

## STINGING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT

In Vigorous Language Denounces  
As False Indianapolis News  
Story About Panama.

### KNOW STATEMENTS UNTRUE.

Editor of N. Y. Sun Presents His  
Comments to Mr. Roosevelt and  
Declines a Controversy.

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 6.—The  
following correspondence passing be-  
tween President Roosevelt and Wil-  
liam Dudley Foulke has been made  
public by the latter:

FOULKE'S LETTER.

Hot Springs, Va., Nov. 23.—The  
President: Sir—The Indianapolis  
News, not only during the campaign,  
but even after its close, has been  
repeatedly and continually making  
serious charges against your admin-  
istration, as well as against Mr. Taft,  
in connection with the Panama pur-  
chase, as, for example, the follow-  
ing:

"The campaign is over and the  
people will have to vote tomorrow  
without any knowledge concerning  
the Panama canal deal. It has been  
charged that the United States  
bought from American citizens for  
\$10,000,000 property that cost those  
citizens only \$12,000,000. Mr. Taft  
was secretary of war at the time the  
negotiations were closed. There is no  
doubt that the government paid \$40,-  
000,000 for the property. But who  
got the money? We are not to know.  
The administration and Mr. Taft do  
not know. The president's brother-in-  
law is involved in the scandal, but  
he has nothing to say. The candidate's  
brother has been charged with being  
a member of the syndicate. He has,  
it is true, denied it, but he refuses to  
appear to the evidence, all of which  
is in the possession of the adminis-  
tration and wholly inaccessible to  
outsiders. For weeks this scandal has  
been before the people. The records  
are in Washington and they are  
public records. But the people are  
not to see them—till after election  
if then."

"Even after the election this has  
been continued, it being said that Mr.  
Taft's weakness in Indiana (where he  
ran many thousands ahead of his  
opponent) was due to the fact that  
he was in great measure to this alleged  
scandal."

"What are the facts in regard to  
this? Where are these 'inaccessible re-  
cords'? When did they come into the  
possession of the government, and  
what do they contain? If the state-  
ments of the News are true or near  
true, ought to know it; if not true  
ought to have some just means  
of estimating what credit should be  
given in other matters to a journal  
which thus disseminates falsehoods.  
Yours,

"WILLIAM DUDLEY FOULKE."

PREST. ROOSEVELT'S REPLY.

White House, Washington, D. C.,  
Dec. 1, 1908.—My Dear Mr. Foulke,  
I have received your letter of the 29th  
ultimo and have read it in connection  
with your previous letters enclosing  
quotations from the Indianapolis News,  
as edited by Delavan Smith. As  
Mr. Smith certainly knew that all the  
statements he made were false, both as

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half-ounce of Virgin Oil of Pine,  
two ounces of Glycerine and a half-  
point of Whisky, mixed, will cure any  
cough that is curable and break a cold  
in 24 hours. Take a teaspoonful every  
four hours. Ask your druggist for the  
genuine Leach's Virgin Oil of Pine  
compound pure, prepared and guaran-  
teed by the Leach Chemical Co., Cin-  
cinnati, O.

to the Panama matter and as to the  
other matters of which you include me  
clippings, and inasmuch, therefore, as  
the exposure of the falsity will not af-  
fect his future statements, I am not  
very clear as to what good will result  
from such exposure. But inasmuch as  
you evidently earnestly desire some an-  
swer to be made, and inasmuch as you  
say that some reputable people appear  
to believe the falsehoods of the News  
and Mr. Smith, and inasmuch as you  
seem to think that his falsehoods as  
regards the Panama matters are the  
most prominent, I will answer them.

#### DECLARES CHARGE FALSE.

"The News states in one of its issues  
that probably some of the documents  
dealing with the matters have been de-  
stroyed. This is false. Not one has  
been destroyed. It states that the last  
documents were sent over in June of  
this year, the object of this particular  
falsehood being apparently to connect  
the matter in some way with the nomi-  
nation of Mr. Taft. As a matter of  
fact, the last papers sent over to us  
in May of 1904, and they have been ac-  
cessible to every human being who  
cared to look at them ever since. Any  
knowledge that even an important step  
in the transaction and every important  
document has been made public in  
communication to Congress and  
through the daily press, and the whole  
matter has been thrashed over in its  
details again and again. The News  
gives currency to the charge that the  
United States bought from American  
citizens for \$40,000,000 property that  
cost these citizens only \$12,000,000. The  
statement is false.

#### WHO GOT \$40,000,000?

"The United States did not pay a  
cent of the \$40,000,000 to any American  
citizen. The News says that there is  
no doubt that the government paid \$40,-  
000,000 for the property, and continues:  
'But who got the money?' We are not  
to know. The administration and Mr.  
Taft do not think it right that the peo-  
ple should know. Really this is so  
ludicrous as to make one feel a little  
impatient at having to answer it. The  
fact has been officially published again  
and again that the government paid  
\$40,000,000, and that it paid this \$40,000,-  
000 direct to the French government,  
and that the records of the liquidator  
appointed by the French government to  
receive the same. The United States  
government has not the slightest  
knowledge as to the particular individ-  
uals among the French government  
to whom was distributed the sum. This  
was the business of the French govern-  
ment. The mere supposition that any  
American received from the French  
government a 'rake-off' is too absurd to  
be discussed. It is an abominable false-  
hood, and it is a slander not against  
the American government, but against  
the French government. The News  
continues, saying that the president's  
brother-in-law is involved in the scandal,  
but has nothing to say. The presi-  
dent's brother-in-law was involved in  
no scandal.

