

THE FIGHT FOR THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION

Washington, D. C., July 1.—The contest for the republican presidential nomination grows daily in interest and in bitterness. Nobody doubts that President Roosevelt can have a nomination for his third term—the first in American history—if he wants it. He continually declares that he does not want it and will not take it, but curiously enough every statesman from Senator Bourne of Oregon, to John Temple Graves of Atlanta, Ga., who visits the White House, or the summer capital at Oyster Bay, comes away shouting for Theodore Roosevelt, the only savior of the nation. Why this singular harmony of the chorus in singing out of tune with the song that the star has been rendering? Who are we to believe, the faithful Loeb or the men who, one after another, have been taken into the domestic circle of Mr. Roosevelt and emerge as the most outspoken proponents of his boom. The list of presidential visitors in the last six months is a long one. It is safe to say that nearly every one has finished his interview with Mr. Roosevelt by telling the reporters who cluster about the doors of the executive offices that the president must be a candidate for a third term whether he wishes to be or not. Whence comes this inspiration?

Possibly it may come from the people. Mr. Roosevelt's popularity is as indubitable as it is unprecedented. The further you go from Washington the more he is idolized. The leaders of his party doubt or dislike him—sometimes with jealousy no doubt, more often because of a growing suspicion of an insincerity on his part which is narrowly approaching trickiness. They say of him:

A civil service reformer, he has debauched the civil service as it has not been since 1876.

A professed tariff reformer, he has done nothing except play fast and loose with the revisionists, and always for his own individual advancement.

Trading on anti-railroad sentiment he has forced the enactment of a law which the department of justice is afraid to attempt to enforce.

A loud opponent of trusts, he has seen the individual states—like Texas—curb them while the federal government remained supine.

Among the more thoughtful element in the republican party Mr. Roosevelt is regarded with mingled curiosity and doubt. Among the masses of the voters he is apparently looked upon with admiration amounting to idolatry. And just as Mr. Bryan, in his recent article in the New York World asserted that the majority of republicans were democratic in belief, though not in party alliance, so it is safe and right to say that hosts of democrats believe in Roosevelt though they distrust and dislike his party.

Whether their belief is intelligent or well founded, whether they are not worshipping a man who is all politician with even a touch of the charlatan is another matter. The condition exists.

The public men closest to Mr. Roosevelt, aside from his personal employes and "the tennis cabinet," seem to be the least enthusiastic concerning him. It is from men of this type that the movement to checkmate the designs they all think he has on the presidency, or on the succession, proceeds.

It was most significant that last week Kentucky refused to pledge its republican delegates to Taft. The secretary of war's state lies just across the river—so close to Kentucky that only a week or two ago a comic weekly depicted Roosevelt, in the garb of Eliza—of Uncle Tom fame—carrying Taft as the menaced pickaniny across the ice-bound Ohio while the bloodhounds, Foraker and Dick, bayed in futility on the shore. Mr. Taft's brother, who owns most of the public utilities of Cincinnati, has interests that reach into Kentucky. Yet the republican convention of that state refused Secretary Taft an endorsement, and contented itself with applauding in broad, general terms the "Roosevelt policies."

Indiana is already pledged to Fairbanks. There will be no wavering there.

Wisconsin will be for Roosevelt, if he wants a renomination. Otherwise for LaFollette. Thereby hangs a tale.

The services in the United States senate of Mr. LaFollette equalled in earnestness of purpose, in desire to serve the people anything that had been attempted or accomplished by any senator of the United States whatever his party. Being wholly on the side of the people, fought by and fighting the corporations, Senator LaFollette was ignored, snubbed, almost affronted by senators of his own party. With

imperturbable good humor he went on with his work. He talked often to an empty chamber while distinguished senators exchanged stories in the cloak rooms, or retired to their committee rooms to write letters to railroad corporations whose briefs they held.

With courage, pertinacity, ability Senator LaFollette pursued his way until having captured a national audience, he compelled a senatorial audience. In all his struggle he had no sign of encouragement from Theodore Roosevelt. No word came from the White House to urge assistance to the man who, above all others in the senate, was doing the work that the administration professed to wish done. The administration senators, Lodge, Warren, Burrows and the rest took particular pains to show their disapproval of this cool-headed, hard-fighting man from Wisconsin who had come to outrage the traditions of the senate. Later, when the president's spokesman, and his choice as his successor, Taft, had occasion to speak in Wisconsin, he eulogized Spooner, the bitterest enemy of LaFollette, and had not one word of reference to LaFollette himself. Finally, the friends of LaFollette charge—though the senator himself is too dignified or too wise to do so—that the president, in personal conversation, has never missed an opportunity to "knock" him. The charge, it may be said, in parenthesis, is true.

As a result of this systematic attack upon the Wisconsin leader, his friends say that Mr. Roosevelt may have the delegation of that state for himself—they are too prudent to oppose that ambition. But if he is not a candidate, the state delegation will be for LaFollette all the time, and above all never for one selected by Roosevelt as his legatee.

