

AUBURN DEMOCRAT-ARGUS PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY. 64-66 DIX Street, Auburn, N. Y.

PRICE \$1.00 PER YEAR.

Entered at P. O. at Auburn as second class matter, hence entitled to be sent at pound rates.

EQUAL PUBLIC RIGHTS.

Assemblyman Cuyler has introduced a bill suggested by the executive of Mrs. Blatch Stanton Blatch, who let it suit against the proprietors of the Hoffman House, New York, through their refusal to permit her to eat on the roof garden because she was without male escort.

The bill declares that women, whether alone or accompanied by escort, shall be entitled to equal accommodations with men at hotels, restaurants, barber shops, theatres, public halls, and in public conveyances.

Mrs. Blatch, who is the daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the famous war horse, so to speak, of equal rights, went to the Hoffman House roof garden to dine after the certain hour fixed by the proprietors as the time when women in order to dine there must be accompanied by men as escorts.

OUR STRANGE GOVERNOR.

The Sun takes notice that conspicuous among the recommendations of the joint committee of the Senate and Assembly appointed to investigate the subject of highways is this: "The proposed code provides for a State Highway department to be appointed in the month of January, 1909, by the incoming governor."

And the Sun further notes that "this pointed and studied suggestion" is repeated in another form: "We recommend that the governor who is to be elected by the people at the coming general election be given the power to appoint three highway commissioners who shall constitute a Department of Highways for the State of New York."

Of course, it never occurred to the Sun, nor did it to anyone else, that this reiterated provision was anything other than a "drive" at the governor, but it turns out that this provision was made at the governor's own particular request and to himself he is indebted for it. This strange governor, who cares not a rap for political power, deliberately, wilfully and aimlessly with malice aforethought deprives himself of the possible creation and use of one of the most powerful political engines ever contemplated or constructed in the State!

THE VOICE OF WARNING.

The Hartford Courant, a Republican newspaper, and one of the conservative forces of the New England States, views with respect the financial legislation proposed at Washington as a relief from the rigidity of our so-called system, and it declares that "the more thoughtful people study the schemes for improving financial conditions advanced at Washington, the more amazed they become at the evidence of the development of the old inflation spirit. It is financial insanity."

The Courant continues: "A little while ago we were in a critical condition with a real panic on hand. The wild and irredeemable projects of a lot of planners had mixed the banking element into the case to such an extent that the public became afraid of the banks. They pulled out their deposits by the tens of millions and hid the money in any old place that was not a bank. They threw over the most conservatively managed banks back on their re-

serve, compelled them to cut off discounts, and stopped industry as a sudden cold stops the flow of streams.

The cry of the hour was for more money. If there was an inexhaustible supply, then nobody would be afraid of not getting his own and nobody would hoard. That was the reasoning. There is the supply inexhaustible. But the hoarding has already ceased. The surplus reserve of cash in the New York banks last Saturday was three or four times what it was a year ago and the biggest on record for that date.

Isn't more money that is wanted now. It is more business, more work, a return of industrial activity, which must be gradual. It is a lot easier to knock a house down than to set it up again. All this agitation of Congress, about immediate action on the currency question to save the business interests is popycock.

Let conservatism and intelligent Hartford raise its voice. It has never done this in the past without being its equal to all over the country. This city is recognized as the home of judicious and conservative finance. Its insurance companies came through the scathing investigations of a year ago in New York—stronger for the agitation. The public learned that the business could be honestly and properly done, and was so done here. No other city would be heeded with more respect than Hartford. There should be, as has been suggested by some men of influence, a meeting at the Board of Trade to let the country know what the financiers of Hartford have to say on this vital subject.

The Courant's concern over the "currency reform" propositions pending at Washington is none too deep nor too sounding. And its suggestion that the financiers of Hartford should be heard on a subject on which they are entitled to attention is entirely proper. And further, they should be joined by the voice of other sound-minded localities in pointing out the weaknesses and dangers involved in the substitutes proposed to remedy the inelasticity of the system.

STATE AND ITS WATERS.