#### THEY LIE.

"Delavan Smith and the other people  
who repeated this falsehood lied about  
the president's brother-in-law; but  
why the fact that Mr. Smith lied should  
be held to involve Mr. Robinson in a  
'scandal' is difficult to understand. The  
scandal affects no one but Mr. Smith,  
and his conduct has been not merely  
scandalous, but infamous. Mr. Robin-

son had not the slightest connection of  
any kind, sort or description, at any  
time or under any circumstances, with  
the Panama matter. Neither did  
Charles Taft. The News says that Mr.  
Taft was a member of a 'syndicate'.  
So far as I know there was no syndi-  
cate; there certainly was no syndicate  
in the United States that, to my knowl-  
edge, had any dealings with the govern-  
ment directly or indirectly. Inasmuch  
as there was no syndicate, Mr.  
Taft naturally did not belong to it.  
The News demands that 'Mr. Taft ap-  
pear to the evidence,' by which it means  
that it calls for the records. The mass  
of papers which are stored in the war  
department save such as, because  
of their technical character, and their  
usefulness in the current work of the  
canal, it has been found advisable to  
send to the isthmus.

#### DOCUMENTS MADE PUBLIC.

"All of these documents that possessed  
any importance as illustrating any  
feature of the transaction have al-  
ready been made public. There re-  
mains a great mass of documents of  
little or no importance which the ad-  
ministration is entirely willing to have  
published, but which, because of their  
mass and pointlessness, nobody has  
ever cared to publish. Any reputable  
man can have full access to these docu-  
ments. If you or Mr. Swift or Root or  
Washington or George Ade—in short, if  
any reputable man will come on here  
he shall have free access to the docu-  
ments and can look over everything  
for himself. Congress can have them  
all printed if it wishes, but no congress-  
man has ever, so far, intimated any  
desire that this should be done; I sup-  
pose because to print such a mass of  
documents would be a great expense,  
and, moreover, an entirely useless ex-  
pense, unless, which is not the case,  
there was some object in printing them.

#### QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

"Now, my dear Mr. Foulke, I have  
answered in detail your questions and  
the statements of the News. You are  
quite welcome to print my answer, but  
I must frankly add that I don't think  
any good will come from going on  
and on. Delavan Smith is a conspicuous  
liar and a defamer of the laws of honesty  
and truthfulness, but he does not stand  
alone. He occupies, for instance, the  
same evil eminence with the editors of  
the Indianapolis News. I never saw an  
editorial in any one of these or similar  
papers unless for some reason it is  
sent to me by you or by someone else,  
and of the editorials which I receive  
there is hardly one which does not  
contain some wilful and deliberate  
perversion of the truth. For example,  
I have just made public the following  
statement concerning a 'liar' (Smith),  
and I have just made public the follow-  
ing false statement which appeared in  
Mr. Lafan's paper, the Sun:

#### "ROOSEVELT AND PRAIRIE OIL."

"As the New York Sun story entitled  
'Roosevelt and Prairie Oil' has seemed  
to deceive a number of people, the fol-  
lowing statement was made public  
about it:

"As soon as the story was brought  
to President Roosevelt's attention he  
not only called for the reports concern-  
ing the statements from the de-  
partment of justice and the depart-  
ment of the interior, but also com-  
municated with Secy. Hitchcock, so as  
to be sure that the president's recollec-  
tion was not at fault. The story is  
false in every particular from begin-  
ning to end. Not only is there no  
such report in the department of jus-  
tice, and never has been, but no such  
report was ever made. In granting the  
franchise of the Prairie Oil & Gas com-  
pany, the president simply approved  
the recommendation of Secy. Hitchcock,  
submitted to him precisely as all other  
recommendations were submitted.  
Moreover, in every case referring to  
the granting of franchises or the adop-  
tion of regulations or the award of  
gas franchises in Oklahoma and the  
Indian Territory, the president ap-  
proved the recommendation of Secy.  
Hitchcock with the exception of one  
small and unimportant grant to a Dela-  
ware Indian to whom the Delaware In-  
dians, in recognition of eight years of  
service in the tribe, had voted in a  
council a fee of \$50,000, which he had  
declined to accept, and who was given,  
twice the usual amount of land. The  
statement about the alleged promise to  
a western senator is a ridiculous false-  
hood, as is the story."

