

THE LITERARY DIGEST

PUBLIC OPINION (New York) combined with THE LITERARY DIGEST

Published by Funk & Wagnalls Company (Isaac K. Funk, Pres., Adam W. Wagnalls, Vice-Pres., Robert J. Cuddihy, Treas., Robert Scott, Sec'y),
44-60 E. 23d St., New York

VOL. XL., No. 15

NEW YORK, APRIL 9, 1910

WHOLE NUMBER, 1042

TOPICS OF THE DAY

THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THE GRAFT REVELATIONS

A FINE optimism characterizes the editorial comment on the amazing stories of political corruption which are being unraveled in Pittsburg, Albany, New York, and Columbus. Pittsburg, declares the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, "is not more deeply mired in sin than formerly, but more intolerant of her situation." "These are wholesome days for the people of this State," asserts Governor Hughes in the face of the Albany revelations, and the newspapers of both parties echo his opinion. It is a sign of the times, says the Brooklyn *Eagle*, that old legislative scandals are being dragged into the light to embarrass and confound present conspirators against the public good.

Party lines disappeared in the vote of 40 to 9 in the Albany Senate, confirming the charge of bribery against Senator Jotham P. Allds. The downfall of Allds, says an Albany dispatch to the New York *Evening Post*, means "the end of a system," the collapse of "the bipartisan machine which has been for years an agent for evil in the politics of the State." The same paper in its editorial columns reminds us that "of all the attempts to punish corrupt legislators this is the first in which the legislature or one of its houses has found a member guilty of a criminal act." It bids us hope, says the New York *World*, that "the legislation of the Empire State will hereafter be shaped by fair argument on the open floor, and not by the hoarse whisperings of lobbyists behind closed doors." "A strong note has been sounded in New York State, the echo of which will be long heard," declares the Boston *Advertiser*, which adds that "so far from menacing the Republican party, it should strengthen it." With the conviction of Allds, asserts the Baltimore *News*, the opposition to the policies of Governor Hughes "topples over and crumbles." The Allds investigation "is but a beginning"; and "the current fire-insurance investigation is scarcely more," remarks the Boston *Herald*, which adds that the end will be when legislators learn that their business is to represent, not special interests or their own pockets, but the interests of the people.

The nation, affirms the Pittsburg *Post*, "is undergoing a period

of purification and reconstruction in its ideas of public service. It goes on to say:

"Corruptionists and bribe-takers are distinctly out of fashion, not only in Pittsburg but throughout the nation. Even as graft has been nation-wide in its insidious growth, so also the new ideal of public service, as opposed to private privilege, is all-pervading.

"The United States is in the midst of a national period of house-cleaning. From its public officers, the nation is demanding a forgotten right: truth and honesty at all times, in all places, and in regard to all matters. The cleansing process will probably have years to run before completion. Some hotbeds of graft remain untouched, notably Philadelphia, but finally and inevitably the system will be exterminated."

The only real excuse for pessimism, thinks the Chicago *Record-Herald*, would lie in a cynical acceptance by the public of these evils which are so discouragingly difficult to eradicate. To quote:

"Some men in public life, including judges, have indulged in rather cynical remarks concerning the whole 'graft' situation—the investigations now in progress, indictments returned or threatened, trials and immunity baths growing out of such indictments, and so on.

"Certainly, at first sight, there is not a little that seems calculated to discourage the quiet, upright citizen who works hard for an honest living, has no unfair privileges to protect or to purchase, and sees nothing heroic in performance of ordinary duty. He reads of wholesale bribery in Pittsburg, of confessions by the score, of the cleaning-out of the councils by resignations and disclosures. He reads of insurance scandals and Allds exposures in Albany, of graft trials at Chicago, of political rottenness in Philadelphia, of a reversion to unchecked crookedness in San Francisco. And all this, he reflects, after the recent 'moral awakening,' the political and industrial reforms identified with Roosevelt, Hughes, the insurgent movement, the spread of the commission plan!

"But there is no occasion either for gloom or for cynicism. Only the faint-hearted and the irresolute will conclude that 'there's no use' in the fight on graft. Only the superficial will be tempted to sneer at moral crusaders. It is not possible to take out perpetual insurance policies against legislative and administrative corruption; eternal vigilance is still the price of honest and efficient government; old machinery must from time to time be scrapped and new machinery installed—as is being done by those cities that are



WILL HE BE ANOTHER HUGHES?

