

about politics and contributions, and I said the matter would have to be submitted to our board. It was submitted later and the board decided to contribute. My letter-books show no record of any such letter as has been published. The signature of that letter is very unlike mine. The payment to Senator Penrose was probably in currency. Subsequently to these contributions I talked with Mr. Bliss, not later than October 10, about further contributions. Mr. Rogers might have been at one of the conferences. No one else was present. We decided not to make the further contribution.

In reply to Senator Pomerene, who asked for details, Mr. Archbold answered:

I said: "Mr. Bliss, we are inclined to make this contribution to you, but we want it to be known to the powers that be—to the President." I named President Roosevelt. I said to Mr. Bliss that we did not want to make the contribution unless it would be gratefully received. There had been some talk about objections to contributions from certain sources. That this contribution had been made known to President Roosevelt I had only the assurances of Mr. Bliss through my conferences with him. He said: "You need have no misgivings in that matter. I will represent you and I will see that it is properly known." At a later time Mr. Bliss came to my office. He said: "I have come to you again on the money question." He pointed out the situation in the campaign and the need for further funds. I said I thought we had done pretty liberally. Finally I told him that I could not decide the matter, but that I would lay it before my board. He gave me to understand that our contribution had been acceptable, and that further contributions would be acceptable, to Colonel Roosevelt. On the latter occasion Mr. Bliss mentioned \$150,000 as a further amount. I told the board I had impressed upon Mr. Bliss the desire of the Standard Oil officials that the contributions should not be received unless they were acceptable to Colonel Roosevelt. The board decided to "stand upon what they had done," and make no further contributions. When I told Mr. Bliss that the board would do no more, he said it was a mistake. He said: "I speak to you personally; I think you had better make this contribution. If you don't, somebody else will and I think you will be making a mistake." He put it on personal grounds, and mentioned his friendship for me, toward the end. I never heard of any proposition to return any campaign funds until within the last two or three days. I went to Mr. Bliss after President Roosevelt and some of his bureau heads began their line of unjust attacks upon us. Mr. Bliss threw up his hands, said that he saw the attacks were unjust and that he sympathized with us but that he could do nothing. The attacks I refer to were made upon the Standard Oil Company by James A. Garfield and Herbert Knox Smith. Both had been Commissioner of Corporations. President Roosevelt unflinchingly approved these attacks, without investigation and without the slightest knowledge of the facts. These reports of Garfield and Smith were the work of mere puppets, who jumped when Roosevelt pulled the strings. When the question of the second contribution came up Mr. Bliss said he wanted Mr. Cortelyou to meet me for

further talk about a contribution. On the date of the engagement Mr. Bliss came alone. He said: "As you see, I am here alone; Mr. Cortelyou did not think it was advisable for him to come, and said for me to tell you that anything I said was said for him, and that I could say what was desired as well as he." Outrageous attacks on the Standard Oil Company dated from the refusal of the further contribution of \$150,000. When I visited President Roosevelt at the White House some time later in company with the late H. H. Rogers, the campaign was only casually mentioned. The President said that there had been some criticism of campaign contributions, but that that could not be avoided.

Senator Penrose also testified on the 23rd before this sub-committee.



Mr. Roosevelt published a lengthy reply on the 24th to the statements of Mr. Archbold and Senator Penrose, and telegraphed Senator Clapp as follows:

As I am not willing that Mr. Archbold's statement about me should pass without immediate official contradiction, I request the privilege of appearing before your committee on Monday. My engagements are such that it will be the greatest inconvenience to me and many others if the hearing is deferred to a later date.

But the sub-committee decided to postpone all further hearings until September 30.



Mr. Hearst adds to the interest and possible significance of the situation with a long special cablegram from London to his papers, of which the concluding paragraph is as follows:

Mr. Roosevelt can boast of a belated honesty, so why not be completely frank with the public and tell them the whole truth. Why should not Senator Penrose and Mr. Archbold and Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Sibley all tell the whole truth, particularly when they can be so confidently assured that if they do not, I will?



The Wilson National Progressive Republican League.

Under the presidency of Rudolph Spreckels of San Francisco, with John J. Blaine of Wisconsin as his first-lieutenant, both of them progressive Republicans of the La Follette type, a national league of Republicans who support Wilson against Taft, is to be organized. Replying to Senator Gore, who proposed the plan to him, Mr. Spreckels telegraphed on the 23rd as follows:

I will gladly accept the honor tendered, if it is clearly understood that the membership of any organization that I preside over must consist of Republican progressive men and women who intend to continue the fight to redeem the party of Lincoln. Many progressive Republicans deserted that brave and true leader, La Follette, and accepted the dicta-

tion of Roosevelt at a time when, after years of hard fighting, complete victory over the reactionary forces in the Republican party seemed assured.

