

Ollie James on "Democratic" Senators

Ollie James of Kentucky, who is a candidate for United States senator against Senator Paynter, an Aldrich democrat, challenged the senator to a joint debate. Senator Paynter declined on the ground that such a debate would disturb the "harmony" of the democratic party.

Following is a statement made by Congressman James in answer to Senator Paynter:

"When I read Senator Paynter's letter, published recently, I was forced to exclaim, 'Oh, harmony, how many excuses are perpetrated in thy name!' Senator Paynter could have epitomized in a single line his real reason for not meeting men in debate by saying 'His official record as Senator could not be defended.'

"The proud history of the Kentucky people is that her lawmakers especially should meet them face to face and explain and defend their official record. And Senator Paynter occupies the unique and solitary distinction of being the only democrat who was ever sent to the senate that admitted he was afraid to undertake that task.

"The senator says we think alike 'upon the cardinal doctrines of our party.' We may think alike, senator, but we do not act and vote alike. Your record as our senator is a proper subject of discussion. You surely would not want to cover it up with 'harmony'—for if you succeeded in unloading upon the democratic party of the state a record you were unwilling and unable to defend before your own party followers, how on earth would you expect the democrats to defend such a record before all the people of the state in the final battle of ballots?"

"Nothing of a personal nature will be said by me to offend the sensibilities of even Senator Paynter. I will show to the democracy that Senator Paynter's record has in it too much Lorimer, too much whitewash, too much Gugenheim, too much protectionism, too much stand-patism and too much Aldrichism.

TOM L. JOHNSON

Kansas City Star: "It is the unique thing in the life of the great civic leader, Tom L. Johnson, that, when he had attained wealth and power, he relinquished the chase for more money and gave his best years to hard and ceaseless work in the service of the plain people.

"Tom Johnson's life battle was a fight to give the masses of the people so square a deal that they would need no charity or philanthropy. He had the clear and honest comprehension that what the community, the city, could do to make life cheerful and pleasant for its people was simply the fulfillments of an obligation. He saw that the wealth accumulating in varying degrees of possession was in chief part of the product of the thrift and toil of all the people, and that to conserve for the public use the wealth which the public indisputably created was not paternalism, but plain honesty.

"It may have been the very fact that in the first period of his busy life he was a beneficiary of special privilege which made him the more clearly see and feel the injustices of privilege. Benefits received do not often have that effect. They are usually 'benefits forgot.' It adds luster to the character and the work of Tom Johnson that his own experiences were utilized for the common good, that no sneering suspicion of his integrity could swerve him from obedience to his beliefs and that in his life and services he proved that moral ideals, based on human fellowship, are quite as potent for getting mankind along as any material incentives.

"In the future histories of the American people it seems probable now that largest credit for the raising of American municipalities to the plane they must occupy in American affairs will be accorded to this truly great mayor of Cleveland. In the adjustment of manifold intimate relations of a city's life Mayor Johnson developed a field of usefulness as great and as honorable as any service reserved to the larger state or nation. In that field he labored incessantly. The more spectacular of his efforts—those for street railway regulation and municipal ownership—gained widest attention, for they hit at the root of the evil of special privilege. Yet his less dramatic insistence upon tax taxation, upon humanely sensible correction of delinquents, upon the development of civic beauty as a handmaiden to civic helpfulness to all the people—this stout struggle for equal opportunity stirred and encouraged a vital civic consciousness throughout all the American cities.

"The Kentucky people admire an open, frank fighter, one who can defend his record and that of his party against attacks in his own party and that of the common enemy. Senator Paynter cannot and has never done either.

"But when did Senator Paynter get so much in love with democratic success and harmony? When our democratic brethren in Louisville were in a battle for their very life in 1909 he was called upon to aid. Did he do it? When our party there was attacked from without and within, when we needed him, 'our senator,' to speak for us, for the democracy of Louisville, where was he then? Why did he not come to their aid? Harmony and success were not so dear to him then. The success of the party in the metropolis of the state did not appeal strong enough for him to aid that struggling democracy there, and he was occupying again the lone distinction of being the only leader from the entire state who refused and failed to lend a helping hand.

"Come along, senator. I promise to be as good as the facts of your official record will allow me.

"A full discussion hurts only those whose record will not stand. Do you fear this? Come, senator, let us agree upon a list of joint debates covering the entire state in each congressional district. We can draw big crowds. We can expound the true, old-fashioned democratic doctrines. We can help cheer the boys in the trenches onto a glorious victory in redeeming our state from the misrule of republicanism.

"I have nothing personal against Mr. Paynter; we are good friends, but it is Senator Paynter, the official, whose record I wish to discuss and which the people are entitled to hear discussed. I welcome, invite the senator to criticize my record as a member of congress; he has that right; I invoke no protection of 'harmony' to shield it; I stand ready to defend it."