No subject that has been brought to the attention of the public of this State in some time has attracted the degree of attention and discussion that has been given to the recent report of the State Water Supply Commission to the Legislature. Its painstaking treatment of the subjects of conservation and use of natural waters of the State has fixed attention of localities endowed with large natural power capacities on the possibilities that lie at their doors and thus awakened their interest to a greater degree than ever before. For the reason that a plan and a reasonable hope is held out to them.

While the city of Auburn could not be locally benefited particularly in the matter of cheap power by any policy of conservation that might be adopted by the State, nevertheless the matter is an interesting one to this locality as a part of the great commonality of the State.

The report of the Commission is largely interesting, also, for the light it sheds on the change in popular and official opinion in regard to the relation of the State to the sources of supply, both for domestic and industrial use. On this point, the Brooklyn Citizen remarks that "it is less than a decade ago when a municipal administration in the city of New York was ready to enter into a contract with private interests to supply this city with a needed increase in its water supply. The fundamental reason for the opposition to the consummation of the Ramapo water contract was not the price per million gallons, but the incongruity of the State entering into a contract with private parties for supplying citizens with water."

"No administration today would dare to broach such a statement of the water problem. Public sentiment has progressed in these last few years, and it is becoming increasingly a fixed policy of the State to keep in perpetuity for the benefit of the people the sources of water supply, as well as its highways."

In the past Legislatures have been lavish in granting franchises to private companies to utilize the waters of Niagara Falls and other rivers and lakes for commercial purposes. Just as it was more common to grant special franchises to railroad companies. The spirit of the age is against this parceling out of the inheritance of the people for the benefit of private interests. In the words of Public Service Commissioner Osborne, the time has passed when we of this generation can grant rights in perpetuity over highways that are as much the property of our children and children's children as our own.

The report referred to directs attention to the waste of the State water power, and recommends a definite policy whereby a large annual revenue can be made to accrue to the State from the sale of this water power for industrial purposes. The same is done by private owners with the State grants to the Niagara and St. Lawrence rivers.

"Thoughtful people understand that the chief municipal necessity is an abundant water supply free from pollution and as population increases and industries develop, the old policy of depending upon private owners and operation has been supplanted by public ownership of the sources of supply and distribution. No one today would care to return to the old system, and no Legislature could successfully repeat the feat of the Nixon Legislature in granting another Ramapo water franchise."

PATRONAGE CHARGE FALSE

So Declares Roosevelt in a Long Letter to an Indiana Man.

PRESIDENT EXPLAINS APPOINTMENTS

Says the Only Coercion He Has Attempted Has Been Forbidding Federal Office Holders to Work for His Own Renomination--Not Using Offices to Further the Candidacy of Secretary Taft, He Says.

Washington, Feb. 10. — President Roosevelt yesterday made answer to the recent public statements that he has used Federal patronage in furthering the presidential interests of Secretary Taft.

The answer is in the form of a letter addressed to William Dudley Fouke of Richmond, Ind., and includes a letter from Mr. Fouke to the President suggesting the need of such a statement.

Mr. Fouke's letter refers to articles in The Indianapolis News and The Indianapolis Star, both of which are supporting Vice President Fairbanks, similarly charging abuses of patronage, and an editorial of The Evening Post of New York city, attacking the President's appointment of "the totally unfit George W. Wanamaker as appraiser of the port of New York, which is now followed by the President's refusal to reappoint a good Hughes man as collector of customs at Plattsburg."

Challenge Not Accepted.

He says also that on receipt of a letter from President Roosevelt asking him to produce or have The Indianapolis Star produce the name of a single man against whom an instance where coercion had been used to influence support for Secretary Taft, he requested the newspaper to do this, but it did not accept the challenge, though it still continues its general charges of abuse of the patronage. Mr. Fouke concludes his letter as follows:

"In view of these reiterated complaints, would not a detailed statement of your recent appointments, the men by whom they were recommended, your reasons and the principles upon which you have acted in making them, as well as a statement in regard to the alleged coercion be the best method of exhibiting the facts?"

