE REASON.

The Manhattan Mercury prints this in a light vein but really it may not be so far from the truth: Responsibility for high prices seems at last to have been properly placed. The entire blame seems to rest upon theatrical managers and newspaper humorists. For the last half century these two classes of persons have devoted themselves industriously to devaluing the idea that the farmer is a joke. They have pictured him a man of bumpy overalls and ridiculous whiskers; they have insisted on his bovine manners and speech; they have ridiculed his simplicity and credulity. No one, no matter how keen his sense of humor, enjoys being a national joke so the country boys and girls, instead of staying on the farm to be laughed at, have been coming to town where they could do some of the laughing. The result has been dollar wheat, forty cent butter and eggs and the eleven dollar hog. And there will be no improvement newspapers habitually refer to the farmer as a dignified, liberal minded, until the public sees to it that the good natured gentleman and that on the stage he invariably gets the laugh on the humorist and other smart people in town.

TOM WAGSTAFF.

The announcement that Tom Wagstaff is a candidate for governor means that Governor Stubbs will have some opposition worth while. Mr. Wagstaff is president of the Kansas Day club, is as good a campaigner as Stubbs and a clean, clever gentleman. He was county attorney of Montgomery county and was the first county attorney in Kansas to clean out the joints. He did it without any grand stand playing and in a businesslike way that counted. He is honest and would make a good governor. There are many thousand Republicans who believe they should have some choice in the nomination for governor and they will have it with a mighty good man to support if they do not desire to support Gov. Stubbs.

Paul Thiesman in Kansas City Post, Dem.: "Newspapers here, and elsewhere, engaged in booming the Republican insurgents, had paroxysms of joy and fits of self-congratulation over a colossal victory which did not materialize. The Democrats, led by Champ Clark, naturally stuck with the Republican insurgents long enough to gain whatever they could gain out of the struggle. . . . They gained four members of a new rules committee out of ten. . . . But that was all possible to see in it upon cooling down from the dramatic excitement of the episode. . . . That's all we could see in it upon studying the situation in cold blood."

T. A. McNeal, the insurgent candidate for congressman in the First district, makes the point that Congressman McKinlay said reduction of the tariff brought depression and then contradicted himself by saying the recent reduction in many articles brought prosperity. Mr. McNeal knows very well that McKinlay said no such thing. He said Democratic reduction on a tariff for revenue basis brought depression and it did, but Republican revision in the interest of good business judgment is a different thing. Fairness in discussion and fairness in quoting a speaker ought to be a part of a square dealer's platform.

CHANGE IN INAUGURATION DAY.

Although the citizens of the District of Columbia have no voice in the election of the President of the United States, they have a whole lot to do with inaugurating him in office once he is elected by the rest of the country, and every time the great day comes around and the inevitable snow and slush, freeze and fog combine to endanger the lives of everybody participating in the ceremonies from the President to the proletariat, the residents of the national capital get together and pass resolutions calling upon congress to submit to the country an amendment to the constitution changing the date of the inauguration to some day later in the season when the American eagle can flap his wings and scream without catching cold in his poor, old head.

No man who ever witnessed a presidential inauguration in Washington was ever known to defend the wretched judgment of the fathers when they fixed upon the fourth of March as the date for the ceremony. When President Taft was inaugurated the weather was so bad that he was compelled to deliver his inaugural address in the Senate chamber, instead of from the great tribune that had been erected on the east portico of the capital, to the disappointment of thousands of people who had come for hundreds of miles to witness the affair.

For weeks after the fourth of March the daily papers of the capital announced in almost every issue the death of some person, with the note that death had resulted from exposure on inauguration day.

WHERE ROOSEVELT STOOD.

