

Prohibition and the National Democratic Convention

Several weeks ago a ripple of excitement was created in Alabama by several anti-prohibition or so-called local option papers, in reference to the attitude of prohibition democrats toward national prohibition, President Wilson, and the platform to be adopted by the national convention.

They intimated that the prohibition democrats were fostering a movement to capture the Alabama delegation to the national convention in order to secure the adoption of a plank in favor of the national prohibition amendment, and to support Mr. Bryan for president in opposition to President Wilson; and hence they suggested that the friends of President Wilson should prevent the prohibitionists from capturing the delegation.

These articles were discussed pro and con to a considerable extent in the state, and many newspapers wrote editorials upon the subject. It was soon made manifest by the declaration of prominent prohibitionists that they did not desire the national convention to adopt a plank in favor of the national amendment, although they naturally would oppose the adoption of a plank in opposition to the amendment; that the prohibition democrats expected to support Mr. Wilson, and that the suggestion to the contrary was a part of a scheme on the part of the anti-prohibitionists to secure the election out of their number of delegates to the convention, and to do this by means of the popularity of President Wilson in Alabama.

The effort to array Mr. Bryan against Mr. Wilson was a part of the same scheme. The fact is that no effort will be made by the prohibitionists of the state to divert the Alabama delegation's support from President Wilson, nor will they ask the approval by the convention of any prohibition measures pending before congress or to be pressed there. The prohibitionists of Alabama will direct their efforts to obtaining the passage of the Abercrombie-Bankhead bill to exclude liquor advertising from the mails, and the submission to the states by congress of the national prohibition amendment.

The Bullock county (Ala.) Breeze, referring to the above situation, declared that it was an attempt to prostitute the good name and popularity of President Woodrow Wilson by holding him up as a local optionist, recalling "that it was the local option crowd from Alabama who fought Woodrow Wilson and Billy Bryan on the floor of the great convention at Baltimore, while the prohibitionists from Alabama stood by them without flinching until the victory was won," just as the prohibitionists of Alabama will stand together in sending a delegation to the next national convention to support President Wilson.

The Montgomery Journal had this to say upon the subject:

"There is a near-senator in this state who resides at Birmingham, who is seeking to be the political boss in Alabama. He is understood to claim, if he is not directly demanding, that he be allowed to name the delegates to the national convention from Alabama. He doesn't want anyone to go to the next national convention who is not in accord with, not Wilson, but the views of the reactionary element in Alabama."

The gentleman referred to is the Honorable Frank P. Glass, editor of the Birmingham News and formerly

connected with the Montgomery Advertiser, both anti-prohibition newspapers carrying liquor advertisements until forced to quit by state law; he was appointed to a vacancy in the United States senate by Governor O'Neal, the then leader in the state of the local option democrats, who in the main were friendly to the policy of the so-called "regulated saloons," but was not seated.

It is true that Mr. Glass was a fellow student with President Wilson at Princeton and enjoys close personal relations with him, but it is a great injustice to President Wilson for Mr. Glass to pose as the President's special friend, and to use his supposed influence with the President for the purpose of capturing the delegation to the national convention by securing the election of only anti-prohibition democrats. It is not believed that his plan will succeed. Already Mr. Borden Burr, a strong prohibitionist, from Birmingham, has announced as a candidate for national committeeman from Alabama, and no doubt other prohibitionists will aspire and be elected to seats in the national convention, where they expect to support President Wilson, and not to ask the adoption of any prohibition planks; but will stand ready in the convention to oppose the adoption of a plank against prohibition; should one be proposed.

SAMUEL D. WEAKLEY,
Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 8, 1915.

KITCHIN A REAL LEADER

An interesting story comes up from North Carolina concerning the attitude of Claude Kitchin, the democratic house leader who is opposing the administration program of defense. It is to the effect that he is being aggressively backed by the Farmers' Union of that state 40,000 strong. These farmers have declared by resolution that they are opposed to the present expenditure of any such sum of money as the President's program calls for. Their argument is that it will be an unnecessary burden of taxes imposed upon the people. Undoubtedly the germ of militarism is one that will work havoc with the treasury and North Carolina farmers have scented the danger of it.—Fremont (Neb.) Tribune.

Those who know Claude Kitchin have no fear but what he will give a good account of himself when this preparedness issue reaches the floor of the house of representatives.

Mr. Kitchin has all of the polish of the intellectual southerner, being courtesy itself, but beneath that surface there is a steel jacket very much like that worn by Frances Marion, and when the war is over Claude Kitchin may be in the United States senate.

Kitchin is not beloved by the big interests. He is leader of the democratic house because of his twenty years service and not from fawning as so many of his predecessors have done.—Creighton (Neb.) Liberal.

AN ESTIMATE OF MR. BRYAN

This is Frank Day's opinion of William J. Bryan as expressed in the Fairmont (Minn.) Sentinel:

"Somebody should whisper in the ear of Joe Reynolds that Bryan thrives on abuse and detraction. All of the brutal and mercenary influences of the nation are lined up in battle array against him, yet there he stands, free and fearless, the Colossus of American politics. Ecco homo!"—Lincoln (Neb.) Journal.

A WARM SHINDY AHEAD

The friends of preparedness are able to see now what they are "up against," and should prepare for a warm shindy when congress re-assembles.

It is going to be warmer than was at one time expected. Mr. Kitchin did not intend to mislead the public—he is quite incapable of such a thing—but in effect he did so in his first pronouncement on the subject. While admitting his own opposition to preparedness, he expressed the opinion that the President would win easily; that congress would yield readily and vote as the President desired.

Things wear a different complexion today. Mr. Kitchin's name is being used by the opposition at its full value—which is considerable—and there is the promise of a tussle for the President. If he is to win he must put forth his full strength.

We are admonished not to fill the land with soldiers or the seas with ships, as if preparedness spelled that and nothing less. Look at Europe, and be wise. Soldiers everywhere and ships to burn, and the most colossal war of history the result.

We are likewise admonished that preparedness will change the significance of America in the international equation. There should be no change in us. Let Europe change all she pleases. But, separated as we are from her, that change need not affect matters on this side of the Atlantic.—Washington Star.

WHAT HAPPENED UNDER ROOSEVELT

The crowning outrage has been committed by the Turks on the Armenians. It is dreadful to think that these things can be done, and that this nation nevertheless remains "neutral, not only in deed, but in thought," between right and the most hideous wrong.—Theodore Roosevelt.

In 1902 the Boers lost their independence.

In 1903 was the massacre at Kishinev. Many years after 1903 Macedonia ran red with blood.

In 1905 the horrors of the Congo were officially published.

In 1905 Korea lost its independence.

In 1906 Morocco was parceled out by the powers.

In 1906 the Russian government shot, hanged and massacred thousands of her people.

In 1909 25,000 Armenians were slaughtered at Adana.

Between 1901 and 1909 Theodore Roosevelt was president and the nation remained at peace.—New York Evening Post.

A CURSE TO THE COUNTRY

The democratic party has always opposed a large standing army for the people to support in idleness. A large standing army is a curse and menace to any country, but more especially in a free country. Armies are organized to fight and the larger the army the more certain there will be trouble. The yeomanry are the "Walls of Sparta" and we must depend upon the volunteers to defend the country in time of need, and they will do it. I remember that during the civil war, when the safety of the national capital was threatened the regulars were comfortably quartered in the forts and defenses around the capital, and never fired a gun, while we volunteers were called upon to drive back the invaders, which we did. If President Lincoln had depended upon the regular army, Lee's ragged volunteers would have captured the defenses and marched into Washington.—Sutton (Neb.) Register.

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