

EXIT—HARMON

Mr. Roosevelt's recent speech at Columbus shoves Governor Harmon off the political stage—it marks his exit from national politics. Coming as the Roosevelt speech did, immediately after Governor Harmon had made an address before the constitutional convention repudiating his own platform pledge in favor of the initiative and referendum, the difference between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Harmon is accentuated to the highest degree.

Here is Governor Harmon, a citizen of Ohio, asking a constitutional convention of his own state, not to indorse the initiative and referendum and even though a majority of the members of the constitutional convention were specifically pledged to the initiative and referendum this is precedent as a decision and then a republican ex-president comes from another state and urges the adoption of the initiative and referendum as a democratic doctrine—when have we had a contrast so striking, and when a humiliation to our party more complete? There may have been a time when the democratic party would have tolerated a candidate like Governor Harmon, but to nominate a man who is opposed to putting confidence in the people now, would be suicidal—it would be worse than suicidal. The democratic party can not afford to go to the people as a reactionary party—as a party that distrusts the people especially at a time like this when democracy is taking possession of a large element of the republican party.

There are a number of questions upon which Mr. Roosevelt is not democratic, but his position on the initiative and referendum is entirely democratic, and in his speech at Columbus he presented with great force, the idea that the people are the source of power. In delivering this speech at the very home of Governor Harmon and before a constitutional convention entrusted with the preparation of a new organic law, he has read Governor Harmon out of active politics, for the democratic party will never dare to offend the democratic sentiment of the nation, or even of Ohio by naming a man who has put himself on record as afraid to trust the people with the control of their own government.

If the two speeches, the one by Mr. Harmon and the other by Mr. Roosevelt had been made a year ago, the democratic sky would be clear and we would now be engaged in a friendly contest to see which progressive had the greatest strength in the party, but even coming as late as they did, these two speeches will tend to unite the democratic party by the elimination of Governor Harmon as a political factor. Those who have been supporting him under the mistaken idea that he is progressive will now divide among the other candidates, leaving him only those who knew of his reactionary leanings, and such supporters will not be numerous enough to give him a standing in the convention.

THE PROGRESSIVE DELEGATES IN NEBRASKA

The following delegates-at-large and in the districts, represent progressive sentiment and favor the nomination of a progressive democrat for president on a progressive platform. They are opposed to surrendering the party into the control of the predatory interests:

Delegates-at-Large—Judge G. L. Loomis, I. J. Dunn, Judge W. H. Westover, W. J. Bryan.
First District Delegates—A. S. Tibbetts, W. D. Wheeler.
Second District Delegates—C. J. Smyth, J. W. Woodrough.
Third District Delegates—W. H. Green, Louis Lightner, W. J. McVicker.
Fourth District Delegates—C. E. Bowlby, Matt Miller.
Fifth District Delegates—P. W. Shea, Frank P. Swanson.
Sixth District Delegates—Frank Taylor, Orin Reed, Jas. W. Finnegan, George C. Gillan.

DRIVEN TO DESPERATION

That the opponents of the recall are hard pressed is evident from the use they are trying to make of a recent crime. The fact that any one mentions the shooting of that Virginia judge in connection with the recall shows in what straits the opponents of the recall are for an argument. A person is assumed to use the best argument he has, and the poverty of arguments against the recall is shown by the use that some have been making of that.

The argument must be attributed to desperation, for it would be a reflection against a man's intelligence to accuse him of not being able to see a difference between the shooting of a judge by an outlaw and the recalling of a judge at an

election. They also shot the sheriff but no reference is heard to that as an objection to recalling sheriffs.

Even Mr. Taft did not object to the recall of sheriffs in Arizona. Do you think he will now that he has read of the shooting of a sheriff in Virginia?

This attempt to liken the recall to the murder of a judge is about as far-fetched as Congressman Campbell's effort to compare it with the mob that cried "crucify him" when Christ was on trial. This was not only like comparing the action of a mob hanging a prisoner with an election, but it overlooks a very important passage in the Bible which declares it was the common people that "heard Christ gladly."

WALL STREET TACTICS

Senator Hitchcock ought to know the progressive democrats of Nebraska—he used to be with them—well enough to know that they can not be deceived by Wall street tactics. He professes indignation that the progressives should desire to combine against a reactionary candidate. He pretends great fondness for the primary law so long as it makes it possible for a Harmon minority to defeat a progressive majority, but if the progressives unite to defeat the scheme to turn Nebraska over to the predatory interests they must endure the denunciation of the senator's paper. Well, they can stand it.

The senator is also disturbed because the progressives saw fit to indorse four delegates-at-large—his name not being included in the list. He calls it "dictation." Have not the progressives as much right to urge the election of progressives as he has to oppose them? Mr. Hitchcock has picked out and published HIS ticket. Why not a progressive ticket. The delegates from Nebraska will help to write a platform—would reactionaries write a progressive platform?

In case the person instructed for can not be nominated delegates act on their own judgment—would reactionaries, thus released, nominate a progressive? Mr. Hitchcock says that Mr. Harmon is his first choice. Mr. Harmon is a progressive, according to Mr. Hitchcock's understanding of progressiveness. Why should progressives intrust their interests to those who openly ally themselves with the reactionaries?

