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Paramount Issues

A word to democrats: The election is at hand; on Tuesday, November 8 the people will decide at the polls whether the next national house of representatives (congress, as we generally say) shall be democratic or republican. Be sure that your vote counts on the right side. There may be districts in which a reactionary democrat has been nominated against a progressive republican. In such case, if the democrat is really the Wall Street type and the republican is a sure enough progressive, the progressive is the better man, but in nearly every case it will be found that the democrat stands for more advance than the republican candidate—he is certain to if he stands on the last democratic national platform.

A democrat, a good democrat, is in position to render more service to the people than any kind of a republican. First, he will have no questions of patronage to embarrass him. Second, he will be under no obligation to stand by the administration. Third, he will vote for a democratic speaker—Champ Clark being the only democrat thought of for the place. Fourth, he will be one to investigate the use which the republicans have made of their power. Fifth, a democrat—a good democrat—will stand for the election of senators by the people, for an income tax, for tariff reduction, for the prevention of trusts, for the purification of politics, for needed labor legislation, and for a conservation which will respect the interests of the states. He will stand against the national incorporation of railroads, the national incorporation of trusts, the central bank, the ship subsidy and all other schemes which are pushed by the representatives of predatory wealth.

Make no mistake about your congressman. While it looks as if the democrats would have a considerable majority in congress still it may be so close that one congressman may decide it—and your vote may decide the congressional election.

In some of the states a senator is to be elected—some thirty-three altogether. These have to be elected through legislatures. Watch your legislative elections. In some states national and local issues may conflict; in such cases one set of issues must be paramount—the national issues should be regarded as paramount. National issues affect ninety millions of people and a mistake made at Washington is harder to correct than a mistake made at the state capital. Take no chances on a plutocratic senator; we need more democrats in the senate—simon pure democrats who can be relied upon to represent the people in their struggle for justice and equality of opportunity.

New nationalism does not smell any better under that name than it did under the name of Hamiltonianism.

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MR. ROOSEVELT'S PROMISE

At Jamestown, N. Y., Mr. Roosevelt said: "If my career means anything, it means that I never say on the stump anything that I do not say in private, that I never say anything I do not believe, and that I do not make a promise unless I try to keep it." He does not say "I never say in private what I do not say on the stump"—to Harriman, for instance.

But does he always try to keep his promises? Did he not promise that Mr. Taft would make good? Did he not guarantee satisfaction, or money refunded? And did he not leave the country immediately after the inauguration and stay away for a year, even when he knew that his legatee had filled his cabinet with representatives of the predatory interests? Did not his (Mr. Roosevelt's) New York convention endorse the administration—Ballinger, Wickersham and all?

Now he guarantees Mr. Stimson, but what is his guarantee worth? It would bankrupt him if he tried to redeem the promises that he made for Mr. Taft in 1908. He talks about driving crooks out of his party, but what "undesirable" republican has ever asked his endorsement and been refused?

Did he not endorse Paul Morton after he had confessed to receiving rebates? Did he not endorse Knox and Root, the chief attorneys for the great trusts? Did he not endorse Platt and Depew? Did he not endorse Hepburn of Iowa when his former constituents were turning him out because of his railroad sympathies? Did he not endorse Cannon, the Prince of Standpatters? Did he not endorse Sherman? Did he not put himself in the same class with Harriman and say, "we are both practical men?" Did he not endorse Burkett, the standpatter of Nebraska, and Lodge, the high tariffite, in Massachusetts? Did he not endorse President Taft after he had eulogized Aldrich? And does any one doubt that he would endorse Aldrich now if he were in danger of being defeated by a democrat?

Is he not like the man who cited the fact that everybody had his notes as proof that the notes must be good?

"YELLOW DOG" PARTISANSHIP

The democrats who four years ago voted for Senator Cummins against Claude Porter will be disappointed when they read the senator's speech at Chicago. He said:

"I certainly desire that every man the republicans of Illinois have nominated (that includes Cannon and legislators who voted for Lorimer) shall be elected. Any man who can draw from any of my speeches the conclusion that I would substitute for ANY republican the best democrat on earth is sadly in need of a mental stimulant."

