REAL PROGRESS UNDER TAFT

Many Progressive Measures Put in Force

THE WHOLE PEOPLE SERVED

Express Companies Compelled to Re duce Rates, Parcels Post Law Enacted and Other Notable Progressive Policies Made Effective by Taft Without Boasting and Noise.

Dispassionate judges will accord to the Taft administration the credit of putting in force more measures of a positively progressive character than any other administration since the civil war. Not only have such measures been numerous, but they have been of great and far-reaching importance. President Taft has labored in defatigably to serve the whole people, and by means of his broad experience and rare judicial mind and having at his command legal talen of the highest order he has put his progressive policies one after another into valid and practical legislation. This has been done without boasting and noise. Whether vindicated or not at the com-ing election, Mr. Taft's work will stand as a chapter of achievement as brilliant as it is meritorious.

We wish at this time to invite attention to two specific features of gov ernmental progress. One consists of the interstate commerce commission's investigation of the express companies, resulting in the recent report or-dering the companies to reduce rates and institute sweeping reforms in va-rious directions. The other is the en-actment of the Bourne parcels post bill, one of the most useful measures ever put in force in this country under any administration. These two reforms, taken in connection, will exert a powerful influence for a reduction of the cost of living.

Mr. Taft has been in complete sympathy with the interstate commerce commission's inquiry into the express business, a process consistent in all re spects with the administration's gen eral policy of compelling big corpora-tions to square themselves with the law and the public interest. Some of the more powerful corporations do not like that policy, but the public ought to indorse it. The enactment of a par-cels post law brings to fruition a plan that found indorsement in the plat form upon which the president was elected. Through the action of the senate the Bourne bill, looking to a parcels service at the lowest practica-ble rates within a given territory, was substituted for the house bill with its flat rate provisions. The measure as passed probably is not perfect, nor should the rates be regarded as per-manent. The plan is experimental in certain respects. But we believe the principle of the act is correct. One of the most important aspects of this measure is.its bearing on the food situation. It will give consumers and producers a new medium of direct con-The interstate commerce mission's rulings respecting the express companies also make special ac-count of this problem. The express companies are required to order their business in such a manner as to give quicker service and lower rates on food products.

It is recognized by all economic investigators that one of the greatest problems related to the cost of living is that which has to do with the sys-tem of distribution. Express reforms and the parcels post will be of great value in promoting prompter and cheaper distribution of food products especially, and at the same time the scope of these measures is so comprehensive as to apply to all classes of merchandise. Production, too, should be greatly stimulated by the influence thus invoked.

We do not say that President Taft deserves the sole credit for these de-partures, but we cite them as features of an administration that some persons would have us believe is nonprogresTO THE CONSTITUTION SUBMIT-TED TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR AP. PROVAL OR REJECTION, BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYL-VANIA, AND PUBLISHED BY OR-DER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, IN PURSU-ANCE OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Number One. ▲ JOINT RESOLUTION.

Proposing an amendment to article nine, section four, of the Constitu-tion of the Commonwealth of Penn-sylvania, authorizing the State to issue bonds to the amount of fifty millions of dollars for the improve-ment of the highways of the Com-monwealth.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania of the Commonwealth of Feinsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following amendment to the Constitu-tion of the Commonwealth of Pennsyl-vania be, and the same is hereby, pro-posed, in accordance with the eigh-teenth article thereof:— That section four of article nine, which reads as follows:

which reads as follows:

which reads as follows: "Section 4. No debt shall be creat-ed by or on behalf of the State, ex-cept to supply casual deficiencies of revenue, repel invasion, suppress in-surrection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt created to supply deficiency in rev-enue shall never exceed, in the aggre-grate at any one time, one million of dollars," be amended so as to read as follows: follows

follows: Section 4. No debt shall be created by or on behalf of the State, except to supply casual deficiencies of rev-enue, repel invasion, suppress insur-rection, defend the State in war, or to pay existing debt; and the debt creat-ed to supply deficiencies in revenue shall never exceed in the aggregate ed to supply deficiencies in revenue shall never exceed, in the aggregate at any ona time, one million of dol-lars: Provided, however, 'nuat the General Assembly, irrespective of any debt, may authorize the State to issue bonds to the amount of fity millions of dollars for the purpose of improv-ing and rebuilding the highways of the Commonwealth. A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 1.

A tr No. 1.

ROBERT MCAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Two.