A TIMELY WARNING

The Commoner of August 26, 1910, contained the following editorial:

"ROOSEVELT IN 1912"

"It looks like Roosevelt expected to be a candidate in 1912. Some of his enthusiastic friends have been talking about him but there was nothing to support their prophesies until the confidential friends, who visited him after the turn down for chairman, announced that he will be a candidate only if it is necessary to do so in order to carry out "his policies." That means that he is not satisfied with the administration and expects to contest the nomination two years hence. That means fun. And how will he set forth, specifically, the policies which he regards as his? It will be interesting to know what policies he regards as of such vital importance as to justify him in violating the precedent of a century. Are there any good policies that a democratic victory would not protect?"

This timely warning was given a year and a half ahead of his announcement. If you want to know what is going on, read The Commoner.

PRESIDENT BIGELOW

President Bigelow is not under any misapprehension as to the responsibilities of leadership. When, in recognition of his long fight for the initiative and referendum, he was made president of the Ohio constitutional convention he did not deem it his duty to quit fighting. On the contrary, he fights the harder. He takes the floor whenever necessary to carry out the policies which gave him the presidency. He leads, and this leadership will be a tower of strength to the progressive cause. If Ohio were urging him for the presidential nomination the democratic party might think it wise to turn to that state for leadership. Bigelow would make not only a strong candidate but an admirable executive.

PROGRESS

The republicans of the house voted 80 to 40 for the income tax bill—who would have thought it possible a few years ago? Surely the world is moving when two-thirds of the republicans go on record in favor of an income tax—and what will poor Mr. Taft do with no tariff commission to instruct him?

WHAT DO YOU GUESS?

The political situation in the republican party is as exciting as a guessing contest. Almost anything may happen.

First—There may be no primaries—in which case Mr. Taft is likely to be nominated with the aid of the organization, the officeholders and the south.

Second—There may be primaries—in which case Mr. Roosevelt may be nominated.

Third—Mr. Taft may find out that, although he can get the nomination with the aid of his organization, officeholders and the south, he can not hope to win with the rank and file of his party against him—in that case he may withdraw and let Mr. Roosevelt have the nomination, on the theory that Mr. Roosevelt, having disrupted the party should be allowed to enjoy the defeat that seems inevitable.

Fourth—Mr. Roosevelt may find that he can not win the nomination this time and, with a view to 1916, may withdraw with some such announcement as this: "Fellow republicans, I have been misled. I was persuaded that the people demanded my nomination and, so believing, I sacrificed my own inclinations and yielded to entreaty, but I find that the petitioners were mistaken. That being the case, I am delighted to withdraw and support my old friend, Will Taft, who is, I am glad to say, all that I promised when I picked him out, nominated him and elected him."

Fifth—La Follette may have enough delegates to hold the balance of power and thus force his own nomination or the nomination of a dark horse.

Sixth—The fight may continue up to the final ballot in the convention in which case the convention will be well worth attending. The Commoner will be pleased to print any other guesses that its readers may send in.

GENERAL J. B. WEAVER

Fairhope, Ala., Feb. 28, 1912.—Editor Commoner: As a life friend and admirer of Gen. Weaver and for many years an intimate collaborator with him in politics, I feel like contributing some public expression to the volume of appreciation that his death has called forth. Perhaps the enclosed tribute to his worth may find room in your columns. J. BELLANGEE.
A noble man died, when Weaver, our friend,
On the wings of the spirit departed.
Great souled was his life and true to the end,
Devoted, sincere, openhearted;
The truth to support, the right to defend,
He ever was ready his life's blood to spend
When once on a cause he had started.

The forces of wrong he traced to their source,
With vigilance keen, never sleeping;
And bravely he sought by every recourse,
To check their iniquitous reaping.
Though crushed by great odds, o'erwhelming in
force,
He fought a good fight; he finished his course
With faith quite undimmed in his keeping.

The thoughtless may judge that his struggles
for right
Were ended in fruitless endeavor.
His failures were merely a shift in the fight
That's world-wide and terminates never.
His triumph was won when he challenged the
night;
His reward that he saw the beacons of light
That shine from Truth's camp-fires forever.

HERE'S A GEM (?)

Ex-Senator Beveridge recently made a speech in favor of ex-President Roosevelt before a Boston audience. In the course of his remarks he said: "But it is said that a third term means the downfall of the republic. Col. Roosevelt ought to be elected, if for nothing else than to put an end to this silly superstition." Here is one of the brightest of the spurious gems yet placed in the collection of imitations brought forth by the Roosevelt candidacy. It is a "silly superstition" is it? It had sense enough in it to keep General Grant from being nominated a third time, although he had led the victorious armies of the north through the greatest civil war of history. And is it so important that this "silly superstition" be ended that Mr. Roosevelt should be elected to end it, "if for nothing else?" Well, we shall see.

A PENNSYLVANIA PLATFORM

J. W. Verner of East Brady Pa., has announced himself as candidate for delegate to the Baltimore convention from the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania district. He is a candidate upon a distinctly progressive platform.