If that is the opinion of a republican who is called a progressive what might we expect from a standpatter? Fortunately the "yellow dog" partisanship advocated by Senator Cummins is passing away. The progressive spirit is growing in all parties and men now boast that they make their votes represent their judgment and consciences—not that they never scratched a ticket. Campaign speeches would be of little use if every voter was as partisan as Senator Cummins. His view seems to be that men are born into a party and can not get out except by death.

MR. ROOSEVELT IN MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Roosevelt has now spoken in Massachusetts, urging the re-election of Senator Lodge. Mr. Aldrich's right hand man in preventing tariff reduction. Now if any one thinks that he can find a republican (who has not criticised the ex-president) whom Mr. Roosevelt will not aid on request let him name him. Since the dinner with Boss Cox and the speech for Lodge it would seem that there is no limit to the elasticity of Mr. Roosevelt's progressiveness—it can be stretched to suit any emergency.

Is He Progressive?

In Kansas Mr. Roosevelt fraternized with the insurgents and in other western states he spoke so nearly the language of LaFollette and Cummins and Bristow that many who had not learned to have great confidence in his staying qualities began to have some hope that he might be depended upon to lead in a real battle. But those who hoped that Mr. Roosevelt would say a good word for Senator LaFollette prior to primary day waited in vain. On his western trip Mr. Roosevelt insured everywhere except in Wisconsin, the one place where insurgency was rampant. Then Mr. Roosevelt proceeded to New York and held a "reform" convention, choosing that fine old reformer, Elihu Root (the lawyer who has organized more trusts than any other man of his day) as the chairman of that convention. Then he picked another standpatter as chairman of the state committee. Hurrying away to Massachusetts he took the stump for Henry Cabot Lodge, second in command of the standpat craft with Nelson A. Aldrich.

Failing in his New York platform to declare for the principles he championed in Kansas and failing on his western trip to give aid to Senator LaFollette he displayed great enthusiasm in the support he gave to the Massachusetts senator, who stands for everything in government against which reform republicans are at war.

BUNCOMBE

Speaking in Indiana the other day, in support of Senator Beveridge, Colonel Roosevelt said: "There were differences between Senator Beveridge and some of the representatives of the republican party in Washington, but there were not any differences between him and the bulk of the party outside of Washington. It was merely that Senator Beveridge and the bulk of the party were ahead. The others will catch up. They are a little late in starting, but they are all right."

Commenting on this remark, Senator LaFollette says: "Isn't Mr. Roosevelt over-sanguine? It would be a very pleasant thing to have happen; but will it? For our part, we have never seen the slightest evidence that the Aldrichites and the Cannonites were even getting ready to commence to begin to start in the direction Beveridge and the people are going."

RATIO OF 1 TO 5

The plate glass trust, made possible by the higher tariff wall, has added 100 per cent to its selling prices in about two years' time, and of this advance it gave one-sixth to the workmen and five-sixths to the stockholders. This trust makes the American consumer pay nearly \$2 for every \$1 worth of glass he buys. It will be noticed that the ratio of 1 to 5 is about the usual proportion in which the republican party protects the laborer and rich manufacturer.—Evansville, Ind., Courier.

OBSERVING THE SPEED LIMITS

Several republicans have tried to explain why Mr. Roosevelt's progressivism is more progressive in some sections than in others. There is no mystery about it. When he starts out in his progressive automobile he simply observes the speed limits of the various localities. On the plains of Kansas he goes like blazes, but when he reaches the crowded thoroughfares of New York he goes so slow that you would have to get behind the machine to be run over.

ADOPTING A NEW PLATFORM

In a recent speech in New York state Mr. Roosevelt declared that "the big Roosevelt doctrine is 'Thou shalt not steal!'" It is to be hoped, that after the colonel has bodily "lifted" the democratic platform, no one will accuse him of trying to filch the platform of Moses.