Brands Charged as Malicious.

The President begins by characterizing the charges as "false and malicious." He follows this with an analysis of all appointments sent by him to the Senate for its action, to show that in no case has the proximity of a presidential contest influenced his action. The President's letter follows:

Washington, Feb. 7, 1909. "My Dear Mr. Fouke—The statement that I have used the offices in the effort to nominate any presidential candidate is both false and malicious. It is the usual imaginative invention which flows from a desire to say something injurious."

"Remember that those now making this accusation were busy enjoining two months ago in asserting that I was using the offices in securing my own re-nomination. It is the kind of accusation which for the next few months will be rife."

Slanders Will Not Down.

"This particular slander will be used until exploded, and when exploded those who have used it will probably invent another. Such being the case, I almost question whether it is worth while answering; but as it is you who ask why, the answer you shall have."

"Since the present Congress assembled two months ago I have sent to the Senate the names of all the officials I have appointed for the entire period—since Congress adjourned on the 4th of March last, that is, for 11 months."

"Excluding army and navy officers, scientific experts, health officers and those of the revenue cutter service, I have made during this period about 1,352 appointments subject to confirmation by the Senate, 1,164 being postmasters."

"Of these appointments in the diplomatic and consular services and in the Indian service have been made without regard to politics; in the diplomatic and consular services more Democrats than Republicans have been appointed, as we are trying to even up the quotas of the southern States."

Politics Secondary Matter.

"In nominating judges I have treated politics as a wholly secondary consideration and instead of relying solely upon recommendations of either senators or congressmen, have always conducted independent inquiries myself, personally, through members of the bench or the bar whom I happen to know, or through Attorney General Bonaparte, Secretary Taft, who was himself a judge; Secretary Root because of his great experience at the bar, or Senator Knox, who was formerly my attorney general."

marshals in certain of the western States, but including various offices also here and there throughout the country. I have either felt that the position was of such a character that the initiative in the choice could only properly come from me or from one of the Cabinet officers, or else I have happened personally to know or to know of a man of such peculiar qualifications that I desired to appoint him on my own initiative.

Personal inquiry impossible. "The great bulk of the offices, including almost all of the postoffices, the collectorship of customs, the appraiserships, the land officers and the life, numbering some 1,250 or thereabouts."

"It is, of course, out of the question for me personally to examine or have knowledge of such a multitude of appointments and therefore as regards them I normally accept the suggestions of senators and congressmen, the elected representatives of the people in the localities concerned, always reserving to myself the right to insist upon the man's coming up to the required standard of character and capacity and also reserving the right to nominate whomsoever I choose if for any reason I am satisfied that I am not receiving from senator or congressman good advice or if I happen personally to know some peculiarly fit man."

Part Played by Senators. "Where the man has done well in office I prefer to reappoint him, and do so when I can get the consent of the senate from this locality; but if they refuse the re-appointment cannot be made."

Ordinarily, as a matter of convenience, the appointment can best be settled by consultation beforehand the advice of the senator or congressman who is elected and has peculiar means of knowing the wishes of his constituents being taken. But where a senator treats this not as a matter of consultation or mutual agreement, not as a matter of convenience and expediency, but as a matter of right on his part to nominate whomsoever he chooses, the custom is necessarily discontinued."

"In the south Atlantic and Gulf States, which have contained neither senators nor congressmen of my own party, I have been obliged to seek my advice from various sources. In these States I have appointed a large number of Democrats, in certain States the Democrats appointed outnumbering the Republicans."

"For advice in appointing the Republican Dick afterward withdrew his recommendation, but the inspector reported that Mr. Wetherill had by that time already been appointed, and that to withhold his commission would be a great injury to him and would defeat the ends of justice. The nomination was accordingly sent in."