"Cleveland shared Tom Johnson with all its sister municipalities. Not another city entered a franchise fight, or planned an extension of activity for the general well being, or sought a square deal in any form, that it did not receive help and inspiration from Cleveland's public servant. If there was no other aid given, there was the splendid example of dauntless courage and supreme good humor and good cheer in the fighting.

"And so Tom Johnson, mayor, and then just private citizen, of one of the lesser of the big American cities, lived his public life, and closed all his earthly life, filling a place in the national sense of public affairs as big and hopeful and controlling as the place filled by one whose direct concern had been the national business. He leaves thus for all the American people a heritage of many things accomplished, and, more than all, of high ideals of manhood and citizenship brought closer to fulfillment by his life."

SENATOR MARTIN, "LEADER"

"The division of the democrats over the election of a senate leader indicates that reactionary and progressive are terms which may be applied to factions of both the great political parties. Senator Martin, who was finally selected leader by a small margin, was looked on at the last session as being one of Mr. Aldrich's right hand aids. His choice doesn't argue that in the senate the democratic management will be of a character to impress the country that the democratic party is worthy to lead the way for progressive measures. Mr. Bryan will, no doubt, be roundly berated for his fight on Martin. Mr. Bryan usually comes in for sharp criticism because of the fearless expression of his views. But Mr. Bryan is right. The democracy will not do anything for the country so long as it is a weak 'me too' to the republicans of the Aldrich type. In the house there are evidences of effective work. Champ Clark has the country's confidence. But with Martin and Bailey in the saddle in the senate real tariff reform or any other reform does not seem probable, unless it is brought about by the union of the insurgent forces of both parties."—Knoxville (Tennessee) Sentinel.

GOOD FOR UNDERWOOD

The steel trust is trying to coerce Representative Underwood by suspending work on its plant in Mr. Underwood's district. The Commoner congratulates Mr. Underwood. It is plain that he is rendering such faithful service

to the people that the trust resorts to old time coercion methods in the hope of bringing him into line. But Underwood is faithful to the public interests and he will not be frightened by the steel trust nor persuaded through local pressure brought by those of his constituents whom the trust has frightened.

Congress ought to investigate the profits of the steel trust. It should do more. It should pass a law providing for the punishment of those who seek to browbeat members of congress and influence their vote on legislation through a suspension such as the steel trust has now made in the Underwood district. This law should also provide punishment for any attempt on the part of great corporations to coerce its employes in their votes upon candidates for federal offices.

A BEGINNING MADE

The passage of reciprocity through the house, is encouraging. The vote was so large that it can not fail to have an influence on the senate. Reciprocity is good, not so much because of what the agreement actually contains, as because it MAKES A BEGINNING, and "beginning is half the battle." The farmers' free list bill will pass next week—that is made possible by reciprocity, and woe to the senate if it defeats it, and to the president if he vetoes it! It will not only bring relief if it passes, but it will serve to disclose the protectionists in the democratic party. We have some democrats who have just as much love for protection as republicans have, but lack the courage to admit it. They want a "revenue tariff" but they want it so carefully drawn as to give protection to certain favored industries. They want to reduce the tariff, of course, but they always oppose the specific reduction proposed. They are like the business man who subscribed towards building every church proposed, but fought the location so as to delay the call for the subscription. The man who really wants tariff reduction will take any he can get, and then use that as a basis for securing more. The ratification of reciprocity is a beginning.

PROGRESSIVES IN THE SENATE

Republican standpatters in the United States senate have rejected the request made by the republican progressives for one-fourth of the republican membership of all committees. The progressives declare they will carry their demands to the floor of the senate. Democratic senators ought to help them to win a fair representation in senate committees.

FEDERAL INCORPORATION

Secretary Nagel of the department of Commerce and Labor delivered a speech at Champaign, Ill., advocating national incorporation in place of the creation of corporations by states. He said that the business interests of the country have a right to demand protection. That is true but the people create corporations and the creator is entitled to some protection from its creature. The corporations rush to federal courts for their injunctions and show a decided preference for those courts in all their litigation. They have persistently championed all schemes to centralize corporation authority in the federal government. But it is true that relief from corporation abuses has come only from state government. Being nearer the people the state government is more responsive to the people's will. Federal incorporation is an end greatly desired by men who wish to perpetuate corporation abuses and those who are concerned solely in the public interests should fight the proposed change with all possible vigor.

ELECTION OF SENATORS

The democratic house of representatives has the thanks of men of all political parties for the promptness with which it passed the resolution providing for the election of senators by the people. In the senate the resolution has been referred to the committee on judiciary. This reference was made after a hot fight by the friends of the measure.

ASSISTANT REPUBLICANS

"The American Protective Tariff League doesn't need to waste any time on Texas; its part of the discussion is ably looked after by the Houston Post, the San Antonio Express, the El Paso Times, the Beaumont Enterprise, the Corpus Christi Caller and the Fort Worth Record."—Waco (Texas) Times-Herald.