As superintendent of insurance, William H. Hotchkiss has brought to light instances of fire-insurance lobbying at Albany which will probably result in another legislative investigation. Remembering the sensational rise of Charles Evans Hughes, who gained fame as an investigator of corruption, politicians are casting speculative glances in the direction of Mr. Hotchkiss.

TERMS: \$3 a year, in advance; four months, \$1; single copy, 10 cents; postage to Canada 85 cents a year, other foreign postage \$1.50 a year. **RECEIPT** of payment is shown in about two weeks by date on address label; subscription including the month named. Instructions for **RENEWAL**, **DISCONTINUANCE**, or **CHANGE OF ADDRESS** should be sent **two weeks** before the date they are to go into effect. **Both old and new addresses** must always be given. **DISCONTINUANCE:** We find that many of our subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted and their files broken in case they fail to remit before

expiration. Nevertheless, it is not assumed that continuous service is desired, but subscribers are expected to notify us with reasonable promptness to stop if the paper is no longer required. **PRESENTATION COPIES:** Many persons subscribe for friends, intending that the paper shall stop at the end of the year. If instructions are given to this effect, they will receive attention at the proper time.

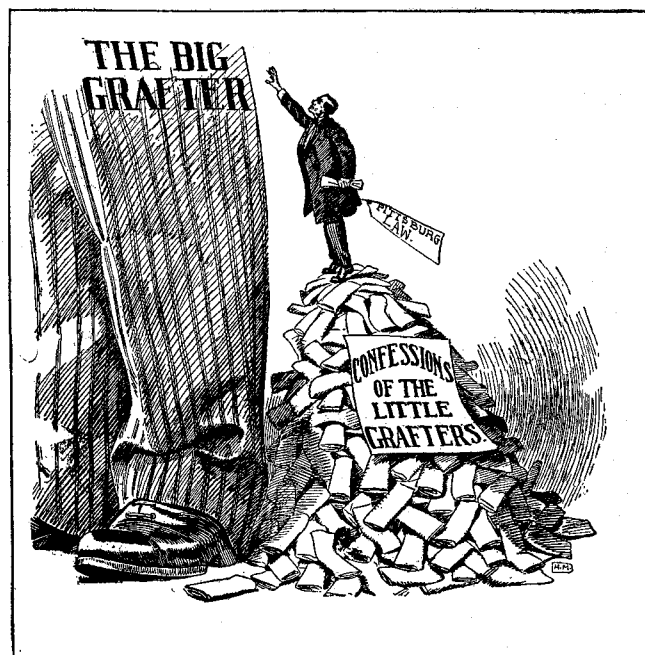
Published weekly by Funk & Wagnalls Company, 44-60 East Twenty-third street, New York, and Salisbury Square, London, E. C.

Entered at the New York Post-office as Second-class Matter.



THE BUCKET BRIGADE.

—Harding in the Brooklyn Eagle.



REACHING.

—"H. M.," in the Portland Oregonian.

GETTING WARMER.

revising their charters and extending effective popular control, while concentrating executive power; temptations and opportunities of the free-graft kind must be removed from the sphere of public servants; system and merit must be substituted for spoils wherever that is possible.

"Good government is worth the price it costs—the price of constant, unrelenting labor and interest on the part of all good citizens. Cynicism or indifference is infinitely worse than graft."

Governor Hughes himself, in a recent speech in New Rochelle, had this to say on the subject of political corruption and the duty of legislatures to expose it wherever it may be found:

"Political corruption is not partizan. It is the common enemy. The essential operations of government inevitably furnish opportunities for scoundrelism, and against this curse all parties and the people as a whole must continually wage an unrelenting war.

"These are wholesome days for the people of this State, full of opportunity and promise. It is not when the pestilence is known, the infected quarters ascertained, and every effort made to limit and eradicate, that we have reason to be alarmed, but rather when ignorance or indifference permit it to spread unchecked. We may be humiliated by disclosures, but these mark our safety as well as our danger, our progress and not our decline.

