

A BIG FIGHT IN OHIO'S STATE CAMPAIGN

Columbus, O., September 20.—(Special Correspondence)—The pending campaign in Ohio is doubtless occupying the center of the political stage this year. The result of no other state election will be awaited so impatiently; no other political battle will be watched so eagerly.

The issues are clearly drawn. The republican state platform sought to divert interest from state affairs to those of national import. The democratic state platform would have none of it. It points out that nothing of national concern is at stake—except civic pride; that the sole issue is one of wholesome respect for an honest enforcement of law as against machine contempt for law and its administration by grafters. Home rule for each political subdivision of the state in local affairs is the dominant note in the democratic chorus. The opening guns of the campaign were recently fired by the respective party chairmen. Senator Dick of the republican committee, "pointed with pride" to his party's past, but sang low as to the present, and gave no encouragement for the future. He insisted that Roosevelt's hands should be held up and sought to invoke the hitherto potent slogan "stand by the president." Congressman Garber riddled the appeal "stand by the president" with the caustic remark that as the sole democratic representative from Ohio he would voice the sentiment of the party in the state by standing by Roosevelt in the next congress as he had done in the last on the railroad rate legislation passed by the house and smothered in the senate of which Dick is a member; that he would continue to represent a unanimous Ohio democracy by standing by Roosevelt in his effort to revise and reduce the tariff, while Senator Dick would doubtless continue a conspicuous stand-patter. Garber insisted that home rule would be pressed; that bosses, personified in George B. Cox, would be grappled with and that the grafter, busy in every nook and cranny of the state, would be engaged in combat. Evidently Garber's pronunciamento brought blood, for Chairman Dick's literary bureau has been running over time ever since to show that every time the fight has been made exclusively on home affairs in this state the democrats have won; that four democratic governors and legislatures have been elected and as a result the democrats have captured four terms in the United States senate. The fact that the democracy has been able to make a successful arraignment of republican administrations of local affairs suggests that the rule was offensive; but it may be overlooked in consideration of Chairman Dick's major note of warning, to-wit, that past campaigns fought on local issues awarded senatorships to the democracy. This ghost is effectually dissipated when the simple fact that the legislature to be elected in November will not be called upon to elect a United States senator is stated.

Mutterings against the renomination of Governor Myron T. Herrick began over a year ago and have grown into a deafening roar. Herrick may be a good enough business man and citizen.

The Discovery of Herrick

He was discovered by the late Senator Hanna and by him made governor. In his first campaign Senator Hanna enlisted the support of the brewing and liquor interests of the state by pledging Candidate Herrick to veto any proposed legislation inimical to them. Herrick was elected. The legislature agreed on a local option law enabling residence districts to rid themselves of saloons by a majority vote of the electors in the territory affected. Under Governor Herrick's threat to veto the entire measure the legislature was forced to eliminate from the bill the features most objectionable to the brewers and liquor dealers which, of course, were considered most vital by the church and temperance people led by the anti-saloon league. Every church society, league, Sunday school, conference, assembly, Presbytery or affiliated organization in the state immediately passed resolutions protesting against Herrick's renomination. Thus a propaganda that had grown every hour was launched. Lieutenant Governor Harding was groomed for the gubernatorial nomination by the republicans and was riding to the goal when Boss Cox of Cincinnati, packed his trunk, handed a "statement" to the newspapers declaring for Herrick's renomination—commanding it. Cox's grip on the throttle of the republican machine in Ohio is undisputed and undivided since Senator Hanna's death. His word was obeyed to the letter. Every officeholder, grafter, machine creature in the state sprang to the rescue and despite the protest of respectability machine-made delegates were se-

lected from every county, and Governor Herrick was unanimously renominated. A more offensive demonstration of the power of a boss was never made. A revolt started. Ohio never witnessed its like. The anti-saloon league opposition settled into stubborn resistance to boss domination. The lines were extended. The grafter was attacked; a corrupt legislature's record was examined.

Space forbids reference to but a very few of the many counts in the indictment against the Cox-Dick-Herrick "Organization." This triumvirate which claimed the Hanna machine by direct inheritance ran it to the limits of selfishness. The "Organization" from their standpoint is the republican party. Self-respecting, intelligent republicans rebel. The machine stifles their voices in primaries and conventions—the machine is dominant in every county—and their only redress is to smash it through the agency of the democratic party.

Republican Maladministration

It has been found that the last legislature created numberless unnecessary offices for the sole purpose of providing places for "Organization" favorites; that it cost the taxpayers of the state almost twice as much as the last democratic legislature cost; that it enacted a new school code for the benefit of the grafters; that though it feared to reduce the levy for school purposes at the governor's behest, it robbed the school fund of \$200,000 per year by passing that sum over to county officials for doing work that had hitherto cost nothing to have done; that it made liberal appropriations for the support and maintenance of the agricultural schools and experiment stations of the state which Governor Herrick vetoed on the same day that he signed the judicial appropriation bill carrying an increase of \$200,000 per annum in judges' salaries; that by redistricting of the state for judicial purposes less than five per cent of the judges can be of the democratic party; that it passed and the governor approved an inheritance tax law laying a levy of two per cent on all inheritances in such manner as to affect moderate sized estates that paid taxes during the life of the owner; that nothing short of a "petition in boots" prevented the legislature from transferring the canal property of the state worth millions to a syndicate of which Boss George B. Cox was the head and in which Governor Herrick was a stockholder. The canal people of the state invaded the capitol while this bill was pending and compelled its defeat by a physical demonstration. But the protestants know Boss Cox well enough to know that he will consummate his scheme of plunder when he gets a legislature a trifle more daring than the last, and come into possession of canal property in Cincinnati that can be converted into railway terminals worth millions.