People Demanded a Change. "At Wapakonetta, the incumbent did his work well, but the postoffice inspector reported that the feeling was almost unanimous among his fellow-townsmen that there should be a change, and a Mr. Meier appointed. It appearing that the postmaster was not popular with the people, while the man suggested for the nomination was unquestionably the choice of the patrons of the office, being regarded by them as a most progressive and public-spirited young business man, possessed of more than ordinary ability, extremely popular with the people of his native city irrespective of party affiliations."

"I call your attention to the fact that the Senate withdrew its opposition to him, so that the charge relates to only three out of the whole number, 1,164 postoffices; that of these three, two were nominated in the usual fashion on the recommendation of the outgoing congressman, and that the third nomination was made on the report of the inspector and would have been made without the slightest regard to whether there was a presidential canvass on hand or not."

The statements in the editorial in question are therefore untrue in every particular.

Gross Misstatements. "As for your quotation from another newspaper, running as follows: 'Federal officeholders may be commanded to use their influence and their authority in behalf of a candidate. Such a command has been issued and the President should know of it.' Somebody has instructed postmasters that they must obtain from their subordinates either their resignations or their pledges of support for Taft delegates, to the convention. \* \* \* Even in Massachusetts efforts of this kind have recently been made, but partly because the postmasters on whom the attempts were made had the courage to resist and partly from other causes."

"There is really nothing to say except that it does not contain the slightest particle of truth, and that the statement is so gross that it is a mistake to believe it, other than a deliberate invention. There is not the slightest foundation for it, and no successful effort can be made to show that there is the slightest foundation for it."

Mr. Wanamaker's appointment was recommended by the Senate, and presented from New York county and by the senators the appointment being made precisely as the hundreds of similar appointments of postmasters, appraisers, internal revenue collectors and the like, which are confirmed by the Senate, are made and in conformance with the custom which has obtained throughout my term of service and throughout the terms of service of Mr. McKimble, Mr. Cleveland and my other predecessors."

refusal to appoint a good Hughes man as collector of customs at Plattsburg."

Sponsors for Wanamaker.

"This article is a good example of the accusations made by those of our opponents whose partisanship renders them especially unscrupulous and untruthful."

Mr. Wanamaker's appointment was recommended by the Senate, and presented from New York county and by the senators the appointment being made precisely as the hundreds of similar appointments of postmasters, appraisers, internal revenue collectors and the like, which are confirmed by the Senate, are made and in conformance with the custom which has obtained throughout my term of service and throughout the terms of service of Mr. McKimble, Mr. Cleveland and my other predecessors."

In this particular case, as it happens, Mr. Wanamaker is peculiarly fit for the position, being already an assistant appraiser who has rendered good service in that place, and his appointment is the promotion of a proper man. It was appointed of a former appraiser by President McKinley two years ago, has served as acting appraiser several times and has a very good record."

Hughes Man at Plattsburg.

The refusal to reappoint a good Hughes man as collector of customs at Plattsburg, refers to the case of Walter Witherbee, and the accusation in this case is particularly comic, but Mr. Witherbee was an open and avowed Taft man, the classmate of Secretary Taft's brother at Yale, and both Secretary Taft and his brother requested his reappointment—the only New York office holder for whom they made such a request. The congressman from his district and the senators have not agreed about his successor, and he is still in office."

Naming of "Taft Workers."

There remain the allegations as to the appointment of "Taft workers" to postoffices in Ohio. In Ohio I have made 58 postoffice appointments; 27 of these were reappointments, 31 were new appointments, the last including the cases where the incumbent had died, had been removed for cause or had resigned. Generally the appointments were made exactly as in other States upon the recommendation of the congressman from the district."

In various cases, however, as at Maumee, Strausburg, Bluffton, Greenville and Leipsic, the nominations were made upon the recommendation of both Senators Foraker and Dick, or of one or the other."

In four cases the nominations were rejected by the Senate. In two of these, Dennison and Urbichville the nominations of the new men were made upon the recommendation of the then congressman, Mr. Smyzer; in each case the previous incumbent had not been giving very satisfactory service. In one instance he having died, it was sufficient personal attention to the office, as reported by the inspector, and in the other case the postmaster being also the publisher and editor of a newspaper and various irregularities having been noticed, some resulting in violation of law in the interest of the postmaster's paper."