"I am a Republican, strongly attached to my party and earnest in the desire for Republican success. But I cherish a concern deeper and more vital than that. And that is a concern equally cherished by the great mass of the voters. I want to see the springs of government pure and its waters sweet to the taste. I want to see the illicit efforts of privilege frustrated, bribery and corrupt arrangements destroyed, and the market-places where governmental favor has been bought and sold converted into true assemblies of honest representatives of the people.

"What if the statute of limitations may have run with respect to the public wrongs disclosed? It is well to send rascals to jail, but the primary purpose of that is not the incarceration of individuals, but the prevention of similar rascality on the part of others. Publicity is itself a wholesome punishment, and in connection with political corruption a most important preventive measure. There is no statute of limitations which bars public disgrace or the odium which attaches to the betrayer of public confidence. There is no bar to the destruction of political influence on the part of those who have traded their party's honor for their own profit.

"Let there be the fullest inquiry by every competent means!

"It is needed to expose those who have been faithless to their trust.

"It is needed to put an end to corrupt alliances between business and politics.

"It is needed to protect honest business.

"It is just to the honorable men in the legislature, who should not be the victims of an indiscriminate denunciation by reason of practises in which they have had no part.

"It is just to party organization that it may be saved from the corrupt uses which have brought it into contempt.

"It is needed to show how and wherein the people have been deceived, that they may protect themselves against deception in the future.

"It is necessary in order that remedial measures, whether in legislative rules or in statutes, should be adopted so as to reduce to a minimum the opportunities of stealth and of chicanery in advancing or retarding legislative proposals."

The New York *Evening Post* asserts that for any one to deny the necessity of a complete legislative investigation of other charges of corruption at Albany "is to render oneself suspect." Added weight is given to this demand by the testimony, given last week by the president of the New York Life Insurance Company, that only four years ago Senators were quoted to insurance men at \$500 apiece. It may be noted in passing that Pittsburg councilmen, according to figures gathered by the grand jury, rated themselves at prices ranging from \$81.10 to \$500. Among the papers which join emphatically in the demand for a State-wide investigation of legislative corruption are the New York *World* (Ind. Dem.), *Tribune* (Rep.), and *Globe* (Rep.), and the *Troy Record* (Ind. Rep.) and *Times* (Rep.).

Turning to the situation in Pittsburg, we find the press of that city equally determined that there shall be no half-measures about the municipal spring house-cleaning. "The slogan of the hour," says the *Pittsburg Sun*, "is 'a clean city'"; and it adds: "Courts can't really clean a city. Votes can." Pittsburg, declares that city's *Gazette-Times*, "is showing the country what a complete and quick house-cleaning can be effected," while in *The Leader* we read:

"No half-reform will be acceptable to the people. If the evils of graft are to be wiped out it will be necessary to DIG DOWN TO THE ROOT.

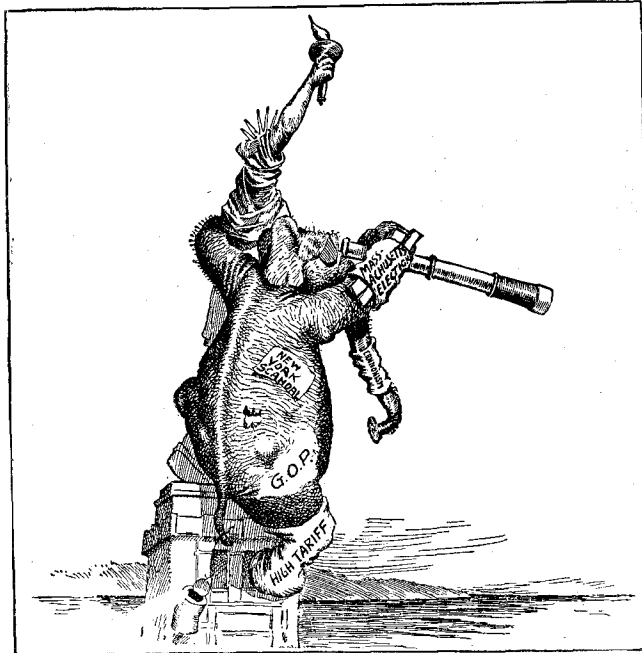
"Systems that operate so boldly and successfully as did that of the councilmanic plunderbund are not the product of a day or a night. They do not spring into being of their own accord, but are the direct result of constant building-up of unlawful power.

"The grafters were at it before the 'big deal' was pulled off. They have been at it ever since, and they would be at it yet had not the powder-magazine blown up.



