

A Republican Tip for Ohioans

Voters generally, and particularly those of Ohio will be interested in an editorial that appeared Wednesday, September 27 in the New York Press, a stalwart republican newspaper. That editorial is entitled "Republican Success Threatened by Foraker Treachery," and is as follows:

"Senator Foraker says the railroad rate question is not a party question. Herein he is right. Senator Foraker says the republicans of Ohio do not stand with President Roosevelt on the railroad regulation policy. Herein he is wrong. As proof that the Roosevelt program is not a party question Mr. Foraker notes that Mr. William J. Bryan has been its chief advocate for years, and that Mr. Roosevelt and the democratic leader are in perfect accord on the plan to give the interstate commerce commission or some other administrative body power over railroad tariffs. Mr. Foraker cites this fact to bring the rate regulation policy into disrepute. But the average citizen will reckon that there must be some merit to a scheme that has the approval both of the foremost republican and the foremost democrat.

"In this matter, as in several others, Mr. Bryan is a better republican than Senator Foraker, a better American than Senator Aldrich, a more loyal citizen than Senator Elkins, and he looms so far above a dozen other senators who mask behind the name of "republican" that we could gladly exchange the whole outfit of them for Mr. Bryan even with all his economic heresies. At least he is not a hired man for the railroads or the trusts or the insurance companies. As proof that the republicans of Ohio are not in accord with President Roosevelt on his program of federal control Mr. Foraker points to the failure of the Ohio state convention to indorse the project. If it were customary for the Ohio state convention to record the wishes of the republican party of Ohio we should not challenge the senator's statement that the absence from the state platform of any indorsement of the Roosevelt rate policy is evidence that the Ohio republicans have lined up with the railroads against the president. But so rarely do the Ohio republicans have a free hand in their state convention that its neglect this year to approve the president's rate plan does not mean that a majority of the 600,000 republicans who voted for Mr. Roosevelt last November have parted company with him on this question, or that the 255,000 Roosevelt plurality was given to him by the Ohio republicans in the belief that he would leave the syndicated railroads in undisturbed mastery of the people.

"The neglect of the Ohio convention to indorse the Roosevelt rate program simply means that Senator Foraker who inherited the old Han-

na machine, and who organized and bossed the convention, refused, in the interest of his railroad clients, to allow such a plank in the platform. It may be recalled that Senator Hanna tried to prevent the Ohio republican convention of 1903 from committing the state to the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt for the presidency, and that with his control of the machinery of the party he could have carried out his scheme. He desisted only when the whole country raised such a din around his ears that he did not dare to defy the sentiment. The significance of the Ohio convention's unsympathetic attitude toward an immensely popular cause is not that the republican voters or Roosevelt voters have gone over in a body to the syndicated railroads. It is simply that Senator Foraker and the corrupt influences he represents are as well entrenched in control of the party machinery as Senator Hanna was.

"Here is food for anxious reflection by republicans who hope and fight for the party welfare. They find themselves betrayed in Ohio and the party there threatened with disaster through the treachery to their leader. The choice forced on the voters is between a platform pledging itself enthusiastically and specifically to aid President Roosevelt's rate program and another platform whose silence is correctly interpreted by Senator Foraker to mean hostility to the Roosevelt policy. The platform that supports the republican president is that of the democrats; the platform that opposes him is nomi-

nally that of the republicans! What a sickening farce it becomes, then, for republican speakers to go out on the stump asking votes for a state ticket on the ground that votes against it will be votes against President Roosevelt—when the state platform tacitly says that a vote for it is a vote against the president in the matter of republican party policy which he holds nearest his heart! The truth remains, which the conscientious voter is compelled to accept, that a victory for the democratic state ticket in Ohio would, theoretically, be more a Roosevelt indorsement by the people of Ohio than a popular approval of the "republican" platform prepared by Senator Foraker for his friends, the railroads and trusts.

"Such is the humiliating predicament into which Senator Foraker has plunged the party. If it escapes ruin in Ohio at the hands of a wrathful electorate it will be because the aggregate benefits of republican state government outweigh the evils of party control by Forakerism, and not because the party deserves to succeed on its odious opposition to the cardinal feature of the Roosevelt domestic policy. A republican defeat in Ohio would be deplorable, but we are not sure that it would not benefit the party as a whole by calling attention to the penalty the voters of the United States are sure to inflict on national republicanism if through treason it is false to the commission the American people have given it, which President Roosevelt is striving to execute against formidable odds."

