

## Roosevelt Unfit to Blaze the Way

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Washington, Aug. 16.—In a picturesque, spontaneous outburst during debate of the president's wool tariff veto in the senate, Senator La Follette today attacked the new progressive party and swore new allegiance to progressive republicanism.

The "original insurgent," quivering with emotion, with clenched hands and strained face, poured out a flood of impassioned oratory that kept the floor and galleries of the senate rapt and silent. Standing in the well of the chamber, Senator La Follette assured his associates that he intended to "keep up the fight in the republican party to make that party really progressive," and to "keep on

until the last bell rings and the curtain falls."

After reviewing briefly the trust record of Colonel Roosevelt, Senator La Follette declared that the former president was not the man to find the way out now.

He asserted that "no obstacle dragged across the path of the progressive movement in the republican party can now stop its advance." He declared that when the republican party, through its progressive associates, had reached a point where it would "respond to the purposes for which it is born, an attempt is made at Chicago to divert it."

Senator Stone asked Senator La Follette whether he meant the nomi-

nation of President Taft or the nomination of ex-President Roosevelt.

"I am awfully surprised," began Senator La Follette, "that I left the senator from Missouri in doubt. I hope I did not leave doubt in the mind of anyone else."

Then, moving down the center aisle, until his outstretched, shaking hands almost touched the stenographers' tables, he continued:

"On the day that Theodore Roosevelt was made president of the United States there were 149 trusts and combinations in the United States. When he turned the government over to William H. Taft there were 10,020 plants in combination. When he became president the trusts had an aggregate capitalization of \$3,000,000,000 and when he left the presidency they had an aggregate capitalization of \$10,000,000,000, and more than 70 per cent of it was water.

"Their power has gone on growing and spreading. There has been no diminution in the present administration. The present administration has sought to apply the Sherman anti-trust law more vigorously than its predecessor, but the time to have applied the Sherman anti-trust law effectively was in the infancy of these trusts, when there were only 149.

"I don't believe that the man who was president for seven years, while the greatest trust growth occurred, at the very time of all times in the history of the Sherman anti-trust law it could have been made potential in deterring trust organization. I do not think that the man who was president then is the man to find the way out now."

Then, turning to Senator Stone, Senator La Follette bowed and inquired:

"Does that answer the senator from Missouri?"

"That does fairly well," responded Senator Stone, drily, amid the laughter of the senate.

Senator Pomerene inquired if Senator La Follette would tell how many of the 10,020 trusts were "good" ones and how many "bad."

"I have no way to differentiate," returned Senator La Follette, "because none of the trusts are my friends. If any of them were supporting my propaganda with large contributions I suppose I would be human enough to call them 'good' trusts. They know about the Wisconsin system and they know it is real dope for their business.

"So I have no George W. Perkins and no Munsey supporting me. It is a lone, practically single-handed fight I have waged for twenty-five years, and, Mr. President, I am going to keep on until the bell rings and the curtain falls."

Senator La Follette's outburst came without warning to the senate. He arose to make an analysis on the president's veto on the wool bill but had spoken scarcely a dozen words when the break came. As his eyes roved around the chamber he saw that many republican senators had left their seats as he began to speak, and with a bitter smile he turned to the president of the senate:

"I note the fact," he said, "that on the republican side there are just fourteen republican senators present. I am constrained to speculate a bit about this. I am impelled to question whether that condition may not be a sort of prophesy of what is to come."

Senator La Follette then remarked that he remembered the first time he addressed the senate, and practically every seat on the republican side was vacated as a rebuke to him "for presuming to know anything about legislation."

"I prophesied then that when the people came to understand the sort of service they were getting those

seats would be permanently vacated. Since then there have been some thirty of those seats vacated. I don't believe that the public of this country is going to find any measure of relief from that condition by wandering off into unexplored fields under the guidance of a pilot who exercised a very supreme control while we were getting into exactly the same condition the country is in now.

"I believe the redemption of representative government in this country will be accomplished by the republican party."

As Senator La Follette continued he grew more earnest. Several times he realized that he had forgotten the original purpose of his speech and interrupted himself.

"Go on, go on," urged Senator William Alden Smith, who sat near him.

"I did not intend to make this sort of a speech. I vow I did not," Senator La Follette said. "But I would like to go on. I am just seething with it. I intend to go on in two or three weeks, night and day. I am never going to stop until the republicans in the house of representatives and in the senate and each of the legislatures are truly progressive. I am going to keep the fight in the republican party. I think that is the best instrument through which to progress.

"Now, when it is the purpose to make the republican party respond to the purposes for which it was born, an attempt is made at Chicago to divert it. It won't succeed. It will only disturb the surface of things a little. The republican party was born to make all men equal and that is all that lies back of the movement of the true progressives."

### THE CASE OF MR. ROOSEVELT

Robert M. La Follette in La Follette's Magazine: Bryan at Baltimore, foregoing all chance of his own nomination, marshalling all his forces, braving Tammany and the trusts to rescue his party from their domination, carrying the convention for the adoption of the most progressive democratic platform yet offered, and the nomination of the most progressive democratic candidate available, was a towering figure of moral power and patriotic devotion to civic righteousness.

Roosevelt at Chicago, backed by money derived from the stock watering operations of the steel trust and the harvester trust, organizing what are now confessed to have been "fake" contests as to nearly two hundred delegates in order to control the republican convention and secure his own nomination, refusing to aid in making a progressive platform, bound to have the nomination or destroy the republican party, was a most striking example of misdirected power and unworthy ambition.

Roosevelt had as great an opportunity to serve the progressive cause at Chicago, as Bryan had at Baltimore. But Roosevelt was serving the man, not the cause. He wanted one thing—he wanted the nomination. And yet he did not have enough votes to nominate himself upon any honest basis. He did have delegates in that convention ultimately to have nominated a real progressive and adopted a strong progressive platform. He could even have nominated Hadley on such a platform, and progressive republicans could have supported Hadley in much the same spirit as hundreds of thousands of them will now support Wilson. Neither Hadley nor Wilson are veterans in the progressive ranks. Neither of them has been tried by the severest tests. Both appear to be men of high ideals whose records, though short, give promise.

But Roosevelt would not consider Hadley. He would have no one but

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