A JOINT RESOLUTION.

Proposing an amendment to section seven, article three of the Constitu-tion of Pennsylvania, so as to per-mit special legislation regulating labor mit s labor.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met. That the following is proposed as an amend-ment to the Constitution of the Comment to the Constitution of the Com-monwealth of Pennsylvania, in ac-cordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof. Amend-ment to Article Three, Section Seven, Section 2. Amend section seven, article three of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as fol-lows:-

"Section 7. The General Assembly "Regulating the affairs of counties, of the state of the

school districts:

"Changing the names of persons or

"Changing the names of persons or places: "Changing the venue in civil or criminal cases: "Authorizing the laying out, open-ing, altering, or maintaining roads, highways, streets or alleys: "Relating to ferries or bridges, or incorporating ferry or bridge compan-ies, except for the erection of bridges crossing streams which form bounda-ries between this and any other State: State:

Vacating roads, town plats, streets

"Vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys: "Relating to cemeteries, graveyards, or public grounds not of the State: "Authorizing the adoption or legith-mation of children: "Locating or changing county-seats, erecting new counties, or changing county lines: "Incorporating cities, towns, or vil-

"Incorporating cities, towns, or vil-lages, or changing their charters:

lages, or changing their charters: "For the opening and conducting of elections, or fixing or changing the place of voting: "Granting divorces: "Erecting new townships or bor-oughs, changing township lines, bor-ough limits, or school districts: "Creating offices, or prescribing the powers and duties of officers in coun-ties cities boroughs townships elec-

ciation or individual any special or ex-clusive privilege or immunity, or to any corporation, association or indi-vidual the right to lay down a rairoad **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS** track.

'Nor shall the General Assembly in-"Nor shall the General Assembly in-directly enact such special or local law by the partial repeal of a general law; but laws repealing local or spec-ial acts may be passed: "Nor shall any law be passed grant-ing powers and privileges in any case where the granting of such powers and privileges shall have been provid-ed for by general law, nor where the

and privileges shall have been provid-ed for by general law, nor where the courts have jurisdiction to grant the same or give the relief asked for."— so as to read as follows:— Section 7. The General Assembly shall not pass any local or special law authorizing the creation, extension or impairing of liens: Regulating the affairs of counties, cities, townships, wards, boroughs, or school districts: Changing the names of persons or places:

places: Changing the venue in civil or criminal cases

inal cases: Authorizing the laying out, opening, altering, or maintaining roads, high-ways, streets or alleys: Relating to ferries or bridges, or in-corporating ferry or bridge compan-ies, except for the erection of bridges crossing streams which form bounda-ries between this and any other State. Vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys:

vacating roads, town plats, streets or alleys: Relating to cemeteries, graveyards, or public grounds not of the State: Authorizing the adoption, or legiti-mation of children:

Authorizing the autoption, or legiter mation of children: Locating or changing county-seats, erecting new counties or changing county lines: Incorporating cities, towns or vill-ages, by changing their charters: For the opening and conducting of elections, or fixing or changing the place of voting. Granting divorces: Erecting new townships or bor-oughs, changing township lines, bor-ough changing township lines, bor-ough limits or school districts: Creating offices, or prescribing the powers and duties of officers in coun-ties, cities, boroughs, townships, elec-tion or school districts: Changing the law of descent or suc-cession:

cession cession: Regulating the practice or jurisdic-tion of, or changing the rules of evi-dence in, any judicial proceeding or inquiry before courts, aldermen, jus-tices of the peace, sheriffs, commis-sioners, arbitrators, auditors, masters in chancers on other tribunals or pro-

stoners, arbitrators, auditors, masters in chancery or other tribunals, or pro-viding or changing methods for the collection of debts, or the enforcing of judgments, or prescribing the ef-fect of judicial sales of real estate: Regulating the fees, or extending the powers and duties of aldermen, justices of the peace, magistrates or constables:

constables:

Regulating the management of pub-lic schools, the building or repairing of school houses and the raising of

Fixing the rate of interest: Affecting the estates of minors or persons under disability, except after due notice to all parties in interest, to be recited in the special enactment:

to be recited in the special chart ment: Remitting fines, penalties and for-feitures, or refunding moneys legally paid into the treasury: Exempting property from taxation: Regulating labor, trade, mining or manufacturing; but the legislature may regulate and fix the wages or salaries, the hours of work or labor, and make provision for the protection, welfare and safety of persons employ-ed by the State, or by any county, city, borough, town, township school district, village, or other civil di-vision of the State, or by any contract-or or sub-contractor performing work, vision of the State, or by any contract-or or sub-contractor performing work, labor or services for the State, or for any county, city, borough, town, town-ship, school district, village or other civil division thereof:

Creating corporations, or amending, renewing or extending the charters thereof

thereof: Granting to any corporation, asso-ciation, or individual any special or exclusive privilege or immunity, or to any corporation, association, or in-dividual the right to lay down a rail-

dividual the right to lay down a rail-road track: Nor shall the General Assembly in-directly enact such special or local law by the partial repeal of a general law; but laws repealing local or spec-ial acts may be passed: Nor shall any law be passed grant-ing powers or privileges in any case where the granting of such powers and privileges shall have been pro-vided for by general law, nor where the courts have jurisdiction to grant the same or give the relief asked for. A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 2. ROBERT MCAFEE.

ROBERT MCAFEE. Secretary of the Commonwealth.

ough, and township officers, for regu-lar terms of service, shall be need an the municipal election day; namely, the lar terms of service, shah to note the the municipal election day; namely, the Tuesday next following the first Mon-day of November in each odd-number-ed year, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each House consenting thereto: Provided, That such elections shal be held in an odd-numbered year: Provided fur-ther, That all judges for the courts of the several judicial districts hold-ing office at the present time, whose terms of office may end in an odd-numbered year. And in an odd-numbered year. And in an odd-numbered year. A true copy of Concurrent Resolu-tion No. 3. ROBERT MCAFEE,

ROBERT MCAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Four. A JOINT RESOLUTION.

Proposing an amendment to section one of article nine of the Consti-tution of Pennsylvania, relating to taxation.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Senate and house of the prenasylvania in General Assembly met. That the following is proposed as an amend-ment to the Constitution of the Com-monwealth of Pennsylvania, in ac-cordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:— Section 2. Amend section one of article nine of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows: "All taxes shall be uniform, upon the same class of subjects, within the territorial limits of the authority levy-ing the tax, and shall be levied and collected under general laws; but the General Assembly may, by general laws, exempt from taxation public property used for public purposes, actual places of religious worship, places of burial not used or heid for private or corporate profit, and in.titu-

actual places of burial not used or heid for private or corporate profit, and intitu-tions of purely public charity," so as to read as follows: All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects, within the ter-ritorial limits of the authority levying the tax, and shall be levied and col-lected under general laws, and the subjects of taxation may be classified for the purpose of laying graded or progressive taxes; but the General Assembly may, by general laws, ex-empt from taxation public property used for public purposes, actual places of religious worship, places of burial not used or held for private or cor-porate profit, and institutions of pure-iy public charity. A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 4. BOBERT MCAFEE.

accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:— Article IX. Section 15. No obligations which have been heretofore issued, or which may hereafter be issued, by any coun-ty or municipality, other than Phila-delphia, to provide for the construc-tion or acquisition of waterworks, subways, underground railways or street railways, or the appurtenances thereof, shall be considered as a debt of a municipality, within the meaning of section eight of article nine of the Constitution of Pennsylvania or of this amendment, if the net revenue derived from said property for a per-iod of five years, either before or after the acquisition thereof, or, where the same is constructed by the county or municipality, after the completion thereof, shall have been sufficient to pay interest and sinking-fund charges during said period upon said obliga-tions, or if the said obligations shall be secured by liens upon the respec-tive properties, and shall impose no municipal liability. Where munici-palities of counties shall issue obliga-tions to provide for the construction of property, as herein provided, said palities of counties shall issue obliga-tions to provide for the construction of property, as herein provided, said said municipalities or counties may also issue obligations to provide for the interest and sinking-fund charges accruing thereon until said properties shall have been completed and in op-eration for a period of one year; and said municipalities and counties shall not be required to levy a tax to pay said interest and sinking-fund charges, as required by section ten of article nine of the Constitution of Pennsyl-vania, until after said properties shall have been operated by said counties or municipalities during said period

HE TURNS TO TRUSTS.

Woodrow Wilson Evades Discussion of the Tariff Question.