Chandler Warns the President

Former Senator W. E. Chandler warns the friends of railroad legislation to be on their guard concerning the railroad proposition that the interstate commerce commission be destroyed and a special railroad court be substituted. Mr. Chandler says that the establishment of this special railroad court would mean that the grievances of shippers would go unrelieved "until the law suits of poor men against huge railroads drag their slow length to a conclusion futile because so remote." In this connection Mr. Chandler tells this interesting story: "While a bill to strengthen the interstate commerce commission was pending in the senate I furnished, at his request, to a senator who was a strong opponent of the railroad counter-propositions for pooling and anti-scalping legislation, some data to be used by him in debate. Shortly he came home and said he had concluded not to speak. I asked him if his views had changed, and he replied that they had not, but that the railroads had sent for one of the richest and strongest men in his state, who was his personal friend and always helped him when he was in need, and who begged him to keep silent, which he had agreed to do. I ventured to ask him if he could afford thus to stifle his convictions, and this inquiry seemed to disturb him, for he said: "I have been thinking over this subject since my friend came, and I am coming to believe that strengthening the commission will do no good. We want stronger legislation and I am in favor of abolishing the commission and establishing a powerful railroad court in its stead." I concluded that the railroad's friend had captured my associate, and I gave him up as an ally, only asking back my memorandum of data. The advocates at the coming session of the abolition of the commission and the establishment of a railroad court should be viewed with curiosity and care."

Mr. Chandler says that if the president can not by any such methods be

diverted from the support of the proposition to give remedial power to the commission nor led to qualify it to its destruction, the intention of railroad managers is to persuade him to content himself with merely recommending it in his message and letting congress deal with it without further urging of any sort from him—the further urging without which they are sure they can overlay and postpone or defeat it.

Mr. Chandler adds: "Their plan has been to frighten him if they could; and if not, then to persuade him. Their plan early in 1904 was to defeat him for the nomination as president, and if they could not, then to nominate a conservative democrat whom they thought could be controlled by the money power. They did not defeat Roosevelt, but they did nominate Parker, and were satisfied with him. But it soon appeared that the latter could not as a plutocrat carry the democratic vote, and so he joined the proletariat and called upon Bryan to help him against the money power; which thereupon supported Roosevelt, whose great success brought the magnates again face to face with him as president—he who had ended the coal strike and destroyed the Northern Securities combination; and there they now stand, pleading, intriguing, hoping that he will betray his trust and abandon his pledges."

An eloquent description of Mr. Roosevelt's present-day popularity is given by Mr. Chandler, after which he says:

"That the railroad managers believe they can seduce a president like this from a duty to which he has consecrated himself seems incredible, but such is the case. There are now no more threats and denunciations. Their words are soft and tempting and might mean much in the not very far distant future. Shall he who is a leader and arbiter among the nations, the most conspicuous figure among all earthly rulers, who is to be forever historically associated with

Washington, Lincoln, Grant, Garfield and McKinley, give himself with unseemly zeal and unbecoming effort to securing a petty measure of power to a railroad commission to fix transportation rates; against the opposition of the greatest existing money power in the universe—which has so much in the future to give or to withhold? No doubt the railroad managers wish to take this marvelous president—the object of their present attention and solicitude—up into an exceeding high mountain, where they can show him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. That through their persuasion he will falter in his efforts to perform with all the characteristic force of his nature any announced duty, even the least, in his high office, will not be believed by the American people. But he needs all the help which the people can give to him against 13,000 millions of dollars absolutely controlled and directed for the purpose of defeating the president's proposition by Samuel Spencer and J. Pierpont Morgan and their associates, each one whispering: All these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

ONE ON PA

"Pa."
"Well, what is it now?"
"My teacher says I'm a natural born fool."
"Your teacher is a sensible woman and that's what I've always said. I suppose she had to explain to you what a natural born fool was?"
"Yes, pa. She said it was hereditary."—Cleveland Leader.

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