

DARK HORSES IN POLITICS

When Lord Beaconsfield, as Benjamin Disraeli, the brilliant rising novelist, penned a passage in "The Young Duke," descriptive of a great event on the turf, he probably little dreamed that he had contributed a

phrase to the terminology of American politics, says the Boston Evening Telegraph. In the passage occurs the expression "a dark horse," a steed which had never been thought of and which the careless hero of the novel had never even observed in the list, but which rushed past the grandstand in sweeping triumph. It was a long time before our American journalist and politicians were affected by the symbolism and put the phrase "a dark horse" into general circulation. It has been circulated so extensively since its adoption that it is decidedly hackneyed. Every man who is not in the first rank of favorites, but who manages to come out ahead in the struggle, is nowadays described as a dark horse, whereas it is clear that Disraeli simply means an animal that not even the experienced frequenters of the turf had thought worthy of notice.

We hear much of the dark horses of presidential conventions, so much more in fact than is justified by truth, that there is a necessity for the phrase-makers to begin to find a substitute for the outworn expression. It is the fondness of one party and the prejudice of the other which lead us to the characterization of every winner whose success was not palpably foreordained as a dark horse. For a number of years now we have not seen the nominating prize of the campaign turf carried off by a dark horse. Indeed, we may reasonably doubt whether the United States has ever seen a dark horse. Almost all our presidential nominees since the convention system came into use have been men of whom it might be said that they were not unreasonable if they cherished the expectations of obtaining the highest honors in the gift of their party. How about Polk? somebody will ask. To this the answer is that Polk was not an unknown man to his generation. He had served fifteen years in congress, four years of that time as speaker, had been governor of his state and was regarded as an effective campaign orator. It is no exaggeration to say that Polk was as well known to the Americans of 1844 as Champ Clark is to the Americans of 1912. He was no sudden discovery, and though he profited by a boom, sprung on a late ballet in convention, he did not emerge from obscurity.

Another president who is put in the dark-horse class by those whose knowledge of his time is exceedingly limited is Hayes. Yet Hayes had been voted for on several ballots before that which gave him the nomination, and, moreover, Hayes had in 1875 made a campaign in Ohio for sound money which had attracted the attention of the nation. When the convention of 1876 met, Hayes was by no means an unknown quantity or of unknown quality.

The tradition of dark horses is fed from several sources. In the first place the tradition is picturesque, and, secondly, it is very gratifying to our national vanity as showing that whatever our situation we can develop from the material at hand the man for the hour who promises to be a man, if not for all time, for a conspicuous place in history.

Bryan came nearer to filling all the catalogue requirements of a dark horse than any man ever nominated for the presidency. Few before the famous stampede of 1896 could have given anything like a comprehensive sketch of the life and achievements of the now famous Nebraskan. His career had not impressed itself on the public imagination, and he was, the morning after the standard was placed in his hands, nowhere near so well known as Polk was to the democrats of 1844.—Denver Times.



Senator Cummins of Iowa has issued a statement saying that he is opposed to the third party but expects to vote for Roosevelt.

Mr. Roosevelt left Oyster Bay for a western trip, visiting Missouri and Iowa.

It is announced that Woodrow Wilson will deliver a series of speeches in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota during September and that early in October he will speak in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa.

On Sunday, September 1st, Mr. Roosevelt made public an 18,000-word statement in which he takes up the testimony recently given before the senate investigating committee by John D. Archbold, of the Standard Oil company, and Senator Penrose, with reference to the campaign contributions of 1904. He denies flatly any knowledge of the gift; refers to the alleged efforts of the Standard Oil company to negotiate through Senator Bourne as to rebating charges, and tells of his relations with George W. Perkins, of the Harvester trust.

A dispatch to the Louisville Courier-Journal says: Colonel R. C. Morgan, of Lexington, brother of General John H. Morgan, pronounces absurd the claim of Mrs. L. F. La-Brue, of Oklahoma, that the confederate leader was not killed at Greenville, Tenn., but went west, married under an assumed name and was her father.

A cablegram to the Louisville Courier-Journal says that the Austrian suggestion of autonomy for the European province of Turkey has spurred that country and Italy to renewed negotiations for peace, as both are opposed to the proposed change.

Governor Wilson spoke at Buffalo, and referring to the progress of the social betterments, outlined in the third party platform, the governor continued:

"With that program, who can differ in his heart, who can divorce himself in sympathy from the great object of advancing the interests of human beings wherever it is possible to advance them? But there is a central method, a central purpose in that platform from which I very seriously dissent. What is the program of the third party we regard to the disentanglement of the government? Mr. Roosevelt has said—and up to a certain point, I sympathize with him—that he does not object, for example, to the system of protection except in this circumstance that it has not inured to the benefit of the working men of this country. It is very interesting to have him admit that, because the leaders of the republican party have been at times out of mind, putting this bluff upon you men that the protective policy was for your sake. I would like to know what you ever got out of it that you did not get by the effort of organized labor."

The speaker then assailed the minimum wage idea and the plan of a federal commission to control monopolies, and continued:

"Ours is a program of liberty and theirs is a program of regulation. Ours is a program by which we say we know the wrongs that have been committed and we can stop these wrongs and we are not going to adopt

into this governmental family the men who have done the wrongs and license them to do the whole business of the country. I want you men to grasp the point, because I want to say to you right now the program that I propose does not look quite as much like acting as a providence for you as the other program looks, but I want frankly to say to you that I am not big enough to play providence and my objection to the other program is that I do not believe there is any man who is big enough to play providence.

"What I fear is a government of experts. God forbid that in a democratic country we would resign the task and give the government over to experts. What are we for if we are to be scientifically taken care of by a small number of gentlemen who are the only men who understand the job? Because if we do not understand the job we are not a free people; we ought to resign our free institutions and to go to school to somebody and find out what it is we are about."

At the citizens' meeting in the evening in the old Sixty-fifth armory, Governor Wilson was greeted by the largest crowd that had yet gathered to hear him in his campaign. In his speech he renewed his praise of the third party, said there were many noble men in it for good purposes, but others also for special individual purposes about which it was best to say little, because, he added, he had forbidden himself the discussion of personalities.

The governor declared that if the leader of the third party was elected president, he would have "no third party congress beside him." The third party, he predicted, would lead to confusion. He analyzed the republican party as the "old-line-stay-where-it-is republican party," which "did not know how to govern," and suggested that the third party was "unorganized and not ready to act for the people," but the democratic party represented the single united force which was ready to undertake the task of reform.

The progressive party in Nebraska had a state convention and indorsed the republican state ticket. They nominated six of the eight republican electors who had declared for Roosevelt and nominated two new ones to take the place of the two electors who had declared for Taft.

There was a riot in the Michigan penitentiary and troops were called to suppress the prisoners. One prisoner was wounded.

Ohio held a special election September 3rd. An Associated Press dispatch from Columbus, says: With the exception of woman suffrage and possibly one or two minor amendments, the entire work of the constitutional convention appeared today to be ratified by the people in yesterday's special election. With only about 50 per cent of the vote of the state polled, indications at 8 o'clock were that the initiative and referendum, home rule for cities, constitutional amendments, judicial reform, state-wide primaries, taxation reform, good roads and liquor license were adopted by pluralities ranging from 10,000 to 60,000.

Woman suffrage was defeated by about 50,000. It is believed that the amendment providing for state-wide primaries will have the largest plurality, with minimum wage, sec-

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