It is the trust issue, we are now told by Woodrow Wilson, that is paraby woodrow whison, that is para-mount in the campaign. Last week it was the tariff. What it will be next week has not yet been indicated. In his speech of acceptance Gover-nor Wilson emphasized the fact that a

platform was not a program. Those were words of wisdom. A program is something to be followed with some degree of fidelity. A platform, in the lexicon of the Democratic candidate, is a flexible thing, not to be taken too seriously, but to be bent and altered to meet the demands of the moment. A nice, adaptable platform is good enough for him.

In all fairness and in all decency, however, Dr. Wilson should not be permitted to evade a discussion of the issue he brought forward as the important one early in his campaign. His campaign manager refused a challenge for a joint debate between Republican and Democratic speakers on the tariff, and the candidate might the tariff, and the candidate might disclaim personal responsibility for that, but certainly Dr. Wilson cannot avoid responsibility for his own words and his own arguments. The fact that he found his audiences to tally out of sympathy with his free trade views should not still his tongue if he has the courage of his convic tions and honestly believes the doc-trine which he preached. If he be a true leader of the anti-protectionists he will justify his beliefs and opinions.

So far from doing this, however, he has elected to evade, precisely as his managers evade, adequate discussion of the subject which means so much to every individual in the land. First assailing protection and making state-ments that demonstrated his lack of knowledge of the facts, he shifted from that position to one where he was trying to calm the fears of the industrial and commercial elements in the population aroused by his initial ut-terances. Out of all his more or less vague talk on the subject only one thing emerges clearly and distinctly —that is, that he and his party propose ε purely political revision of the tariff, with all the disaster, distress and disturbance that such a revision entails. Scientific revision on accurate information is rejected by him and his party. Political revision is just what the people do not want, but both candidate and party are commit-ted to it; hence, their desire to get away from the issue.

By all means let the trusts be dis-cussed, too, but not in terms of gen-eralities, such as Governor Wilson in-dulged in before the Democratic state convention at-Trenton last Tuesday. And while discussing it Governor Wil-son might explain why it was that the Democratic house curtailed the trust investigating work of the department of justice by granting only two-thirds of the sum needed to carry on the labors mapped out.

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No. 4. ROBERT MCAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth. Number Five. A JOINT RESOLUTION.

sive, when in reality they form a logical part of a great progressive epoch, which opened with the inauguration of Mr. Taft, and which, in the people's patriotism and good sense, will be tinued during four more years of the same courageous and able leadership.

Extract from statement of Mr. Roosevelt, dated Nov. 8, 1904 : "On the 4th day of March next I shall have served three and one-half years, and this three and one-half years constitutes my first term. The wise custom which limits the President to two terms regards the substance and not the form. Under no circumstances will I be a candidate for or accept another nomination."

"What Washington would not take, and Grant could not get, no man shall have."

ties, cities, boroughs, townships, elec-tion or school districts: "Changing the law of descent or

"Regulating the faw of descent of succession: "Regulating the practice or juris-diction of, or changing the rules of evidence in, any judicial proceeding or inquiry before courts, aldermen, justices of the peace, sheriffs, commis-sioners, arbitrators, auditors, masters in chancery, or other tribunals, or providing or changing methods for the collection of debts, or the enforcing of judgments, or prescribing the effect of judgments, or prescribing the effect of judgments and duties of aldermen, justices of the peace, magistrates or constables:

constables: "Regulating the management of public schools, the building or repair-ing of school houses and the raising of money for such purposes: "Fixing the rate of interest: "Affecting the estates of minors or persons under disability, except after due notice to all parties in interest, to be recited in the special enact-ment: "Remitting fines penaltice and the

"Remitting fines, penalties and for-feitures, or refunding moneys legally paid into the treasury:

"Exempting property from taxation: "Regulating labor, trade, mining or

"Creating corporations, or amend-ing, renewing or extending the chart-ers thereof: "Granting to any corporation, asse-

Number Three. A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION. Proposing an amendment to section three of article eight of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

tution of Pennsylvania. Section 1. Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the Com-monwealth of Pennsylvania (if the Benate concur), That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Con-stitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereot:---

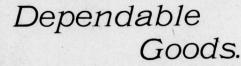
vania, until after said properties shall have been operated by said counties or municipalities during said period of one year. Any of the said munici-palities or counties may incur indebt-edness in excess of seven per centum, of the assessed valuation of the taxable property therein, if said increase of indebtedness shall have been assented to by three-fifths of the electors vot-ing at a public election, in such man-ner as shall be provided by law. A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 5.

No. 5. ROBERT McAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.



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