

an idle dream. The numerous forces, economic, political, cultural, ethical and religious, now at work in all lands in earnest advocacy of international conciliation, may indeed usher in the dawn of universal peace earlier than the most sanguine have yet dared to hope. The whole world groans and yearns for peace, peace that shall be free from the burdens of war, peace that shall not be broken while earth endures. The machinery of such a peace is well-nigh completed; its consummation awaits the touch of the hand of the master engineer. In the councils and the confidence of the expectant nations one man stands forth—truly a world-citizen, if such there be—pre-eminently fitted to essay the task as unique in its possibility of blessing to posterity as in the boldness of its conception, the most commanding personality of his generation—that man is unquestionably Theodore Roosevelt.

In the same issue of the California Weekly, an editorial comment on this estimate of Mr. Roosevelt's popularity "sees the raise and goes one better"—if we may quote from the vocabulary of that highly moral American game to which Republican phrasemakers are indebted for so many happy similes for political expression. Here is the first paragraph from that editorial:

The communication, in another column, expressing the hope that Theodore Roosevelt may see his way clear to head a movement for the formation of the United States of the World, and that he may be the first President of it, will strike a responsive chord in many hearts, but the brain of our correspondent is not the only one in which the idea has been incubating. It would probably be within bounds to say that it has taken a more or less definite form in the minds of millions in Europe as well as in America, and it cannot be that it has not had a place in the thinking of Theodore Roosevelt himself.

If Mr. Roosevelt's popularity is as Napoleonic as that, our estimate was well within bounds.

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President Taft's Labor Whimsicalities.

President Taft has taken great pains in two instances to demonstrate his attitude toward organized labor interests, and incidentally toward the public service. In one instance he appoints to a responsible and lucrative Federal office in Chicago, a mere campaign henchman, removing a blameless official to make the vacancy. Not only is there no pretense that the appointment is made for the good of the service, but it is ingenuously stated in honor of Mr. Taft that he made it solely out of gratitude to his appointee for having organized a workingman's mass meeting in behalf of Mr. Taft's candidacy in 1908. Having paid an election debt in this way to one type of workingman, Mr. Taft turns his attention to another type.

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Congressman Hughes had secured an amend-

ment to a bill authorizing expenditures for enforcement of the anti-trust law, which prohibited expenditures in prosecuting labor unions as for trust conspiracies on account of organized acts not in themselves unlawful. This amendment went into the bill and would have become part of the law but for Mr. Taft's pressing demands upon members of Congress toward the end of the session to strike it out. Aided by Congressman Tawney of Minnesota, he succeeded in doing this. At the last moment the motion to strike it out was carried by 138 to 130.

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Mr. Taft defends himself on the plea that the Hughes amendment was legislation in favor of a class; but Congressman Hughes remarks, rather louder than in a stage whisper, that Mr. Taft was not so squeamish about class legislation when in a special message on the 7th of last January he asked Congress to modify the anti-trust law in favor of corporations.

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Apart from that, however, why did Mr. Taft choose to regard the Hughes amendment as class legislation? Is he overwrought on the subject, or didn't he read the amendment? As we find it quoted in a friendly paper, the Chicago Record-Herald, of the 25th, it merely provided "that no money should be spent in the prosecution of any organization or individual for entering into any combination or agreement having in view the increasing of wages, shortening of hours, or bettering the condition of labor, or for any act done in furtherance thereof *not in itself unlawful.*" Is it class legislation for Congress to guard workingmen against bureaucratic persecution at public expense for merely organizing to better their condition, and for *lawful* acting in furtherance thereof? It must not be suspected that Mr. Taft, in using Presidential influence to strike out that organized labor amendment at about the time he was removing a faithful official in order to give another kind of labor man a public job, was influenced by that old time rule of political action under which enemies were punished and friends rewarded. But he has played the part with some verisimilitude.

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A Radical King.

Maxim Gorky, the Russian exile, tells the New York World of an interview he has recently had with the King of Italy, in which the King declared himself to be this kind of a Socialist:

I am a socialist, but my socialism is more individ-