Some people insist that Colonel Roosevelt is and always has been hand in glove with the "insurgent" movement in Congress, says the State Journal. Of course, Mr. Roosevelt has been mingling now for more than a year with the fauna of Africa and his ideas on things may have changed considerably, but at one time, at any rate, he expressed himself forcibly on this particular subject. And it was not against that "bugaboo," Cannonism, as many people would like to have every one else believe. Indeed, it was just the opposite. He believed that the house of representatives under the leadership of Mr. Cannon had accomplished a "phenomenal amount of good work." He deprecated any movement which had for its object the disintegration of the Republican organization and such a method of procedure as it had developed that effective legislation could be brought about. Colonel Roosevelt expressed these views in a letter, which explains itself and which was printed in the New York World recently. It follows:

"Oyster Bay, Aug. 14, 1906.
"To Hon. James E. Watson, M. C. from Indiana.

"My Dear Mr. Watson: I hear through Speaker Cannon and Representative Sherman that you have volunteered to give your services to the congressional committee for the entire campaign, without regard to the effect it may have upon your canvass in your own district, and I feel like writing you a word of congratulation and of earnest hope for the success of your efforts. If there were only partisan issues involved in this contest I should hesitate to say anything publicly in reference thereto. But I do not feel that such is the case. On the contrary, I feel that all good citizens who have the welfare of America at heart should appreciate the immense amount that has been accomplished by the present congress organized as it is, and the urgent need of keeping this organization in power. With Mr. Cannon as speaker the house has accomplished a literally phenomenal amount of good work. It has shown a courage, good sense and patriotism such that it would be a real and serious misfortune for the country to fail to recognize. To change the leadership and organization of the house at this time means to bring confusion upon those who have been successfully engaged in the steady working out of a great and comprehensive scheme for the betterment of our social, industrial and civic conditions. Such a change would substitute a purposeless confusion, a violent and hurtful oscillation between the positions of the extreme radical and the extreme reactionary, for the present orderly progress along the lines of a carefully thought-out policy.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

This letter was written at a time when the "insurgents" in the house were just beginning to feel their oats. And practically the identical situation has existed in the house since that date, or until last Saturday when the "insurgents" with their Democratic allies, succeeded in doing the very thing Colonel Roosevelt so forcibly deplored. The new plan which the "insurgents" and their Democratic brethren have adopted may be effective in the administration of the affairs of the lower branch of congress. There is little reason to believe, however, that it will be. People who have the idea that the Democrats under the leadership of Champ Clark, went into this thing with the pure motive of bettering conditions in the house are lacking in political wisdom. The Democrats went into it to put the Republican party in the hole. They want to kill the Taft program of legislation which a legislative machinery had been perfected to pass. Nothing would please the Democrats any better than just such a result. They could go before the people and insist that the work of the present congress in carrying out the Roosevelt "policies" as they have been developed by Mr. Taft and in line with the demands of the people, had amounted to nothing.

Jackson certainly has a daily press agent. He reported that 100 people came from Osgo City to Reading to the opening meeting. There were only eight tickets sold during the entire day at Osgo City for Reading. The press agent also said that the band came free. The leader says that Jackson paid them for the trip. The report also claimed that an extra coach was hitched on behind the motor car from Topeka. The motor car can't pull an extra coach. As an expert preparator, Jackson's press agent is a peach.—Empire Journal.



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WAS IT A SQUARE DEAL?

Another dream, the Central Kansas Interurban, has gone glimmering. Had the Newton promoters acted as they talked last December, filed their charter and commenced business it would have won. Abilene is wondering if it really got a square deal from Salina and Newton.

MORE CORN SHOWS.

The State Corn Show held at Manhattan every winter has been creditable but not big enough to suit the Kansas Agricultural College and now the Institute Department is offering to cooperate with commercial clubs and farmers' institutes throughout the state for a series of local corn shows, all leading up to the state show, with all the prize winners from the local shows contesting at the state show. The big Kansas crop is corn and the college is asking for the cooperation of the commercial clubs in the great movement for a bigger corn crop.

There are a hundred or more live towns in Kansas that could have corn shows that would be of great value to the communities in which they are held and would create great interest. It is desired this year that these shows shall include not only corn grown by the boys but they should also have exhibits by the best farmers of the county. The Agricultural College will help in planning prize lists and will send speakers and judges to the corn shows next fall. It is recommended that all prizes for men and for boys fifteen and over be the same, trips to the State Corn Show December 26-31, 1910. This is being presented as a business proposition and it is hoped that many commercial clubs will take up the work at once.

