

THE FORCING-OUT OF DR. WILEY

The retirement from the government service of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, since 1883 chief of the bureau of chemistry of the department of agriculture, signalizes a national calamity. That calamity consists not of the loss of America's most useful public servant from administrative place; nor does the calamity lie in the gain of a decisive victory by the forces forming a persistent and unscrupulous conspiracy against the health and the lives of the American people.

The calamity is the prolonged sanctioning of and participancy in that conspiracy by the national administration.

We have no need to write any eulogy of Harvey Wiley today. All the tory editors—even the least scrupulous eulogists of special privilege—are saving us that trouble. In inability to find a flaw in the thirty-year career of the big, brave, unselfish fighter for human rights they are telling, despite their habits, the truth about why Wiley is honored and why hated and by whom. They are lying, by expression and suppression, only in regard to the forcing out of Wiley from the service of his splendid devotion.

No other public servant in our day has been so harassed, humiliated, maligned and abused. Doctor Wiley's friends and confidants know from his own lips how well he has understood that he was making a losing fight against the merciless power of mercenary forces, backed by all the influence of the national administration. Long before he wrote his resignation he knew the law had been so emasculated and himself and all loyal

associates so muzzled from all chance to warn the people for their good, by words or acts, that he felt, while his life work had won the fight for a pure food law, he had lost the fight to save the law, and he felt that his usefulness in office has ended.

But, hoping against hope, he stayed on, feeling, as he must have felt, that in sheer shame President Taft would make at least a pretense of keeping the directly intimated promise, forced from him by an unprecedented public protest six months ago, of a prompt and thorough reorganization of the department.—Philadelphia North American.

A PUZZLE

This letter from Mr. J. Bayles of Kansas City is typical of many communications that reach this office:

"Please inform me of the principal issues on which the republicans and democrats of the United States differ."

Such inquiries as these are additional evidence of the vanishing of party lines. Very many persons are really puzzled to know the difference between republicans and democrats. It is possible, of course, to give the old conventional answers; to quote the principles of Jefferson and Jackson against those of Lincoln.

But such answers no longer satisfy. People see that there is a much wider gulf between progressive and reactionary democrats than there is between progressive democrats and progressive republicans, or reactionary democrats and reactionary republicans.

So far as results are concerned, so far as really important political programs go, there are only two national parties in this country—the progressive and the reactionary. One stands for the control of government by the people in the interest of progressive legislation, tariff revision, trust regulation, the parcels post, workmen's compensation acts, and the like. The other is for a do-nothing policy or frankly for special interests.

Republicans and democrats are in both these parties.—Kansas City Star.

RUINED AGAIN

During the house debate on the free-sugar bill, representatives from the beet and cane sugar states and stand-patters from other states rose one after another and solemnly predicted the ruin of the industry if the bill was enacted.

This will be news to the country. The industry was already supposed to have been ruined. It was ruined when Porto Rico sugar was admitted free and imports increased sevenfold. It was ruined when Philippine sugar was admitted free and imports increased fivefold. It was ruined when Cuban sugar was admitted at lower than the regular duties.

Nevertheless, during this time of ruin the country's cane-sugar production has continued to increase and its beet-sugar production has more than doubled.

At this rate the industry can stand some more ruin. It should demand more ruin.—New York World.

THE RACE IS ON

The presidential race is on, with Teddy after Bill, and the man who looks like Bonaparte persisting in it still. He isn't running very fast, and hasn't any show, but he says he's in it all the same, so therefore be it so. La Follette, Theodore and Bill, and on the other side another hopeful trio still as gravely occupied. The going isn't very rough, the chances are immense and a mighty droll, good-natured crowd is sitting on the fence. The spectacle of Ted and Bill in one another's hair has been specially enjoyed by a railbird here and

there. The demonstration in the old Pike county box is great. Its entry's not a winner yet, but he has his native state. They all have that, of course, but still, it may be said for his, that very few states are as big as old Missouri is. If he is beaten, like as not, the hound dog song will do it. It's been identified with Clark, and there is nothing to it. The chorus has some funny lines, which have a sort of craze, but the man who wrote the tune should get no less than 30 days. The Wilson mount's

a funny thing. It makes but little dust, but the way it runs has filled its foes with terror and disgust. You see it one day loitering, as if it were a wreck, and the next day going like the wind, with its ears back on its neck. It neither gains nor loses much, nor even ever tries to run so everybody says, except for exercise. The presidential race is on, with many certain wrecks, and the trusts all puzzled whom to send the customary checks.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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