Same Course Followed.

The course followed was precisely similar to that followed in the case of the various other postoffices in Ohio in the districts represented by Congressmen Keifer, Kennedy, Cole and other, and precisely similar to the course followed as regards the recommendations of this same Congressman Smyzer in other offices. At Spencerville investigation by the inspector showed that it was inadvisable to reappoint the incumbent, and that Mr. Wetherill, who had been originally recommended for the position by Senator Dick, should be appointed."

Senator Dick afterward withdrew his recommendation, but the inspector reported that Mr. Wetherill had by that time already been appointed, and that to withhold his commission would be a great injury to him and would defeat the ends of justice. The nomination was accordingly sent in."

People Demanded a Change. "At Wapakonetta, the incumbent did his work well, but the postoffice inspector reported that the feeling was almost unanimous among his fellow-townsmen that there should be a change, and a Mr. Meier appointed. It appearing that the postmaster was not popular with the people, while the man suggested for the nomination was unquestionably the choice of the patrons of the office, being regarded by them as a most progressive and public-spirited young business man, possessed of more than ordinary ability, extremely popular with the people of his native city irrespective of party affiliations."

"I call your attention to the fact that the Senate withdrew its opposition to him, so that the charge relates to only three out of the whole number, 1,164 postoffices; that of these three, two were nominated in the usual fashion on the recommendation of the outgoing congressman, and that the third nomination was made on the report of the inspector and would have been made without the slightest regard to whether there was a presidential canvass on hand or not."

The statements in the editorial in question are therefore untrue in every particular.

Gross Misstatements. "As for your quotation from another newspaper, running as follows: 'Federal officeholders may be commanded to use their influence and their authority in behalf of a candidate. Such a command has been issued and the President should know of it.' Somebody has instructed postmasters that they must obtain from their subordinates either their resignations or their pledges of support for Taft delegates, to the convention. \* \* \* Even in Massachusetts efforts of this kind have recently been made, but partly because the postmasters on whom the attempts were made had the courage to resist and partly from other causes."

"There is really nothing to say except that it does not contain the slightest particle of truth, and that the statement is so gross that it is a mistake to believe it, other than a deliberate invention. There is not the slightest foundation for it, and no successful effort can be made to show that there is the slightest foundation for it."

Mr. Wanamaker's appointment was recommended by the Senate, and presented from New York county and by the senators the appointment being made precisely as the hundreds of similar appointments of postmasters, appraisers, internal revenue collectors and the like, which are confirmed by the Senate, are made and in conformance with the custom which has obtained throughout my term of service and throughout the terms of service of Mr. McKimble, Mr. Cleveland and my other predecessors."

except that it does not contain the slightest particle of truth, and that the statement is so gross that it is a mistake to believe it, other than a deliberate invention. There is not the slightest foundation for it, and no successful effort can be made to show that there is the slightest foundation for it."

Situation in Massachusetts.

As regards the Massachusetts postoffices, in all except five cases my appointments were reappointments; that is, the incumbent was re-nominated, with the consent of the senators or congressmen, at the expiration of the regular term. Of these five cases two men were put in, three times because of death and twice because of the resignation of the incumbent."

In each case, whether of appointment or reappointment, I followed the ordinary custom, accepting the suggestion either of the senators or of the congressman, or both, as in each case the men suggested were eminently fit."

Demands Specific Cases.

If such assertions as those of these papers are made in good faith, on knowledge of facts, and with any other purpose than to produce a political effect by false pretense, or by reckless statement without knowledge, let those making them produce the specific cases to which they refer. If in any such case the accusation is found true it will have occurred without my knowledge and I shall deal with it in the precise spirit of my instructions to the Civil Service Commission hereinafter referred to."

So far as I know the only accusations that have been made as to the use of patronage have been in connection with the pension agent in New Hampshire and a collector of internal revenue in Ohio. In the case of the pension office the senators and congressmen could not agree on a nominee, two recommending one and two another."