Roosevelt, soon after assuming leadership, ordered a retreat and he and his immediate following abandoned the fight for progressive principles in the Republican party by giving up their membership in that party, and they are now engaged in an effort that can only result in dividing the progressive vote. I believe it to be the duty of all loyal Republicans, who hold the memory of Lincoln sacred, not to abandon the fight to redeem his party, but to make it again responsive to the same high ideals that prevailed within that party during Lincoln's life. It is the duty of every good citizen, believing in progressive principles, to vote for a progressive candidate of another party whenever the candidate of his own party does not represent these principles; but I believe it to be treason to the progressive cause to divide the progressive vote at the coming election. I hold that the organization of the Roosevelt party and the nomination of Roosevelt for President, after a victory had been won by progressive Democrats at Baltimore for progressive principles and the nomination of Governor Wilson, an acknowledged progressive candidate, is an outrage and cannot be defended. I urge all progressive Republicans to join in the Wilson Million Republican Club for the purpose of aiding in the fight for progressive principles by the election of Governor Wilson as President of these United States in November, and then organizing the membership into an effective progressive Republican force with which to carry forward the fight for progressive principles within our own party. If my attitude as expressed herein is acceptable I will assume the responsibility of the president that such an organization would impose upon me. I would suggest that the name be changed to Wilson National Progressive Republican League.



Adjournment of Congress.

The Senate was at a deadlock when it adjourned at 4 o'clock Sunday morning for the legislative day of the 24th. Nominally, the deadlock was over the deficiency appropriation bill which the President had vetoed on account of about \$600,000 of appropriations to which he objected. It was supposed that the two Houses would promptly adjust the matter to the President's satisfaction in conference, and then adjourn for the session. But a parliamentary motion in the Senate on the 24th showed that although there was a quorum, it was composed in part of enough Senators who were "paired" with absent Senators to break the voters' quorum. No adjournment for the session could be voted while that condition lasted, and Senator La Follette is reported to have announced that he would not consent to any arrangement for final adjournment unless adoption of the Penrose inquiry resolution, as amended and as quoted above, is included in the arrangement. Such an arrangement was afterwards made and, the deadlock over the deficiency bill being also

adjusted, both Houses adjourned for the session on the 26th.



Panama Canal Tolls.

President Taft's proposed joint resolution declaring the sanctity of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, was reported upon adversely, 8 to 6, on the 20th by the Senate committee on inter-oceanic canals, and on the 24th the President signed the bill which discriminates as to tolls in favor of American coasting vessels passing through the Canal. [See current volume, page 803.]



Negro Business Conference.

Business representatives of the Negro race from all over the United States held a three-day conference at Chicago last week, the thirteenth annual conference of their organization. Booker T. Washington, the president, was re-elected. [See current volume, page 804; also this number of The Public at page 820.]



Inequitable Taxation in the District of Columbia.

The first important Congressional report on taxation in the District of Columbia since that which Tom L. Johnson secured when he was in Congress, twenty years ago, was made on the 19th by Henry George, Jr., M. C. It is the report of a sub-committee of the Committee on the District of Columbia in the lower House. The material for it was obtained by Congressman George, with the aid of Herbert Browne as real estate expert. The report is signed by every member of the sub-committee, which consists of Ben Johnson (Dem.) of Kentucky (chairman), Wm. A. Oldfield (Dem.) of Arkansas, Henry George, Jr., (Dem.) and Wm. C. Redfield (Dem.) of New York, C. O. Lobeck (Dem.) of Nebraska, Cyrus A. Sulloway (Rep.) of New Hampshire, Leonidas C. Dyer (Rep.) of Missouri, and Victor L. Berger (Soc.) of Wisconsin. The report is made under authority of House resolutions 145 and 200, authorizing an inquiry into the assessment and taxation of real estate in the District of Columbia. [See vol. xiv, p. 602; current volume, page 122.]



This report makes astonishing disclosures, which, especially since half the revenues of the District of Columbia are paid out of the national treasury, are of personal interest to every taxpayer in the United States. It appears that real estate in the District of Columbia is assessed at only \$330,000,000 while its true value is \$744,000,000; and, as usual everywhere in cases of under-assessment, the owner of vacant or poorly improved land gets the benefit. Land is assessed at \$169,674,006 (about one-third of its value), whereas improve-