

# 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. 17

NEW YORK, APRIL 23, 1910

WHOLE NUMBER, 1044

## TOPICS OF THE DAY

### ARE THE INSURGENTS TRAITORS?

ARE the "insurgents" to be regarded as party traitors? is apparently the most baffling question confronting President Taft's Administration at the present moment. The situation is made the more puzzling, as several editors remark, by the fact that both the President and the "insurgents" claim to want the same thing, namely, the fulfilment of the pledges contained in the Republican platform. "If there is to be a pitched battle between the insurgents and the regulars," suggests the *New York World* (Ind. Dem.), "a good many people would like to have a diagram, a bill of fare, a book of the opera, a score-card, or whatever it may be called, for instruction and guidance." When it was announced that President Taft and Attorney-General Wickersham would be the opening speakers in a campaign of enlightenment regarding the record and aims of the present Administration, interest and expectation centered chiefly around what they would say on the subject of insurgency. The President, addressing the League of Republican Clubs in Washington, declared that "no man has a right to read another out of the Republican party," but added significantly: "He reads himself out if he is disloyal and if he can not by his own works show his colors." On the same night Mr. Wickersham, speaking to the Hamilton Club in Chicago, admonished the insurgents that "the time of running with the hares and hunting with the hounds is over," adding with emphasis:

"Treason has ever consisted in giving aid and comfort to the enemy. If any one wishes to join the Democratic party, let him do so; but let him not claim to be a Republican and work in and out of season to defeat Republican measures and to subvert the influence of the Republican President. . . .

"Is it not time that all those who call themselves Republicans should stop coquetting with the Democratic party—should sink their individual preferences about the details of legislation and join with Republican workers in carrying to fruition under our great, patient, candid, wise Republican President the work of clinching the reforms of the last eight years on the lines so carefully and so wisely laid down in the platform of 1908?"

The Attorney-General reviewed the President's Administration to date to show that every pledge in the Republican platform of 1908 had been fulfilled so far as Executive action could do it. Thus we are reminded that in his special messages the President has recommended amendments to the Interstate Commerce Law, Federal incorporation, postal savings-banks, uniform safety appliances on railroad trains, changes to make the Employers' Liability Act more easy to enforce, practicable conservation laws, readjustment of mail-rates, and revision of the customs laws. "I am firmly persuaded," declared Mr. Wickersham, "that these measures will not fail," but if they should, he added, on Congress and not on the

President would rest responsibility for breach of faith. Pointing to the state of the Treasury under the present Administration, he said that the President has begun economies which will reduce the annual expenses of Government \$42,000,000—an achievement entirely unprecedented. "The press and the public," declared the Attorney-General in an interview prior to his address, "do not appreciate Mr. Taft." The gist of his argument was that the Taft Administration needs no defense, but needs only to be understood.

Returning to the President, speaking simultaneously in Washington, we find him saying:

"The time has come for doing and voting and passing the measures which have been placed before this Congress. It is the time for doing things, and after Congress has adjourned the Republican party will have formed its lines of attack. Then will it be furnished with the weapons with which we are going into the next contest.

"To-night we are reading nobody out of the Republican party. We want all in the ranks and all have the opportunity to establish their claims to Republicanism by that which they shall do in both Houses of Congress in helping to enact the legislation before them. . . . I want everybody in the ranks, whether they may have slipped away a little or not."

While the President's conciliatory plea for party solidarity is received with almost uniform approval by the Republican press, the Attorney-General's less tactful words evoke less harmonious comment. Thus we find such papers as the *Hartford Courant* (Rep.), the *Buffalo Express* (Ind. Rep.), and the *Philadelphia North American* (Ind. Rep.) more or less deprecating Mr. Wickersham's attitude toward the "insurgents." The suggestion that they pack up and be off to the Democratic party, exclaims *The Courant*, is "unfortunate, ill-advised, and ill-judged." The basis for the insurrection within the Republican party, *The Express* reminds us, "is simply the tariff." And it goes on to say:

"The demand for more tariff revision is not an attack upon the Taft Administration unless the President chooses to make it so. It is supporting the position which Mr. Taft held before his election. There is no reason why he should bind his Administration hard and fast to the Payne-Aldrich Law. There is still less reason why he should attach himself to the falling fortunes of the standpoint element and echo the Cannon cry of treason when any Republican insists on progressive ideas. On the contrary, the success of his Administration and the welfare of the party depend on his avoidance of that danger; and it is not yet too late for him to avoid it."

One of the leading insurgents, Representative Murdock, of Kansas, is quoted in Washington dispatches as saying:

"The House insurgents have insisted that the President's legislation should be passed. Their fight on the rules simply sought to make possible the passage of legislation that the people want.

