

as with a sledge hammer. Between whiles he clapped his hands, puckered his mouth, twitched his cheeks, as if about to say something startling; and throughout, his performance was interspersed with queer grins and grimaces and gargoyle attitudes. I had thought the caricatures of Roosevelt's facial expressions overdrawn, but they haven't approached the actual contortions.

The things he said? Platitudes. Flatitudes. Not once did he lay down a principle and let it stand. Always modifying. "We must have ideals, but we must not forget to be practical." "Let us go after crooks, but be sure they are crooks and don't go too far." "The magazine writer can do much good, but he can also do much harm." "We are in very truth our brother's keeper, but we must not coddle him so he cannot keep himself." Forever "but"-ing—always leaving the door open to slip in or to slip out.

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You may ask if it is possible the American people are taken in by mere mannerisms? Not all. Roosevelt's hold seems to me to be only on that part of the mass which is easily influenced by superficialities, which does not analyze, which admires bold strokes in outline, which moves by instinct rather than reason—that part, too, which is as quick to drop its hero as to take him up.

Roosevelt's hold on thinking men is not strong. I have talked with thousands in the past year, students of affairs, and almost without exception they rate him as a politician, never as a statesman.

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Well, what of it?

Not much, perhaps. The strong undercurrent of democracy may carry Roosevelt farther than he intends going, and there will be no great harm in that. He may indeed appropriate the credit that belongs to genuinely democratic men like Bryan, La Follette, Bristow, Cummins and others; but realization of democracy is more important than personal credit for it. Yet if Roosevelt should regain the Presidential chair, what assurance is there that he, with his democratic plumage only borrowed, might not pawn it to plutocracy? Has he not heretofore given to democracy the enjoyment of his "bully" words, and to plutocracy the profit of his diplomatic deeds?

EMIL SCHMIED.

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### AS A MAN THINKETH, SO IS HE.

Topeka, Kansas.

I sat twiddling my thumbs in a public place. The things which I had to pay filled my mind. For the time being society was barred, the field was purely personal.

A man I know, and who often discusses conditions with me in the hope of rendering me less visionary, came and sat down beside me. It seemed that that morning, a Readywriter had come out with an item in a column for which he frequently writes, called, "On Second Thought." I must read it, and condemn or defend it.

It was about Theodore Roosevelt.

The Readywriter had been called courageous, because he "picked at" T. R. occasionally. The Readywriter said it did not take courage, and that it paid better wages than to laud him. "I admire him; but he is becoming vain, and a bluffer in part. T. R. has always had the country with him. Some day T. R. will go up against a proposition bigger and stronger than he is. If he side-steps, then I will know that I had him sized up right."

Nothing very fierce or deep here: personal matters did not incline to let me fight for the rightness of this Readywriter.

So I turned the page and handed the paper back to my friend, with a thing for him to read in his turn:

"Cries of Pinchot came from every part of the house. He was finally dragged forward, and in a husky voice said: 'There are but few moments in a man's life like this. It is magnificent to hear the principle of conservation of natural resources acclaimed as you have done. I have fought many years for conservation, and Conservation has won. I thank you.'"

When he read this by itself, my friend was silent.

Nothing of its kind beats this. It is a concrete though unconscious expression of the old Arena's motto as I remember it: "A man is the principles that move him; that force him into the arena to battle for them."

To free the earth for the equal use of all, we needs must put man in his proper place. Man is the machine merely; it is the glorious explosive Power before which we must bow down and worship.

Hereafter in far distant years,

If this book, by some chance surviving, fall into the hands of curious readers,

They will smile perplexed, and say:

"How strange that in those barbarous times

It seemed worth while to write these simple, self-evident truths,

And to solemnly set forth such wisdom as now our babes are born with!"

Surely there never was an age when things so elementary were honestly gainsaid.

Oh the mystery of eyes that see not and ears that hear not!

GEORGE HUGHES.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before, continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

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Week ending Tuesday, September 20, 1910.

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### President Taft in Politics.

