

Just Before the Battle

Never in American history was the political situation so feverish as is now the case in all sections of the country. Everywhere the fight has grown hotter and hotter and all sorts of personalities are being indulged in.

In New York the gubernatorial fight is particularly bitter. Mr. Roosevelt is on the stump and has attacked Mr. Dix, democratic nominee for governor. Judge Alton B. Parker is making speeches in which he attacks Mr. Roosevelt's record as a trust buster. Martin W. Littleton, candidate for congress in the Oyster Bay district, charges that Mr. Stimson, republican nominee for governor, had enjoyed close personal relations with Charles W. Morse, the ice trust king, whom he later sent to prison as an attorney for a New York national bank. The impression seems to be growing that Mr. Roosevelt's candidate for governor of New York will be defeated, and the professional betting appears to be in favor of Dix, the democratic nominee.

In Pennsylvania the editor of the Philadelphia North American has been arrested on a warrant sworn out by John K. Tener, republican candidate for governor. The editor, E. A. Van Valkenburg, is charged with criminal libel because he intimated that Tener had sold his name to "a fraudulent and swindling corporation."

Mr. Roosevelt has injected himself into the Connecticut campaign and has attacked former Chief Justice Baldwin, who is the democratic nominee for governor. Judge Baldwin has written to the former president the following letter:

"Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, LL. D.—Dear Sir: In the newspaper reports of a speech delivered by you at Concord, N. H., on October 22, it is stated that you remarked that the democratic party of Connecticut had nominated for governor a former judge who was 'a man who took the view that it was competent for the workman, when driven to accept any employment to grind him to bind himself not to be compensated, if he lost life or limb in that occupation.' I never took such a view. I never stated that I took such a view. Such a view would be opposed to the settled principles of law, and no competent lawyer could or would take it. I trust that your remarks at Concord were misinterpreted; if not, you certainly were misinformed. If you did, in fact, make the charge against me, or one substantially of that character, I write to request that you would retract it, as it is one calculated to affect my standing as a lawyer (at least among those who do not know me), as well as to prejudice my position as a candidate for public office. Yours truly,
SIMEON E. BALDWIN."

In Indiana the fight swings around the senatorial contest with John W. Kern, the democratic candidate, and Senator Beveridge, struggling for re-election. Mr. Kern's friends are much more hopeful than the followers of Mr. Beveridge are.

The New York Herald, which has generally shown itself to be reliable in election predictions, says that the democrats will probably win in New York state. The Herald's canvass indicates that the next house will be democratic. The Herald gives 179 districts to the democrats, 151 to the republicans with 61 districts in doubt. The Herald's canvass shows that political lines everywhere are broken. It shows that districts that heretofore have been republican in Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New York and Wisconsin are now in the doubtful column and likely to go democratic.

As to the next United States senate the Herald shows that the democrats and insurgents will be in control. The Herald says:

"The senate consists of ninety-two members. There are now three vacancies, caused by death—Mr. McEnery of Louisiana, and Mr. Daniel of Virginia, both democrats, and Mr. Dolliver of Iowa, republican. It is proper to assume that when these vacancies are filled the political sentiment of the incumbents will be the same as that of their predecessors. Making the basis of argument on the full senate, there are fifty-nine republicans and thirty-three democrats. Drawing the line between the conservatives and the insurgents, the political control of the senate has almost passed away from the conservatives into the hands of the democrats and the insurgents. There is twenty-six republican majority in the senate, including the insurgents. There are at least eleven insurgents in the senate, which makes the margin very small, and occasionally the regulars have had to obtain democratic votes to save them from defeat. On

March 3, 1911, the terms of thirty senators will expire. Of the six democrats Senator James R. Frazier of Tennessee, appears to be the only one in danger. The other democratic seats then to be vacant are those of Texas, Virginia, Mississippi, Maryland and Florida. But twenty-four republicans go out, and of these the democrats have already gained one, in Maine, where a democrat will succeed Senator Eugéné Hale. Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island, has decided to retire at the end of the present term, on March 3, 1911. In consequence there is great disturbance in Rhode Island over his successor. There are three candidates—Colonel Henry F. Lippett, Robert Ives Gammell and Colonel Samuel P. Colt. The republicans can see no great defection threatening the legislature, but the democrats assert that they will sweep everything in Rhode Island. What is the forecast? Of the three insurgent senators—Beveridge, Clapp and LaFollette—Mr. Beveridge's election is in doubt, while Mr. Clapp and Mr. LaFollette will be returned. There will also be a republican successor to Senator Dolliver. Of the conservative senators, the seats of Messrs. Bulkeley, Depew, Dick, Dupont and Kean are in doubt. Messrs. Burrows, McCumber and Piles will be succeeded by insurgents. Messrs. Hale and Warner, beyond question, will be succeeded by democrats. This is a net loss to the conservative republicans of five, with the possibility of six more being succeeded either by insurgents or democrats. The forecast is that the democrats and insurgents will easily control the United States senate after March 3, 1911."

In Ohio the political situation is so complex that only an election can solve it.

In Connecticut the republicans are badly scared.