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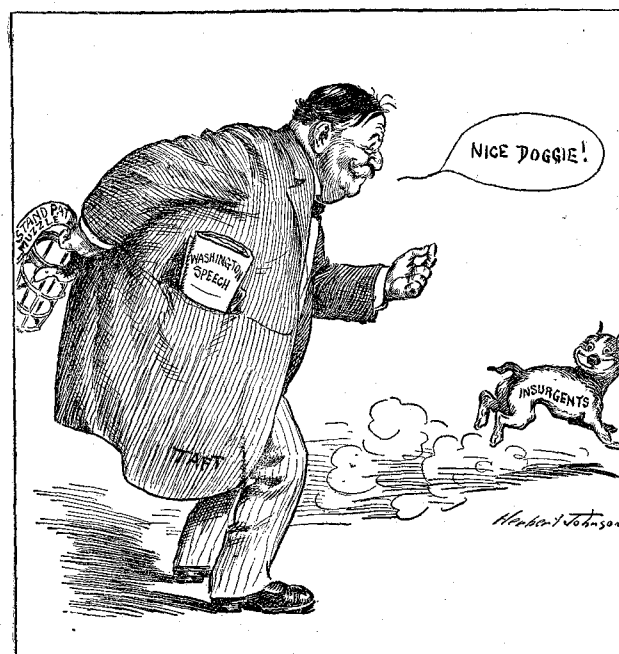
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Entered at the New York Post-office as Second-class Matter.



TAFT ADMINISTERS THE ANESTHETIC, WICKERSHAM PERFORMS THE OPERATION.

—De Mar in the Philadelphia Record.



HARD WORK.

—Johnson in the Philadelphia North American.

### DEALING WITH INSURGENCY.

If the Administration really wishes to accomplish results, the better way would be to quit lambasting the insurgents and turn attention to the men who are holding up the bills in committee."

Commenting upon this *The North American* says:

"Wherein, then, is the real dispute between the Administration, which insists that the measures be supported under penalty of exile, and the progressives, who are heart and soul for the policies to which the Administration is pledged?"

"The cause is found, first, in the general belief that the President permitted himself to be used by the schemers who have thus far shaped legislation. The development of sentiment against the Administration has been constant since President Taft undertook the impossible task of forcing Cannon and Aldrich upon the American people as worthy types of disinterested statesmen and proper leaders in national politics. . . .

"Summed up, the contention is whether a pledge should be kept in its entirety or kept only in part. The essence of the so-called 'insurgency' is the insistence that the payment of a debt shall be 100 per cent. of the pledge."

The President, complains *The North American*, has "succeeded in disappointing both reactionaries and progressives." By the *New York Tribune* (Rep.), on the other hand, we are assured that—

"If President Taft's Administration lacks popular support that fact is a reflection upon the capacity of the American people for self-government. If it finds the people cold it is because the people have not the power of sustained interest in the great projects that only a few months ago filled their imagination. The present Administration undertook the task of 'clinching' the work of its predecessor, of filling in the details of a course that was only resolved upon in broad outlines, of applying the lessons of experience to the perfecting of policies that had been only recently undertaken. . . . The details have to be worked out—the painful, exact, and exacting details that try the souls of enthusiasts, dreamers, and idealists. Has the nation no head for details? Is it incapable of sustained interest in the latest expressions of the national purpose?"

Among the Republican papers which join Mr. Wickersham in blaming the insurgents for the party's troubles are the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, the *Pittsburg Gazette-Times*, the *New Haven Palladium*, and the *Baltimore American*. Says *The Gazette-Times*:

"Mr. Wickersham did not say it, but he might have added, with entire truth, that ever since the present Congress began, the insurgent Republicans have been in secret collusion with Democrats. There have been times, of course, many of them, when insurgents

and Democrats, in Senate and House, have acted together openly. On such occasions it is feasible to judge their purposes by their conduct; but what of the back-room conferences they have been holding? Are these intended to carry out Republican policies and to support President Taft loyally and consistently? Do Democrats—the 'enemy' in this case—make compacts with insurgents to that end?"

"The time has come," declares *The Globe-Democrat*, "when the Republican party must draw the line between Republicans and insurgents." It adds:

"A crisis confronts the party in the nation. In 1910 let none but Republicans be put on guard."

### MR. ROOSEVELT RENOMINATED BY EUROPE

"WE look again to see him at the head of the great Republic," said the Mayor of Rome in his speech eulogizing the man President Taft referred to in his cablegram as "President Roosevelt." And some keen observers think this is the secret of all the tremendous adulation Mr. Roosevelt is receiving in the European capitals—they regard him not merely as an ex-President, but as a ruler on leave of absence, who will soon resume the reins of power. "That is the key-note," says his fellow Colonel, Henry Watterson, of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* (Dem.), "and it will continue to be the key-note wherever he goes." In short, "he will come back to us the European nominee for President of the United States." This prospect rather startles Mr. Watterson, as it brings up the whole "back-from-Elba" movement in a new light. The time has come, he declares, for the people of the United States—

"to consider Theodore Roosevelt as they have never considered him before; to take him more seriously than they have ever taken him; to realize that he is altogether the most startling figure who has appeared in the world since Napoleon Bonaparte, a circumstance not without significance and portent."

Will this European nomination be seconded in America? May not there be an irresistible cry for Roosevelt in 1912 as the only man who can save his party? Then, says our Democratic adviser, "if we are to return Theodore Roosevelt to power, let there be no