THE POLITICAL ETNA IS AGAIN ALIVE.

—Enright in the New York Globe.



ANXIETY!

—Munson in the Newark News.

A BREAK FOR LIBERTY.

"So it is plain enough that THE HALF HAS NOT YET BEEN TOLD—at least to the public. There is, however, no good reason why anything should be concealed.

"A good beginning has been made in exposing the criminals of whatever rank they may be. It is true that the plunderbund has been laid low.

"But if the greatest justice is to be done there must be no turning back. The people are in full swing and they are READY AND ANXIOUS TO GO THE LIMIT."

READING MR. ROOSEVELT'S MIND

AS the news dispatches concerning a private American citizen, temporarily abroad, increase in number, volume, and authenticity, the editorial query, "What shall we do with him?" becomes secondary only to the question, "What will he do to us?"

Even Mr. Roosevelt's self-imposed sentence condemning his tongue to political silence seems to have had the effect of starting a grand mind-reading contest, filling the editorial pages with the most diverse and irreconcilable conjectures about his attitude on matters of public interest and his personal ambitions. The New York *Outlook*, which numbers Mr. Roosevelt among its editors, publishes an inspired statement telling us that not only is the ex-President not expressing any opinion concerning American politics, but that "he is not even forming any in his own mind, and will refrain from doing even the latter until sufficient time has elapsed after his return to America to enable him to become entirely familiar with the whole situation." In the mean while he has furnished material for headlines and editorials by his rejection of an audience with the Pope because it was made conditional on the clause that "nothing will arise to prevent it such as the much-regretted incident which made the reception of Mr. Fairbanks impossible."

Immediately after his reappearance in civilization, a dispatch in the Chicago *Record-Herald* announced that, "Roosevelt has deliberately assumed an attitude of absolute non-interference in political affairs. He expects to remain a private citizen and will make no effort to influence public opinion."

After this announcement some who have chided Mr. Roosevelt for loquacity now reprimanded him for his reticence, or his manner of proclaiming it. Thus, we read in the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*:

"I shall hold no interviews."

"Note the dictatorial ring—the unhesitant declamation! There is nothing subjunctive or potential in the Rooseveltian equipment. It is all indicative and exclamatory. Imagine the present custodian of 'my policies' emitting anything so declarative as 'I shall.'"

"Anything purporting to be in the nature of an interview can be accepted as false."

"French newsmongers and Parisian falsifiers should take notice also. They may bask in the toothsome smile, lurk in the shadow of greatness, and crack hunting-jokes, but they must not quote. They are doomed, classified, and branded beforehand."

"This applies during my entire stay in Europe."

"So yet awhile must we content ourselves with separation from the clearing-house of knowledge. Yet awhile must we flounder about, guess, surmise, and speculate. We must continue to walk with uncertain steps in paths of error. Taft must shuck around in his job. Congress must mark time and politics continue in the doldrums until the 'return from Elba' becomes a hope fulfilled."

"What a day that will be! Then, loosed from the bondage of uncertainty, clear of the leading-strings of humiliating independence, we will lay down our burdens, yield up our diffidence, and, released from the hampering coils of ignorance, rest again trustfully and hopefully, as little children, on the broad bosom of omniscience."

But if Mr. Roosevelt is to be politically silent, his editorial counselors, champions, and critics are quite ready to reveal his hidden intents and to prognosticate his future attitude. Objecting to the view that the ex-President will ally himself with the opponents of his successor, the "insurgent" Republican St. Paul *Pioneer Press* says,

"While there is good reason to believe that he will share much of the disappointment of the American people over the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Bill, and he is certain to be chagrined, if not angered, at the efforts that are being made to eliminate some of the 'Roosevelt policies,' Mr. Roosevelt is an organization man. While he has quarreled with his party and party leaders many times, he has always worked within the ranks and accomplished his reforms by compelling his party leaders to go with him. He has broken with individuals of his party, but never with the party itself, and however anxious he may be to undo some of the things that have been done at Washington in the last year, it is practically certain that his efforts in that direction will be confined within party lines. Mr. Roosevelt always does his insuring from the inside."

The Jersey City *Journal* opines that if Mr. Roosevelt undertakes to rehabilitate the Republican party he will begin by trying to build