

ROOSEVELT TAKES STUMP IN LOUISIANA

Attacks Both Old Parties, Particularly Wilson Administration, in New Orleans Speech.

APPEALS FOR NEW LINE-UP

Wants Tariff Democrats There to Desert Traditional Allegiance to a Party Name and Join Progressives.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 7.—Theodore Roosevelt arrived here today for a two days' speaking trip in Louisiana. His principal address was delivered here tonight in the Opera House. From here he goes to the Third Congressional District of Louisiana, where the campaign between Democrats and Progressives to elect a Congressman is attracting attention. Col. Roosevelt expects to arrive at Franklin early tomorrow, and from there will go by automobile to Jeanerette and New Iberia.

In his address tonight Col. Roosevelt attacked both the old parties, and especially criticised the policies and acts of the Democratic Administration. He declared that the Progressives alone of all the parties propose a programme that will successfully solve public problems, notably those of the trusts and the tariff, and appealed to Louisiana Democrats to discard their traditional allegiance to a political name and support the new party.

Col. Roosevelt urged that "this Government, instead of paying \$25,000,000 blackmail to alien wrongdoers and their heirs," as proposed in the dispute with Colombia over the Panama Canal property, should "use that \$25,000,000 and the plant of the Panama Canal, and as many scores of millions extra as are necessary, to take control of the Mississippi and to develop all its possibilities of usefulness from the headwaters to the delta." He made a particular point of the flood problem, which, he said, must be met not only by levees, but great storage reservoirs upstream, which would not only stop the floods, but serve well for irrigation purposes.

Recall of Judges and Decisions.

Some attention was given by the Colonel to the Progressive proposal for the recall of Judges and judicial decisions.

"There must be some methods," he said, "by which quick justice can be had at the expense of the Judge who does wrong, just as at the expense of any other public servant who does wrong. Moreover, when the Judge acts not as a Judge but as a lawmaker, then the people have exactly the same right to declare for themselves whether or not they are pleased with the Judge-made law as to declare whether or not they are pleased with the laws produced by Legislatures. When the Legislature and the Judge differ as to whether a given law is in accordance with that fundamental law of the land which we call the Constitution, then it should be for the people themselves to decide in reasonably quick fashion which of their two public servants, the court or the Legislature, has really interpreted aright their will as regards all cases arising in the future similar to the one that is at issue."

The day was Labor Day, which led the Colonel to discuss the industrial and economic situation.

"Both the old parties are wedded to their idols," he said. "The Republican Party by every action it has taken during the last two years has made it evident that it intends to see that the rank and file are shackled and are put under the control of the great bosses of the stamp of Mr. Barnes and Mr. Penrose. On the other hand, the Democratic Party, which has possessed absolute power in Washington for the last two years, has shown not the faintest symptom of a real understanding of the needs of the people. It has done nothing whatever for labor, and its action on the trusts and the tariff have shown that it is not fit to run the Government. With the trusts they have adopted the policy of firing 'so as to hit it if it is a bear and to miss it if it is a calf.'"

He told his audience that the people of Louisiana were among those hardest hit by "the backward and reactionary policy" which the Government had adopted as regards the tariff. He asserted that the promise to break up the trusts and reduce the cost of living had not been realized. He took up in detail the matter of sugar, with which Louisiana is closely identified.

Cause of Sugar's Great Rise.

"At present the price of sugar has gone up immensely in this country," he said. "The greatest contributing cause has been the action of Congress in entirely removing the duty from sugar. If the duty had been gradually decreased sugar growers would not have abandoned the production of the crop, but as it was, very many, probably a very large majority, of the sugar growers abandoned any attempt to produce a full crop, and often any attempt to produce a crop at all. In consequence, when the emergency caused by the war came, the shortage was felt directly by our own people.

"Germany's great economic development during the forty-three years preceding this lamentable war has been due to various causes, not the least important of which was her intelligent use of a tariff commission. This tariff commission has not been influenced by any wild theories either about absolute free trade or ultra-excessive protection, but has advocated the raising and lowering of tariffs from time to time in any particular industry with a view to what was best, not only for that industry, but for the country at large. The result has been eminently successful. The Progressive proposal of an expert, impartial, non-partisan tariff commission offers the only real hope.

"The same thing is true of our method of attempting to handle combinations. During the last month, under the strain of war in Europe, all kinds of dislocations have occurred in our business. In New York City at one time during this past month the small provision dealers were anxious to come together in consultation, not only in the interests of their customers, but in their own interests, as to how to handle flour, a necessary of life, in order to make it possible for poor people to get flour at as little added expense as possible. Yet under the decisions of the courts, under such a decision as that in the Harvester case, for instance, these small business men found themselves in a position where they might be prosecuted for even talking over an understanding that would be vitally necessary in the interest of the community at large. The court in the Harvester case decided that what the Harvester Company had done was beneficial to the country as a whole, but that it was illegal. Surely it is monstrous to keep unchanged a law where a court is obliged to render such a decision.

"If the Progressive Party platform were now embodied into law the Government would have a commission under whose wise supervision and control the cotton growers and the small men in the cotton business would be able to combine to protect themselves against unscrupulous big interests, and to be of service both to themselves and to the general public. Under such a commission, when the price of food-stuffs leaped in the cities of the Northeast, the Government would have been able to co-operate with the business men, big and small, who wanted to meet the crisis in intelligent fashion and to protect both themselves and the public; whereas, at the present day, the Government can do almost nothing, and the small business men, when they seek to combine for the common good of themselves and of the public, do so with the knowledge that they may be exposing themselves to prosecution by the Government if they irritate some crank or interfere with some crafty and unscrupulous big man who thinks it may be to his interest to have his small rivals prevented from combining to stop wrongdoing on his part."

Allege Primary Frauds in Queens.

An investigation is to be made into the charge that thousands of fraudulent signatures have been used by candidates whose petitions of nomination for the primary in Queens have been filed with the Bureau of Elections in Manhattan. Those who have examined the petitions under suspicion say that dozens of the names appear in one handwriting.