In Nebraska a hot fight is on between Dahman, the democratic nominee for governor, and Aldrich, the republican nominee, and between Hitchcock, the democratic nominee for senator, and Burkett, the republican nominee for senator. Party lines in Nebraska are badly broken and both sides claim the victory with but little betting and no experienced men willing to make predictions as to the result.

In California a hot fight is on between Theodore A. Bell, democratic nominee for governor, and Hiram W. Johnson, republican candidate. Democrats claim that Bell will be elected and that California will have democratic victories generally.

In Massachusetts democratic dissension has made results uncertain and the friends of Senator Lodge claim that Roosevelt's speeches in Lodge's behalf will insure his re-election. At the same time many reform republicans are condemning the former president for urging the election of a senator who stands for "the system."

GOING SLOW

The American Economist (the mouthpiece of the interests that have grown powerful through tariff extortion) prints a story from Washington to the effect that the tariff board is "disposed to go slow," and that "little progress has been made thus far in ascertaining the cost of production either at home or abroad."

This prompts LaFollette's Magazine to inquire: "Does this mean that the Economist has inside information? Or merely that it is just 'playing horse' with the public, well knowing that the tariff board is a body without power and without authority to do the work required of a tariff commission—and that it was made so by Aldrich and his 'me-too' senators?"

WALL STREET ALLIANCES

Mr. Roosevelt begins his campaign in New York by charging that Tammany has made an alliance with Wall Street. That is important, if true, and as bad as it is important. But why does Mr. Roosevelt complain? Does he think the republican party has the exclusive right to an alliance with Wall Street? Does he think that his party has secured a prescriptive title to Wall Street's support? He has never won an office except when his party has had an alliance with Wall Street. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the alliance which the republican party made with Wall Street in 1896 and as a result of the victory he became assistant secretary of the navy and colonel in the Spanish war. His party was in alliance with Wall Street in 1896 when he was elected governor of New York with the aid of Senator Platt. His party was in alliance with Wall Street in 1900 when he was elected vice president. His party was in alliance with Wall Street in 1904 when he was elected president,

and again in 1908 when he picked out his successor.

In all these campaigns he knew that Wall Street was in open and notorious alliance with the republican party and it did not arouse his indignation. Why is he so wrathful at the possibility of the alliance being dissolved? And is he sure it is dissolved? Can Tammany get closer to Wall Street than Mr. Root? If so, since when? What influences elected Mr. Root to the senate?

It will be remembered that Mr. Roosevelt tried to make the public believe that the Standard Oil company was supporting the democratic party in the campaign of 1908, but just before the election Mr. Rockefeller gave out an interview, urging the election of Mr. Taft—too late for the country voters to find it out.

Possibly Wall Street will be "practical" enough to conceal its support of the Roosevelt ticket until just before the election, or even until after.

CUMMINS' INDORSEMENT

Now that Senator Cummins of Iowa has spoken in Nebraska in the effort to hold progressive republican voters in line for republican senators and congressmen seeking re-election, it is interesting to note what he said in Chicago just before coming to Nebraska, and what a progressive republican newspaper in that city thought about it.

In the course of his Chicago speech Senator Cummins pleaded for the election of every republican candidate in Illinois, including Speaker Cannon. He used these words:

"I certainly desire that every man the republicans of Illinois have nominated 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."

How much is Senators Cummins' indorsement worth, to any republican candidate, when he frankly declares that he prefers "any republican," no matter how bad, no matter how faithless, no matter how slavish a tool of the special interests, to "the best democrat on earth;" how much is it worth?

What weight can any independent voter, weighing the records of Burkett and Norris and Kinkaid, give to the plea of a man who takes this position?

This is what the Chicago Record-Herald, consistent but progressive republican newspaper, thinks about it:

"The speech of Senator Cummins in this city was certainly 'regular' enough to satisfy the most hardened standpatter. The senator virtually declared that the most reactionary republican, if 'honest' in his beliefs, should be preferred by voters to the most level-headed and progressive democrat; and he asserted in so many words that he would rather suffer the mistakes of the Payne-Aldrich tariff for a thousand years than the disaster of a tariff for revenue for a single month.

"Having made up his mind to encourage the 'regulars' and emphasize his own loyalty to party, Senator Cummins was regular with a vengeance. He knew he was expected to stand straight; he leaned backward—so far backward that the effect must have been bewildering to many independents and more democrats."—Omaha World-Herald.

SENATOR BURKETT AT PENDER

C. O. Whedon, whom the Nebraska insurgents supported in the republican primaries as a candidate for senator against Mr. Burkett, is denounced as a liar by Mr. Burkett in a speech which the latter delivered in Pender Tuesday night. In response to a question from the audience he said that Whedon was a "liar," and that "the contents of the circular he published and distributed were false in every particular."

Since every statement that Mr. Whedon made in his circular was based upon the Congressional Record, and is substantiated by the proceedings of the house as published in the Record, the Congressional Record must also be a liar.

And, in addition, a brand new "liar," of strong republican faith and with an honored republican record, has just sprung up in Lincoln. H. M. Bushnell is one of the best known and most substantial citizens of Lincoln. He served as a postmaster there, and was for several years editor of the Lincoln Call, a republican daily. He is now publisher and editor of the Trade Review, a thriving publication devoted to the upbuilding of the commercial interests of Ne-