Illinois will send a delegation for "Uncle Joe" Cannon; Pennsylvania is already instructed for Knox; Iowa is for a favorite son—probably Leslie M. Shaw; New York—aye, there's the rub! If Governor Hughes wants the delegation he can have it, and with it is likely to sweep the convention. If he does not want it, Mr. Roosevelt might take it by default for his prince imperial, although Taft has no strength there and Roosevelt is increasingly weak.

Finally Ohio is split as never before. In Washington the belief is that because of the foolish and insolent threat of the Taft managers to "drive Foraker out of public life," the latter gentleman may do a little driving of his own. He is not unversed in political arts. Besides having up to the present time, the great majority of the republican voters of the state with him, he now has these elements, especially interested:

The labor vote, which opposes Taft as one of the most notorious exponents of "government by injunction."

The "old soldier" element, which has always idolized Foraker.

The colored vote, said to reach forty thousand in southern Ohio, which hates Roosevelt and applauds Foraker because of the Brownsville case.

It is probably true that some sort of compromise will be reached in Ohio, but it will not be one that will so heal the wounds of conflict as greatly to commend Mr. Taft to republican politicians in other states who seek for the politicians' ideal—a man who can win. Meanwhile Mr. Fairbanks grows more genial daily, and Mr. LaFollette, lecturing all over the United States, is not only impressing his beliefs on all hearers, but is earning money which he puts straightway into his campaign. For the senator is not rich, and he cares more to emphasize his views on the public than to store up money.

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MR. ROOSEVELT'S AMBITION

This interesting dispatch came from the Atlanta, Ga., correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat:

"If I could be positively assured of the electoral vote of a single southern state I would gladly be a candidate for the presidency next year."

The above statement was made by President Roosevelt on Georgia day at Jamestown, according to leading Georgia democrats who were present. Mr. Roosevelt made his declaration, according to reports, to John Temple Graves, following the wave of good feeling attendant upon the dedication of the Georgia building, a replica of the house of the president's mother at Roswell, Ga. President Roosevelt was carried away with enthusiasm upon the occasion,

and Georgians present, among whom were many well-known politicians, shared this enthusiasm.

It was a love feast. Political issues and party lines were forgotten. Each man was toasting the other and all were toasting the president. Soon after this outbreak of enthusiasm John Temple Graves went to President Roosevelt and urged him to run for a third term. Mr. Roosevelt, it is said, was moved by the plea, but recalled the promise made to the public following his election in 1904. The president is reported to have said that but one thing would cause him to change his determination in this respect. He then said that if he could be positively assured of the electoral vote of a single southern state—if he could break the solid south—he would be a candidate for a third term.

President Roosevelt spoke at length on the solid south, declared it should be broken, and said he would run again if he could be assured that his candidacy would split the south from its one way of voting. According to reports, Mr. Graves is said to have assured Mr. Roosevelt that he could carry Georgia and probably two or three other southern states, and it is said that promise was given the president to attempt to stampede Georgia for him at the proper time.

A DEEP GAME

Washington correspondents appear to believe that the Roosevelt administration is playing one of the deepest political games ever put upon the board. This story comes from the Washington correspondent for the *New York World*:

"President Roosevelt by appointing Pearl Wight, of New Orleans, commissioner of internal revenue has completed a most remarkable bargain. It is excellent for the president in a political sense and lucrative for Wight in a business way.

"Through the combination as arranged President Roosevelt expects to control the delegation from Louisiana and Mississippi to the next republican national convention. Wight's friends and business associates stand to receive remunerative contracts for Isthmian canal and other government supplies. In addition, these interests will have a powerful friend at court to look after their interests.

"Mr. Wight could have assumed office in April, but did not. He said he could not arrange his business affairs so as to take office before December. The president obligingly appointed John G. Capers of South Carolina, to serve the six or eight months. No other president has ever done anything like that.

"Republican primaries will be held in January, the month after Wight wants to assume office. During the month between Wight's assumption of office and the holding of the primaries every one of the thousand or more federal officeholders in the internal revenue district of New Orleans will be on the anxious seat, wondering whether the incoming of Wight will be good or ill for them.

"When officeholders are wondering what is going to happen will it be natural or unnatural for them to use every effort to ascertain what they must do to be saved? While they are so wondering will it be the hardest thing in the world to ascertain what Wight would have them do? The benighted political workers of the ancient regime assume that it will not. They also assume that during that month Wight will do nothing in the way of removals and appointments. Those in office will be working for him and those to whom the wink may be tipped that if they produce results in designated districts there will be appointments to hand out may also be expected to be perspiringly busy.

"Pearl Wight and F. B. Williams closely allied in a business way, are the head of the Lily White organization. The former was appointed a member of the national committee by George B. Cortelyou to fill a vacancy. After that President Roosevelt picked them up and made them his referees in Louisiana. All questions of appointments in the state are left to them for decision.

"The ship chandler firm of Woodward, Wight & Co., of New Orleans, has had hundreds of contracts and orders for supplies from the canal commission, the light house board, the mint and the postoffice. Woodward, the postmaster at New Orleans, was a member of the firm when he went into office. Wight is his brother-in-law.

"The Camp & Hinton company, from which Mr. Wight has said he is retiring, has had many