Gigantic Schemes of Graft

In the general charge of graft against the present administration in Ohio specifications are by no means wanting. For instance, it has been shown that it cost \$21,000 last year to mow the lawn about the state house (consisting of a single square in Columbus) and feed the squirrels there. There is a small army employed in this work but, of course, it is not expected to keep the walks clear of snow in winter. It is shown that the state senate carries on its pay rolls two employes for each member. It is shown that it costs \$110 per day to simply sweep the senate floor. Despite the fact that the constitution strictly forbids it, the general assembly spent over \$10,000 last session for telephone tolls. George B. Cox was in daily telephonic communication with the legislature, issuing orders and commanding votes by long distance, and had the supreme nerve to charge the tolls to the state which paid the bills. Governor Herrick refuses to permit an examination of the telephone bills in the executive department to ascertain whether or not Cox conversed with him during the legislative session at the expense of the taxpayers. The legislature established a bureau of public accounting. The state auditor appoints the examiners. Their number is not limited nor their compensation fixed. None but the auditor knows how many there are, but a great many political "machinists" were thus provided for. A few illustrations of the workings of this law will suffice. An inspector was sent to examine the county records and another the city records at Bellefontaine where Governor Herrick is to formally open his campaign. Each inspector spent several weeks on the books of county and city respectively. The county inspector found some slight overcharges in fees. He made his report and presented his

bill which the state auditor ordered the county auditor to pay. It amounts to more than the illegal fees that he, charged had been collected by county officers. One item was a board bill for several weeks at \$2.00 per day. The inspector of city accounts reported that the mayor, who happened to be a democrat, had collected several hundred dollars in excessive fees which he was ordered to cover into the treasury. The mayor put it up to the city council. That body refused to accept the refund or to bring suit against the mayor. But finally a friendly action was brought to test the law. The state was defeated. The courts held that the mayor had collected no excessive fees. But meantime the city inspector had presented a bill for services and expenses, including a board bill at the rate of \$3.50 per day for several weeks which the state auditor ordered the city auditor to pay. He stopped at the same hotel at which the county inspector stopped. The maximum rate charged by the hotel is \$2.00 per day with a liberal reduction by the week. Democrats charge that there is a suspicion of graft at least about this. A. P. Sandles is clerk of courts of Putnam, the banner democratic county of the state. He was the democratic candidate for secretary of state last year. He must be investigated. An inspector was sent to Putnam county. In due course of weeks, at so much per diem and flexible expenses, the report was filed. The republican newspapers of the state proclaimed in flaming headlines "Sandles Must Refund Collected Excessive Fees." The report showed that in two years Mr. Sandles had over-taxed his cost bills a few pennies here and there, in the aggregate \$39.04. At the bottom of the sensational newspaper account and in small type it was stated that Mr. Sandles had failed to tax up costs amounting to \$105.49 which was due him. Mr. Sandles simply drew the \$105.49 and paid over the \$39.04 with a courteous "thank you." On the same day that this report was filed there was also filed a report on Mahoning, a rock-ribbed republican county. Every official is a republican and each was properly complimented because he was a thief. The books were found so very straight that the people grew suspicious and demanded that the court appoint an investigating committee to review the work of the state inspector. This was done and this committee of taxpayers found and reported a shortage of over \$12,000 in one office. The Columbus Dispatch recently consumed its entire front page in wood and black-faced type proclaiming that the democratic sheriff of this, Franklin county, candidate for reelection, has drawn illegal allowances of something over \$1,000. It is found that this sheriff had not followed a custom established many years ago and adhered to by all his predecessors. It is not charged that the purchases were unnecessary. Indeed a list of them are given—jail supplies, disinfectants, cooking utensils, brooms, etc. But the sheriff had not made the purchase at all. They were made by a republican board of commissioners. This boomerang information was given out in advance of the regular report of the inspectors. Some three months ago it leaked out that there was an actual shortage in the treasurer's accounts in benighted Athens county. Two republican treasurers were involved and the findings were that these officials had collected \$75,000 in taxes and failed to account for the same. This report was held up for weeks. When finally published it occupied in republican newspapers about one-fourth of the space occupied by the headlines only falsely announcing the Franklin sheriff's irregularity for which due apology was made by the offending papers next day. This too previous announcement was for a double purpose. Republicans desire to defeat the democratic candidate, and, more important, Chairman Dick seeks to soften the charge of graft by involving some democratic officials.

How Pattison Was Nominated

The Democratic State convention which assembled late in June presented a striking contrast to the Cox affairs a few weeks earlier. Cox named the candidates in advance of the republican convention and then notified the delegates when he would arrive and when he would depart. All business must be transacted with dispatch. It was. John M. Pattison was a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor. He was not supported by a single one of the so-called democratic bosses or "leaders." He was opposed by the delegations from the eight counties of the state containing the eight largest cities. But the delegates from the rural

(Continued on Page 9)