

The Republican Candidate

The republican papers are giving an increasing amount of space to the discussion of the availability of republican candidates. It is a difficult situation which the G. O. P. leaders have to meet and it is interesting to note the diligence with which they seek someone who can promise success. They would gladly give a large reward for an "in hoc signo vinces." Just now they are carefully weighing the relative popularity of candidates—but so far they have found apothecary scales sufficient. The trouble with the republican party is that it is divided—not in the middle as it was in 1912, but still divided to such an extent that agreement upon a satisfactory candidate is a matter of great difficulty. Among those who still call themselves republicans there are two elements—the standpatters and the progressives. The progressives might be still further divided into NOMINAL and real progressives. A nominal progressive may be defined as a republican who is in favor of any progressive policy that the republican party will stand for, but is for the republican party whether it stands for any progressive policies or not. The standpatters have taken the measure of the nominal progressives and will make little effort to sugar-coat the pill which is to be administered. The real progressives—those who put principle first and refuse to follow any party that is not progressive can not take kindly—in fact can not take at all—to the plan which the republican leaders are formulating. The real progressive is pleased with President Wilson, and prefers his kind of democracy to standpat republicanism.

No one who is half awake can be ignorant of the fact that the republican party, as an organization, is still the party of plutocracy. If it is successful in regaining control of the government it will go back to a tariff higher than the one which existed before the democratic party came in; if entrusted with power it will, at the earliest opportunity, turn the entire federal reserve system over to the Wall street magnates—a very easy matter for a president elected by Wall street and obedient to Wall street. If the republican party is returned to power the trusts will again be invited to spread a Belshazzar's feast at the expense of the public. The leaders of the republican party are Bourbon to the backbone—they never learn. They have neither the desire nor the capacity for reform; they are chained to their idols.

Already the old slogans are being repeated, chief among which is "business." While this is the intoxication that brought the republican party to the verge of delirium tremens, the hold of the habit is still unbroken. As in 1896, it will be necessary for the democratic party to call attention to the gross misconception the republican leaders have of the definition of a "business man." It will be necessary to appeal again to the pride of the producers of the country and to call upon them to assert their right to be counted among the business men of the land. A "business man's candidate," according to standpat republican leaders, is a man whose sympathies are with the whales and against the rest of the fish, who, as president, would run the government "wide open," that is, for the benefit of big exploiters. None other need apply at the Root-Penrose-Cannon headquarters.

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A STRINGENT LIQUOR LAW IN FLORIDA

On another page will be found a copy of the law recently enacted in Florida placing severe restrictions upon the sale of liquor in that state. It will be noticed:

First: That intoxicating liquor can only be sold in sealed packages;

Second: That the dealer shall not himself drink, consume, or give away any intoxicating liquor, and that he shall not permit any employee or purchased to drink, consume or give away any intoxicating liquor on the premises;

Third: That the liquor shall not be sold before 7 o'clock in the morning or after 6 o'clock in the evening;

Fourth: That no chairs shall be allowed in a place where liquor is sold; that no music or other attractions shall be permitted there, and that no blinds or curtains shall obscure the interior of the saloon, day or night; and

Fifth: That no goods shall be sold on credit. These are the principal features of the new

law, although there are other provisions, such as the prohibition of the employment of minors or women; the sale of liquor to minors or to drunkards, etc.

The legislature has taken a step in the right direction. The new law is not only good in itself but it will make easier the next step which can not long be delayed, namely, the entire prohibition of the manufacture and sale of liquor in the state.

Lloyd George is authority for the statement that many English workmen love their beer better than they do their country, and refuse to come to the support of England in her hour of need by abjuring the use of that which prevents them from turning out adequate supplies of munitions of war. Before Americans grow indignant over this attitude of these English workers, however, they should take note of the fact that in every city and state where the question of prohibition is an issue practically every defender of the saloon can be counted upon to abandon party leaders whom he has patriotically followed for years, and a party that represents every other principle in which he believes when the command to desert is given by John Barleycorn. Those who place booze above everything else as a campaign issue can not fairly call unpatriotic the British navy yard workman who refuses to abandon booze long enough to repel an invader.

Big Business which is also in Big Politics is licking its chops expectantly. It has been reading the interviews and editorials in the metropolitan papers for the last two months from sapient gentlemen who insist that a strong wave of reaction has set in, and that the voters of the nation are impatiently waiting for the opportunity to reinstall the old system of government based on the idea that the only way to get prosperity is to heap it in the laps of the few and blissfully hope that they will hand it down to the many. There is a rude awakening in store for those foolish and greedy ones who imagine that the educational process which has been going on in this country for some years has not resulted in imbedding a higher grade of wisdom than that in the minds of the voters.