GOOD ADVICE.

"What shall I do with my money," was the question put to a broker this week by a new investor who had saved \$500 and wanted to get into the wheat market and make some easy money. "Do you see that bank over there?" answered the broker, pointing across the street. "You take your money and deposit it there in the savings department, where you get 4 per cent a year. Give your bank book to your wife, and go back to your work." This advice was given to an investor ignorant of speculative deals in grain and who could not afford to lose. It is merely an incident; still, it shows that some brokers look upon the moral as well as the business side of the speculative game.—Evening Post.

THE COMMISSION ELECTION.

The city administration has formulated a lengthy defense of its action in forcing on the people an illegal election on commissioners. It is published over the signature of City Attorney Crawford. A large part of it is taken up with abuse of the Reflector, which of course has no bearing on the case, except to show how sensitive the administration is, regarding any publicity of political game. In the article it is stated that regarding the legal publication calling the original election:

"The object of a notice is to inform the voters that there is to be an election. This notice the voters got by the publication which was published three weeks as required by the law, though the last publication was not made as soon as the law required."

This is clearly a mis-statement, as Mr. Crawford well knows. The law calls for three publications, the last of which "shall be not less than three weeks before election." The election was March 1st, three weeks prior was Feb. 7. The first publication in the Democrat was Feb. 10, the second Feb. 17, the third was to have been Feb. 24, but it was forgotten until part of the edition was printed and then was put in a few papers and this was called a publication. Why should the administration and Mr. Crawford state that only "the last publication" was deficient if they wish to tell the truth to the voters?

The Reflector has a business interest in the city. It makes no difference what kind of an administration is ruling the town so long as it is well done. Every leading lawyer in the city, except Mr. Crawford, says that any act that the commissioners do that is worth testing can be knocked out in the court. The businessmen of the city who are anxious to have the town go ahead feel that it is mighty small business for the mayor and attorney to force on the city a government that is likely to prove expensive and hinder the town's progress—especially what it would have been so easy to have tested the matter in time and found that it was right. This was refused and the election has been pushed as if the life of the politicians who have been working day and night for months to get the commission through depended on it instead of a paltry \$200 a year for the mayor

or and \$250 for the commissioners, with of course the absolute power to run the town, levy any kind of taxes and favor any pets if the election can be made to stick.

Mr. Crawford says it is probable that the businessmen will commence some action to test the matter. We hope they will. This town paid one city attorney over \$2000 trying lawsuits over bonds repudiated because of some trifling irregularity in the proceedings. It is not disposed to go through another experience of that kind. Litigation means big fees for lawyers and the people are the ones who have to pay, whether they want to or not.

It seems strange that our city officials instead of being what they take their oath to be and what they promise to be in their anti-election platforms, builders of the town and servants of the municipality in the larger sense, so far forget their relations to the community as to stoop to misrepresenting plain matters of fact as is shown above and drag the city into more trouble and litigation—of which this town has had plenty already.

With all its natural advantages Abilene has made much less progress than it should and it needs only a little travel and experience to realize it. Nor will there be the progress there should be until less politics and petty scheming for personal advantage mark the town's management. First of all, what is done should be done legally and not have matters tied up with a cloud over everything that takes place.

As a taxpayer and a business interest of the town the Reflector has a right to demand that the commission form of government be instituted so that there shall be no doubt about the legality of every action and in this we have the support of every one who has the real good of the town at heart.

CAIRO CHAPTER, NO. 827.

"You may say that the man who wrote that told a wicked lie," said Roosevelt, referring to an interview in a Cairo newspaper. He is evidently instituting new judges in his justly celebrated Amalgamated Order of Ananias as he circles the East.

Ex-Governor Hoch had closed a lecture trip of 25,000 miles through 13 states, giving 107 lectures at about \$40 net each above expenses—which is not so bad. Gov. Hoch is one of the best attractions on the lecture platform and is a speaker who is always welcome.