Close upon the returns from the primaries and elections of last week (pp. 872, 897, 898), President Taft gave publicity to a remarkable letter—remarkable alike for its admission of his use of

Presidential patronage in the political interest of the Standpat Republicans and for the defeat of Insurgent Republicans at Republican primaries, and for its promise to hereafter use such patronage in the interest of leaders in both factions. The letter is addressed to an unnamed person in Iowa, and is signed officially by the Secretary to the President. Copies of it have been sent to the executive heads of all Departments in Washington, accompanied with a note that the letter had been written by authority of the President. The letter itself purports to be in reply to letters of the 9th. It is in these terms:

Your letters of the 9th are at hand, and I have delayed replying until after the primary elections. The President directs me to express to you and to your friends his deep appreciation of the work you have done and the powerful assistance which you have extended to the Administration from the beginning—an assistance that has contributed much to the legislative and other successes which have been secured. The President recognizes that your efforts have been wholly disinterested, that you have fought sturdily and generously for what you believed to be his interest and the welfare and success of the party. While Republican legislation pending in Congress was opposed by certain Republicans the President felt it to be his duty to the party and to the country to withhold Federal patronage from certain Senators and Congressmen who seemed to be in opposition to the Administration's efforts to carry out the promises of the party platform. That attitude, however, ended with the primary elections and nominating conventions which have now been held, and in which the voters have had opportunity to declare themselves. The people have spoken as the party faces the fall elections; the question must be settled by Republicans of every shade of opinion, whether the differences of the last session shall be perpetuated or shall be forgotten. He recognizes the danger that in certain cases expressions of feeling were so intense as to make it difficult in some instances for factions to come together and work for the party, but as he stated in his letter to the Republican Congressional Committee, he believes it can be done and should be done. The President is confident that you will yourselves meet your local and State situation in this spirit, and that you will write to your friends and ask them to do likewise. The President feels that the value of Federal patronage has been greatly exaggerated and the refusal to grant it has probably been more useful to the men affected than the appointments would have been. In the preliminary skirmishes in certain States like Wisconsin and Iowa, and elsewhere, he was willing, in the interest of what the leaders believed would lead to party success, to make certain discriminations; but the President has concluded that it is his duty now to treat all Republican Congressmen and Senators alike, without any distinction. He will now follow the usual rule in Republican Congressional districts and States and follow the recommendations made by Republican Congressmen and Senators, of whatever shade of political opinion, only requiring

that the men recommended shall be good men, the most competent and the best fitted for the particular office. Sincerely yours,

CHARLES D. NORTON,  
Secretary to the President.

The new policy indicated in this letter began with the appointment on the 19th of George M. Hull, a progressive Republican, as postmaster at Salina, Kansas. The appointment is "charged" to Senator Bristow (Insurgent).

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#### Ex-President Roosevelt in Politics.

The struggle for delegates to the New York State Convention of the Republican party between "the old guard" (as the anti-Roosevelt and anti-Hughes faction in New York is called), and the Roosevelt-Hughes faction, over the temporary chairmanship for which Vice-President Sherman and ex-President Roosevelt are the contestants (p. 852), has grown more vigorous since Mr. Roosevelt's return (p. 875) from his speaking tour.

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Mr. Roosevelt spoke at the Suffolk county fair at Riverhood, L. I., on the 15th, making no reference to the faction fight, but in explanation largely of the "new nationalism," which he defined as "the application of certain old-time moralities to the changed conditions of the day."

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At the State fair at Syracuse on the 17th he defended his criticisms of Supreme Court decisions with the same quotations from Lincoln that Bryan and Altgeld quoted for their criticisms of this court in the early '90s. What is reported by the news dispatches as his only allusion in this speech to State politics is the following promulgation of the doctrine (originally proclaimed by ex-Mayor Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland in his political struggles with the late Senator Hanna):

It is necessary and desirable that there should be leaders, but it is unnecessary and undesirable that there should be bosses. The leader leads the people; the boss drives the people. The leader gets his hold by open appeal to the reason and conscience of his followers; the boss keeps his hold by manipulation, by intrigue, by secret and furtive appeal to many forms of self-interest, and sometimes to very base forms.

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The "old guard leader," Mr. Barnes (pp. 824, 852), issued a statement on the 13th, in which, besides characterizing Mr. Roosevelt as "the most dangerous foe to the world of business and labor in the United States," he said that—  
some of the men who are urging Mr. Roosevelt's candidacy for temporary chairman of the convention against Vice President Sherman have little realization of the rising tide of popular disapproval