

## Governor Wilson on the Three Parties

Following is a dispatch to the St. Louis Republic: New York, Sept. 9.

—Governor Wilson, in an address before the New York Press club tonight, questioned the ability of leaders of the progressive party, if elected, to carry out any part of the policies of its platform.

Much of the speech was devoted to an analysis of the progressive party, although he gave some attention to the record of the republican party and predicted a victory for united democracy. He said, in part:

"The democratic party is now, perhaps for the first time in a generation, united, solid and enthusiastic. And the democratic party is the only organized force by which you can set your government free.

"I was bred in a football college; I know that what wins is team work, and I want to tell you that we have now got a democratic team schooled in years of adversity that can hold together against any team that can be put in the field, and as compared with which some teams recently organized are only scrub teams.

"I have come here tonight for the purpose of discussing just as candidly as possible the political situation, and I hope in doing so I shall do injustice to no one.

"I am not one of those who believe that the right tactics in politics is to depreciate the men to whom you are opposed, to belittle and misrepresent the forces with which you have to contend. It ought to be a frank, straightforward and fair determination of what it is we are to agree upon and do, and how we are to do it, in the great field of our common action.

"My feeling about my own candidacy for the presidency is that if I can not be the people's spokesman I don't want them to vote for me. I want to feel, if I am elected to the office of president, that I am speaking the purposes and impulses and

judgments of the people of the United States.

"I want to discuss the three parties now seeking your support. I know there are more than three parties in the United States, and it is not out of any disrespect to the parties that I have commanded only a small number of votes in the past that I leave them out of the reckoning for the present.

"Let us consider, first, the republican party. There is a great deal of difference between the republican party and certain groups of gentlemen who have been allowed to lead and direct the republican party.

"The republican party as represented by these men is the very party which has got us into the difficulties we are now trying to get out of. I do not have to prove that, because we have got into those difficulties in the last fifteen years, and during the last fifteen years that party has been in power. If it did not get us into these difficulties, who did?

"Mark you, I am not saying that the leaders of the party knew that they were doing us an evil, or that they intended to do us an evil. For my part, I am very much more afraid of the man who does a bad thing and does not know it is bad, than the man who does a bad thing and knows it is bad; because, I think that in public affairs stupidity is more dangerous than knavery, because harder to fight and dislodge.

"These gentlemen, whatever may have been their intentions, linked the government of the United States with the men who control the big finances of the United States. They may have done it innocently or they may have done it corruptly, without affecting any argument at all; provided you admit that they tied the government of the United States to the big financial interests of the United States. You have admitted my point, and they themselves can not escape from that alliance.

"Here is the old question of campaign funds: If I take a hundred thousand dollars from a group of men representing a particular interest that has a big stake in a certain schedule of the tariff, I take it with the knowledge that those gentlemen will expect me not to forget their interest in that schedule, and that they will take it as a point of implicit honor that I should see to it that the were not damaged by too great a change in that schedule.

"Therefore, if I take their money I am bound to them by a sort of tacit pledge of honor, and if I desert them I change the whole character of the government.

"There is a large body of republicans now in open rebellion, and what interests me about them and draws me to them is that they are in revolt because their consciences could not stand what was going on. That third party deserves your careful consideration when you are debating the question which party you are going to support.

"If this new party is preferred on the 5th of November, will it be in a position to clear the decks and carry out the policy which many noble gentlemen have conceived that it was sincerely bent upon. Politics now at last is intensely practical and real. We can not afford to vote on the 5th of November and then wait another four years.

"The processes of reform in this country must take place within the next four years. If the leader of the third party is made president, what will be his situation? Does anybody suppose that he will have a third-party congress behind him? Is it not inevitable that in such an event there will be in congress such a mixture of elements and groups and coteries that the president can not possibly

get any program whatever put through?

"We have had samples of the confusion already. We already have a very queerly assorted senate of the United States. There are some democrats in it, some near-democrats, some republicans and some ex-republicans, and it has been a gambler's chance whether they would get together on anything or not.

"It has been difficult to guess after a bill passed the house of representatives, exactly what was going to happen to it when it got into the senate and the roll call in the several votes has seldom showed the same list of names.

"Now, suppose you had a house of representatives mixed like the present senate, I think we could all go fishing for the next two years!

"Then you have only the democratic party left, and you will ask me how I can set up a claim for the democratic party. Well, in the first place, it is rather a fine discipline to have been on the outside for sixteen years. You have not intrusted the government of the United States to the democratic party because the democratic party has been opposed all these years to the things that the republican leaders were doing.

"Is not that a statement of mere fact? Haven't we been attacking them and opposing them all these years, and proposing programmes that once looked radical, and now look reasonable? We haven't just begun being progressive. We have been progressive for sixteen years,

and we saw the year 1912 half a generation before it came.

"Are you going to give us no credit for vision? Do you not think it counts for something to stay out in the cold on a conviction for sixteen years?"

Governor Wilson probably will do much more speaking on his western trip than he originally intended, owing to requests from numerous cities, that he visit them and speak on the issues of the campaign from the democratic standpoint.

After the first western trip, which will begin September 16 and end September 21, the governor will have two days' rest at his home in Seagirt, N. J., but present plans are that he will start out almost immediately for another western invasion. It is likely that on his second western trip he will go to Missouri, Nebraska and Illinois. The governor will probably meet William J. Bryan the latter part of the month in Nebraska.

A conference of advocates of pure-food legislation, attended by Governor Wilson, resulted today in a plan to organize workers for pure-food laws throughout the country in an association to work for democratic success next November.

Governor Wilson discussed his attitude on this subject and the democratic platform in so far as it related to pure-food legislation, with Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale, Dr. Woods Hutchinson, Dr. J. H. McCormack, Dr. Thomas Darlington, former health commissioner of New York, and other leaders in the movement.

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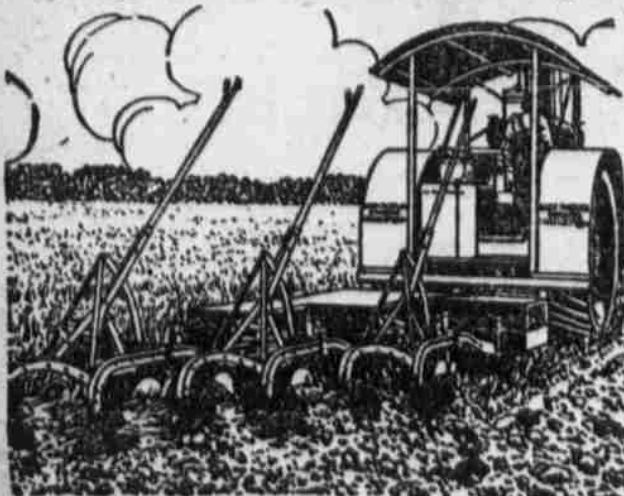
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