Selection Rejected by Senate.

"I decided to send in a man recommended to me by outside, whom I believed to be better fitted than either. The Senate rejected him. His name would have been sent in if there had been no presidential canvass at all at this time."

As regards collectors of internal revenue some are appointed upon the recommendation of senators and some on the recommendation of congressmen. In Ohio the collector of internal revenue whom I nominated in the First district was recommended by the congressman of the district. In the Tenth district I followed the recommendations of the two senators."

"In other words, I followed the

came course in Ohio as in other States. In regard to all these nominations, the only difference being that Ohio is the single State where the bulk of the Federal employes have been inclined to be against the presidential candidate from the State."

In New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin so far as I know the enormous majority of appointments are in each case for the presidential candidate from the State. This has not been true in Ohio; and my interference with the patronage matters in Ohio has been limited to insisting, as I should insist anywhere else, that opposition to the purposes, policies and friends of the administration shall not be considered as a necessary prerequisite to holding the commission of the President."

Repeats His Warning.

In my letter to the Civil Service Commission of June 12, 1902, which now holds good and will be enforced, officers are warned not to use their places to control political movements, not to coerce their subordinates, not to neglect their public duties for political work, nor to cause public scandal by their political activity, but outside of the classified service they are not otherwise limited in political activity."

No officer will be permitted to violate the above injunction, with my knowledge, no matter for what candidate he may be working, and I demand that the only officers as to whom any question of violation of this injunction has hitherto arisen have been men who are not working for Mr. Taft."

The above is a full statement of the facts. Not an appointment has been made that would not have been made if there had been no presidential contest impending, and in no case has there been a deviation from the course that I would have pursued had none of those who actually are candidates for the nomination been candidates; nor has a single officeholder been removed or threatened with removal or coerced in any way to secure his support for an presidential candidate."

In fact the only coercion that have attempted to exercise was to forbid the officeholders from pushing my own re-nomination, this being done in the following letter sent to the members of my Cabinet on November 19, 1904:

"I have been informed that certain officeholders in your departments are proposing to go to the national convention as delegates in favor of re-nominating me for the presidency or are proposing to procure my endorsement for such re-nomination. This must not be. I wish you to inform such officers; you may find it advisable or necessary to inform in order to carry out the spirit of this instruction (the such advocacy of my re-nomination or acceptance of an election as delegates for that purpose, will be regarded as a serious violation of official propriety and will be dealt with accordingly."

Yours truly, THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

William Dudley Fouke, Richmond, Ind.

THE LAST WEEK OF McConnell's Big Clearing Sale Everything in the store at reduced prices. Cloaks. We would like to clean up every Cloak in the store this week if possible. We will lose sight of the cost to accomplish this purpose. See the big values. 1 lot Ladies' Coats, worth \$6, sale price \$3.39 Children's Coats, worth \$4, sale price \$1.90 Separate Skirts, worth \$3.50, sale price \$2.69 Separate Skirts, worth \$5, sale price \$3.50 House Wrappers, best goods, sale price 89c Bed Blankets, worth \$1.25, sale price 99c Comfortables, worth \$1, sale price 89c 1 bale unbleached Muslin, sale price 5c yard 50 pieces Shaker Flannel, sale price 5c yard Ready made Sheets, worth 59c, sale price 47c Dark Percales, worth 12c, sale price 11c yard White Waists, worth 15c, sale price 9c yard India Linon, worth 16c, sale price 11c yard Men's wool Underwear, odd sizes, worth \$1, sale price 50c Boys' fleeced Underwear, sale price 21c Black mercerized Shirt Waists, worth \$1.19 sale price 90c Boys' fine worsted Sweaters, worth \$1.25, sale price \$1 Ladies' Knit Blouses, worth \$1.50, sale price \$1.10 All best makes of \$1 Corsets, sale price 90c Damask Towels, 40 inches long, worth 20c, sale price 12c Apron Gingham, worth 8c, sale price 6c Remember reduced prices on every article in the store during this sale. McConnell & Son 85 Genesee St.