#### MENDACIOUS NEWSPAPERS.

"The fact is that these particular  
newspapers habitually and continually,  
and as a matter of business, practice  
every form of mendacity known to  
man, from the suppression of the  
truth and the suggestion of the false,  
to the lie direct. Those who write or  
procure others to write these articles  
are engaged in the practice of men-  
dacity for hire, and surely there can  
be no lower form of gaining a liveli-  
hood. Whether they are paid by out-  
siders to say what is false, or whether  
their profit comes from the circulation  
of the falsehood, is a matter of small  
consequence. It is utterly impossible  
to answer all of their falsehoods. When  
any given falsehood is exposed they  
simply repeat it and circulate an-  
other. If they were mistaken in the  
facts, if they possessed in their make-  
up any shred of honesty, it would be  
worth while to set them right. But  
there is no question at all as to any  
mistake or 'misunderstanding' on their  
part. They state what they either  
know to be untrue or could by the  
slightest inquiry find out to be the  
untruth."

"I doubt if they themselves remem-  
ber their own falsehoods for more than  
a very brief period, and I doubt still  
more whether anybody else does. Under  
these circumstances it seems hard-  
ly worth while to single out for special  
mention one or two given falsehoods  
or one particular paper, the moral  
standard of which is as low as, but  
no lower than, that of certain other  
papers. Of course, now and then I am  
willing to denounce a given falsehood,  
as, for instance, as regards this case  
of the Indianapolis News, or the case  
I have quoted of the New York Sun,  
simply because it appears that some  
worthy people are misled or puzzled  
by the direct shamelessness of the un-  
truth. But, ordinarily, I do not and  
cannot pay heed to these falsehoods.  
If I did I would not be able to do my  
work. My plan has been to go ahead  
and do the work and to let these peo-  
ple and those like them yell and thun-  
der with abiding confidence to the  
good sense of the American people in  
the assured conviction that the yells  
will die out, the falsehoods be forgot-  
ten and the work remain."

"Therefore, as far as I am concerned,  
I would rather make no answer what-  
ever in this case. But I have much  
confidence in your judgment, and if  
you feel that these men ought to be ex-  
posed, why you are welcome to publish  
this letter. There is no higher and  
more honorable calling than that of the  
man connected with an upright, fear-  
less and truthful newspaper: no calling  
in which a man can render greater ser-  
vice to his fellow countrymen. The  
best and ablest editors and writers  
in the daily press render a service to  
the community which can hardly be  
paralleled by the service rendered by  
the best and ablest men in public life,  
or the men in business. But the con-  
verse of this proposition is also true.  
The most corrupt financiers, the most  
corrupt politicians are no greater men-  
ace to this country than the newspaper  
man of the type that I have dis-  
cussed. Whichever they belong to, the  
yellow press or to the purchased press,  
whatever may be the stimulating cause  
of their slanderous mendacity, and  
whatever the cloak it may wear, mat-  
ters but little. In any event they rep-

resent one of the potent forces for evil  
in the community. Yours very truly,  
"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."  
William Dudley Foulke, Richmond,  
Ind.

#### FOUR SKATERS DROWNED.

Janesville, Wis., Dec. 6.—Earl  
Cooper, Harvey Richardson, Violet  
Blivins and Annie Blivins were  
drowned today while skating on Lake  
Koshongong. Mable Brown was re-  
scued, but many die from exposure.

#### NEW ARMY RIFLE.

Is a Success and Better Than Krag-  
Jorgensen.

Washington, Dec. 6.—That the new  
magazine rifle just placed in the  
hands of the army of the United  
States is a success is set forth by Gen.  
William Grozier, chief of ordnance of  
the war department, in his annual  
report.  
"This rifle has proved to be more

powerful, accurate and rapid," he  
says, "than the rifle of the Krag-  
Jorgensen type, which it replaced."


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play Saturday and perhaps you haven't been  
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and if so we are both losers.

We are not given to extravagant speech  
in our advertisements, except as it is requir-  
ed to state facts, so when we state that this sea-  
son's stock far outclasses any we or any other  
jeweler has ever shown before in Salt Lake,  
we want the people to prove it by personal in-  
vestigation if they intend to buy anything in  
our line this season, as it will be a profit to  
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is known to be our standard for all buyers  
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ment with the gift and costs nothing.

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heavy or thin Shoes. But  
best of all our prices are  
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8 3/4x11 6-2	
Imported German Saxony Rugs.	\$75.00
9 1/2x13-1	
Lormond seamless Wilton Rugs.	\$50.00
9x12	
Finest French Wilton Rugs.	\$47.00
9x12	
Bundhar Wilton Rugs.	\$36.00
9x12	
Shuttleworth Wilton Rugs.	\$32.00
9x12	
Best Body Brussels Rugs.	\$29.00
9x12	
Sloane's Superior Axminster Rugs.	\$23.00
9x12	
Beattie Seamless Velvet Rugs.	\$22.00
9x12	
Smith Seamless Velvet Rugs.	\$22.00
9x12	
Roxbury Tapestry Brussels Rugs.	\$20.00
9x12	
Metropolitan Seamless Tapestry Rugs.	\$16.00
9x12	
Empire one-seam Tapestry Rugs.	\$13.75
9x12	
All-wool Ingrain Rugs.	\$9.00
9x12	

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