

ROOSEVELT TAKES UP THE COST OF LIVING

High Prices Not Caused by Republicans, He Says, and Stimson Will Help Cure Them.

FINISHES HIS STATE TOUR

Has Big and Enthusiastic Meetings from Albion to Buffalo—Will Hurry On to Iowa.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Nov. 1.—The Republican Party is not responsible for the high cost of living, Col. Roosevelt asserted in a campaign speech here to-night. His declaration on this subject, concerning which he has said little previously during the campaign, was made first at Niagara Falls late this afternoon, and again at Buffalo to-night, at the close of his last speaking tour over the State of the present campaign.

Col. Roosevelt made his first speech of the day at Albion, going thence to Lockport, and on to Niagara Falls and Buffalo. More enthusiasm was shown during his tour to-day than on almost any other day of his campaign. Everywhere he was welcomed by crowds, and the demonstrations at Niagara Falls and in Buffalo were notable ones. Only a small fraction of those who wanted to hear him could squeeze into the theatre at Niagara Falls. The others blocked the street and cheered until he made a speech on the corner.

When he arrived in Buffalo crowds lined the streets and cheered as he drove from the station to his hotel. He spoke in the Broadway Arsenal here to-night, and then Convention Hall, both times to great crowds. After the second rally he started for New York, whence he is to depart for Iowa three hours after his arrival there in the morning.

Argument on High Prices.

In his speech here to-night Col. Roosevelt said:

"The man against us—well, the real man against us is Mr. Murphy. Mr. Murphy's nominee, Mr. Dix, has no public record, and as to his private record he apparently wishes to establish an alibi. Mr. Stimson has spoken every night in every section of this State, and he wishes the people to judge him by what he says and by what he has done.

"I call your attention, as showing Harry Stimson's straightforwardness, to the way he has dealt with the question of the high cost of living, which is one of the arguments advanced by our opponents as the reason for putting Tammany Hall in power at Albany.

"Fourteen years ago I was in Buffalo speaking in the campaign for Mr. McKinley against Mr. Bryan, and at that time our opponents held the Republicans responsible because prices were too low. You remember that Mr. Bryan's great complaint was that we never would get wheat up to the dollar limit. Now, fourteen years after, the complaint is that prices are too high.

"Real suffering has unquestionably been caused by the fact that prices have gone up, that the cost of living has increased. A demagogue in Henry Stimson's place would have promised that impossible results would follow his success, and our opponents play the demagogue part, for they say we are to blame for high prices, and that if they are put in power prices will be made low. They know that what they promise they cannot perform.

"As Mr. Stimson pointed out the other night, there has been a worldwide movement toward higher prices during the past few years, a movement due to various causes, some of which undoubtedly will be changed by time. It is not in its essence a movement that affects only this country. It affects other countries just as it affects ours. Nevertheless, there are one or two artificial causes that in given cases in our own country tend to make prices improperly high, in ways that it is possible that we can cure."

Stimson Would Curb Trusts.

Col. Roosevelt pointed out that W. A. Huppuch, Mr. Dix's partner, now the Democratic State Chairman, had tried to have the tariff on wall paper, in which Mr. Dix was interested, made higher, and Mr. Dix was now saying that the tariff was partly responsible for high prices. That, the Colonel said, showed insincerity on Mr. Dix's part.

"I have no question," he continued, "but that sometimes big combinations, big trusts, have raised prices. Well, no man in this country has taken more effective action against those big trusts during the same length of time than Harry Stimson did while he was District Attorney in New York. As a result every big financial corporation of the type that we speak of as a trust is now doing all it can to back up Mr. Dix and to oppose Mr. Stimson. If Harry Stimson were not a menace to the big trusts you would not find every big trust-controlled newspaper of New York City against him. If Mr. Dix was not wanted in office by the great corporations, which have more effect in raising the high prices of living than any other agency of purely National, as distinguished from international, significance you would not find them supporting Mr. Dix as eagerly as they are supporting him in this campaign.

"It was not until I became President that the first really serious effort was made to enforce the anti-trust law. And while, as was perfectly inevitable in the beginning of a crusade of that kind, we sometimes failed, and while it was physically impossible for us to take up with the limited means we had at our disposal, more than a small fraction of the cases that we would have liked to take up, yet we did accomplish a very great deal. We fought suit after suit to a successful conclusion, and we made both the inter-State commerce law and the anti-trust law realities and not shams.

Trusts Have Attacked the Colonel.

"Who have been the people who have attacked me most violently? The plain people or the men who represent the trusts? It is the representatives of the great corporations, their representatives in the press, their representatives in public life, their representatives in private life, the big corporations' lawyers; and Harry Stimson is naturally feared by the great combinations which are either doing an illegal business or which are so close up to the edge of an illegal business that they are always afraid they will be hauled up for stepping over the line, and by the corporations which if not doing anything illegal, nevertheless are enjoying special privilege which ought to be made illegal.

"Those corporations whom Stimson has hurt are all against him. We happened to find out the other day, for instance, that this Brooklyn Cooperage Corporation, which he had fined, I think, to the extent of some \$70,000, was through one of its high officers doing everything it could to secure the election of Mr. Dix. Well, now I think it perfectly natural that a big law-breaking corporation which is fined \$70,000, should oppose Stimson. But in that case I think decent people should ask why he is being opposed."

Col. Roosevelt said that the corporations which Mr. Stimson had caused to be fined, in the aggregate, nearly \$4,000,000, could well afford to pay a considerable per cent. of that amount to prevent Stimson's election. Mr. Stimson, he said, was the man who was most likely to obtain some measure of relief from high prices.

"Stimson doesn't tell you," he said, "that if elected he can put a stop to the high cost of living; he cannot, and no one else can. But he does say that on certain big necessities, by carrying out the course of action that he has consistently carried out in public life, a certain improvement can here and there be made as regards certain commodities controlled by great trusts."

At Lockport Col. Roosevelt said: "You don't have to be afraid of a dictator who has no power except as the people behind him give it to him. I haven't one bit of power except as you and people like you give." The Colonel had been saying that some of his opponents thought he wanted to be a dictator of the United States.