The complaint is frequently made that it is impossible to secure the adoption of new charters for cities and new constitutions for states, but it is not difficult to explain why this is true. Most of the men who draw these documents are taken from the business and professional classes where distrust of the ability of the people to govern themselves is always manifest in some form or another. And having constructed new hobbles for the people, they expect the people to gratefully don them and look pleasant about it.

As illustrating how deliberate are the mental processes of some men supposed to be masters of intellect, it might be pointed out that Former Naval Secretary Meyer came to the front with a denunciation of Secretary Daniels and held him as responsible for the loss of a submarine in the harbor of Honolulu before the boat was raised and it was possible to know what caused the accident. Lest it be supposed that there may have been some other reason for the criticism, it may be stated that Mr. Meyer is a republican.

The New York World which has not been distinguished for its advocacy of woman suffrage, undertook to settle the question of whether women really wanted the ballot. Its poll showed that 77 per cent did. This settled it for the editor of the World, but it is a safe wager that the next time a group takes up the discussion the same number of positive-minded gentlemen who know women do not want the vote will be on hand to urge that as an objection.

The heaviest bombardment of the Dardanelles was on the same day that the cross-examination of Colonel Roosevelt was at its height. The fact that the people of the United States were not aware of this at the time is not a matter that calls for any criticism of the cannon of the allied fleets. They were doing their best against unusual and extraordinary competition.

At a recent meeting of the Lincoln bar association one of the talented orators of the evening spoke on the subject: "The Lawyer; Is He a Knave or a Gentleman?" The point was whether the training and practice of the law made him one or the other. Like the tariff question, this largely involves a question of where we get the raw material from.

The Question of Compensation

Now that the liquor interests are threatened with the annihilation of their business we hear again the argument that they should be compensated for any loss they may suffer as a result of laws prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquor. If this came in the form of a proposition, submitted by the liquor interests in return for the voluntary abandonment of their business, it would be more worthy of consideration, but it is not presented as a basis of agreement and an offer to buy them out would not change the attitude of the representatives of the liquor interests. If they could by any means force the adoption of a provision compelling the public to compensate those driven out of business they would fight prohibition just the same, and such concessions to them, being manifestly unjust, would simply alienate the friends of prohibition without winning support from its enemies.

And why should the matter of compensation be considered? Is any liquor dealer ignorant of the character of the business? Does he not know that the liquor business is in a class by itself? Is he not compelled to secure a license before he can open his place of business, and has he not observed the tendency toward increasing taxes upon his business? Is he not required to observe laws forbidding the sale of liquor to drunkards and to minors? Does he not have to give bond for the payment of damages caused? Is he not liable to suit at the hands of those who are injured by his business? Does he not see daily the ruin that liquor causes and does he not, therefore, engage in the business with a full knowledge of the harm that it works to his fellow men? Being under no compulsion to go into the business, and being free to retire from it at any time, he can not ask immunity from the effects of legislation which the evils incident to his business compel.

If any attempt were made to collect from society a sum sufficient to compensate the brewer, the distiller or the saloon-keeper for loss due to the enactment of prohibitory laws a multitude of voices would answer "NO!" The public has already paid an enormous penalty for permitting the business to exist so long. Why should society insure the liquor dealer against loss when the liquor dealer has been so indifferent to the loss that he inflicts upon society, individually and as a whole? How many husbands have been converted into brutes by the use of liquor? Do those who sell the stuff offer to restore the husbands whom they have ruined? How many homes have been made desolate? Have those who caused this desolation had any thought of making restoration? How many young men have been dragged down to destruction by rum? Do the brewers, the distillers and the saloon-keepers offer to compensate the mothers for the loss of sons—could they do so even if they desired? What is a young man worth? What price can be put upon the possibilities of a human life or upon an immortal soul?

Have the liquor dealers any intention of repairing the wrong they have done to government and to our institutions by the methods they have employed to prolong their reign of lawlessness?

He who comes into a court of equity must come with clean hands—look at the hands of those who handle alcohol! Is it necessary to purchase the burglar's kit of tools before putting him out of business. It would be scarcely less absurd to talk of allowing the saloon to run until the people are ready to tax themselves to make good this investment in sin and crime. From the time a majority of the members of congress voted for national prohibition the saloon business has been an outlaw—it was a criminal before. Those who have invested in it can get out of it as best they can and as soon as they can. Such loss as the business may suffer will fall heaviest on those who are either too blind to see the trend of public sentiment, or too indifferent to heed the signs of the times.

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There are still a few critics of the Mexican policy of the administration. They are largely confined to those men who see no contradiction in their opposition to armed intervention and their demand that the lives of Americans who remain within the borders of war-torn Mexico be adequately protected.