

Democratic Governors Express Opinions

Only two out of six democratic governors were able to attend the banquet given in their honor by the National Democratic club in New York City on the evening of December 15. An Associated Press dispatch describing the banquet says:

Norman E. Mack, chairman of the democratic national committee, presided. Seated near him were Richard Croker, formerly leader of Tammany hall, and Charles F. Murphy,

present leader. A telegram was received saying that Governor-elect Plaisted was threatened with pneumonia. Governor Baldwin had an engagement to speak in Washington. The letters of Dr. Wilson and Governor Harmon were read before any addresses were delivered.

Dr. Wilson's letter said in part: "I congratulate all those who have won the confidence of the people on their opportunity to serve it in an

age which awaits nothing less than a reconstruction of the forces of society.

"So far it seems as if we had tried all stimulation and development in our effort to serve the union. We have seemed to let loose all the great forces on a disordered field. It remains to attempt readjustment, reaccommodation, the creation of a common interest.

"Some part of what we must do is clear. In the first place, we must insist at every stage upon discovering what the facts are and what inference can justly be based upon them. We must do this by thorough debate, extended to all classes of society, the complete uncovering of the elements we have to deal with.

"When that process has gone far enough to create public opinion every step we take must be grounded on that opinion. It is no small matter to create public opinion of the genuine sort and when it is created it should govern absolutely.

"It can govern only if we see to it that it is genuinely representative by some direct and simple process in every legislative assembly. A frank, genuine, reasonable representation of the people is the basis of every just government. This is the problem which not only our people have to solve in the electoral machinery which we construct and use, but it is the problem which our state legislatures have also to solve in the choice of senators of the United States."

Governor Harmon's letter said:

"We must justify the confidence so signally expressed, or the victory at the polls will not be the cause for rejoicing and we shall not do this if the conduct of public falls below the standard of the campaign. Mere personal desires, selfish purposes and importunities for special favor must be swept aside and public authority be employed for the general good alone."

Mr. Dix confined himself to an account of New York state developments and resources.

Eugene N. Foss, governor-elect of Massachusetts, described the democratic landslide in his state and outlined what he contended was the proper course for the party to pursue in view of the power it had acquired in all parts of the country. He said:

"I want to say at the outset that I am a protectionist. The protection which I believe in carries with it a large measure of reciprocity. In fact I believe that protection, without reciprocity is indefensible. My advocacy of this kind of protection ruled me out of the republican party in Massachusetts.

"I can only speak for Massachusetts but that in state, at least, the issue on which the campaign was so signally fought and won, is this, to bring the government back to the people. The only way to do it, the business way, is by eliminating all go-betweens, the boss and his agents, the caucuses, the nominating convention and the lobby.

"Before we can get any honest revision of the tariff, the senate itself must be revised. Our senators must be more responsive to the will of the people. And in order to effect an honest revision of the tariff, or any legislation in the interest of the people our senators must be virtually elected by popular vote. The direct primary and the election of United States senators by the people will eliminate the lobby and its train of corruption.

"It should be no part of our work to tear down, but rather to build up. It won't be sufficient for us to repeal the iniquitous Payne-Aldrich bill without putting some constructive measure in its place. We must understand that the industrial and commercial world is not yet ready for a

free trade policy and while ultimately we may attain that end, it must be done through a graduated program."

Speaking of reciprocity with Canada, Mr. Foss said:

"After all, Canadian reciprocity is only the first step toward free trade on this continent. Free trade on this continent would give this country an impetus for the next hundred years and would establish us permanently as the greatest commercial power in the world. The reciprocal relations with Canada and Mexico should next extend to every country in America."

GOVERNOR HARMON IN 1896

George U. Marvin, writing in the Columbus (O.) News of Wednesday, November 30 says:

"There has been some speculation as to the attitude which Governor Harmon assumed in the memorable McKinley-Bryan presidential contest of 1896.

"A number of people in different parts of the country, including men of prominence, have made inquiries with a view to securing information and occasionally it would seem for the purpose of embarrassing the governor's presidential candidacy, which without any move on the part of the chief executive is now well under way.

"One man of some influence at Houston, Texas, went so far as to publicly announce that the governor openly bolted Mr. Bryan and gave the impression that he voted for President McKinley. This was done with the hope of offsetting the growing Harmon sentiment in that state.

"The governor has never made any attempt to conceal the attitude he assumed in that campaign and has always spoken freely about it when asked. He did not vote for Mr. McKinley, nor did he openly bolt Mr. Bryan, although he did not cast his ballot for the latter. In fact, he did not vote for the president at all in the election of that year.

"Excellent reasons existed for his refusal to support the regular democratic nominee, and those reasons the governor made plain to Mr. Bryan.

"Governor Harmon was the attorney general in the cabinet of President Cleveland during the latter's administration, and they were both close personal and political friends.

"Mr. Bryan took occasion to severely attack the president, denouncing his policy of governmental control.

"As a member of the Cleveland official family, the governor did not feel that he could conscientiously support for president the man who had arraigned his chief without, in this way, giving indorsement to what had been said. Consequently, he followed the only honorable course left open to him. This was a refusal to work or vote for Mr. Bryan. Neither did he vote for President McKinley. He simply did not vote at all.

"His attitude was one of refusal to have any part in the campaign, an attitude which he was compelled to take because of conditions.

"On passing, it may be said that the governor has never cast a ballot for a republican presidential nominee during his voting career."

AN AUTHORITY

Blobbs—"Scribbler has had no less than nine plays rejected."

Slobbs—"What is he doing now?"

Blobbs—"Writing essays on the decline of the drama."—Philadelphia Record.

SERIATIM

Census Taker—"How many children have you?"

Citizen—"Three."

Census Taker—"Altogether?"

Citizen—"No; one at a time."—Life.

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