

but as none of them intimated a willingness to make any concessions themselves in the matter of the candidate they seem to take it for granted that the regular republicans will do the forgiving and forgetting and accept Mr. Roosevelt in a spirit of charity and toleration. They remind one of the reconciliation proposed by a Scotchman to a fellow member of his church: "We should get together and forget our differences, and, as I can not change, you must."

One interesting feature of the meeting was that all seemed to understand that they have no easy task before them. They spoke of President Wilson's strength, and of the necessity of nominating the strongest man. The standpat faction is not less complimentary to the President; it admits his strength and makes the same appeal to the delegates to nominate the strongest man that can be found. They do not concede Mr. Roosevelt's strength; on the contrary, the reason which they put forth for opposing him is that he could not be elected. They profess to regard him as the weakest candidate among the aspirants named.

The air is full of rumors as to what Colonel Roosevelt intends to do. Men who speak as if they knew his plans, tell of his willingness to accept a nomination from the progressives regardless of what the republican convention does, but these rumors are as authoritatively denied. Another report in circulation today was that the progressives would nominate him, and that he would withdraw later after securing from the republican nominee such pledges as would satisfy his views.

The speech made by Justice Hughes in Washington caused a little flurry, but since the secretary of the justice has declared that it had no political significance,—an opinion in which the progressive leaders heartily concurred,—the excitement has subsided.

A new party has entered the arena here. A woman's party has been organized, but it is already showing symptoms of mannishness. Its announced purpose is to compel the other parties to take a position in favor of equal suffrage. But, it must not be supposed that it represents a unanimous sentiment among the women advocates of suffrage. The women are proving their claims to political consideration by manifesting a spirit of independence quite equal to that exhibited by men. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, ex-president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, dissents entirely from those who desire to organize the women into a separate party. She says, "It is foolish for the women's party to come here and say to the men that we women have great political power, that we hold the balance of power, etc. It isn't true. What we must do is to co-operate with men, not fight them."

The various suffrage organizations agree in the desire to secure equal suffrage throughout the United States, but they differ as to the best method of securing it.

SENATOR HARDING LABORS UNDER DISADVANTAGE IN OPENING SPEECH

Chicago, June 7.—Senator Harding's speech as temporary chairman was all that conditions and circumstances would permit. The great Webster said "eloquence exists in the man, in the subject and in the occasion." Eloquence had only one-third of a chance today. It had the man. Senator Harding is an orator. The committee could not have selected a better man to open such a convention as this. He is both pleasing and imposing in appearance. He has an excellent voice and a splendid delivery, and he represents in his views and hopes that element of the party which is dominant in the convention. His speech possessed strength and humor and his thoughts were expressed in phrases that will be repeated by those who lack his skill in rhetoric.

The speech satisfied the audience; for it was just such an audience as would like that sort of a speech. He was greeted with enthusiasm on his appearance, his principal points were applauded enthusiastically, and his conclusion brought forth another outburst of enthusiasm. He may feel that he acquitted himself with credit, and the convention can find gratification in the fact that it got what it wanted in the way of a speech.

But the subject and the occasion were lacking. The subject was a restoration of the republican party to power, and there is no inspiration in such a subject to bring forth an epoch-

making speech. The republican party was put out of power because it had been guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors. It had converted popular government into a predatory oligarchy; it had betrayed the people and given them over to spoliation at the hands of the special interests. Favor-seeking corporations had been permitted to take control of the instrumentalities of government and employ them for private enrichment.

The injustice finally became so rank and the "swollen fortunes" so conspicuous that a large portion of the republican party revolted. More than half of the republicans had the independence to leave the organization and, by bolting, they expressed their determination to rid the party of corporate domination, even if it were necessary to pass through a national defeat in order to make the party free.

As a result of the division in the republican ranks, the democratic party came into power, and proceeded to put into law a reform program without parallel in the history of the country. In addition to facing domestic problems of great importance; in addition to having to deal with abuses that had grown in size, until a remedy was impossible without more or less of industrial disturbance,—in addition to these home embarrassments, the democratic administration inherited from the republican administration a Mexican situation, and was soon afterward confronted with a world war without parallel in history.

Senator Harding's subject was the attitude of the republican party toward the administration that rescued the nation from republican misrule and kept the country at peace amid distracting turmoil on all sides. How could a partisan speaker satisfy a partisan convention without offending a universal sense of justice? The task was an impossible one.

The delegates had gathered to plan for the country's return to bondage to the interests, and Senator Harding would have disappointed the delegates if he had conceded to the democratic administration any merit whatever. He did not disappoint them. On the contrary, he lived up to the highest requirements of partisanship and extolled the republican record as flawless and pictured the democratic record as a menace to prosperity at home and peace abroad.

His declarations on the subject of preparedness were sufficiently emphatic to arouse all the fears that have been assiduously cultivated by the manufacturers of munitions, and yet were not definite enough to inform the taxpayers of the burdens which the jingoes have in store for them.

It was not, however until he reached the tariff question that he let out all the sails. He is a believer in protection for protection's sake and he knows that protection is the issue on which the standpat republicans and the progressives are most nearly in agreement. They rival each other in devotion to the theory that a tax is a blessing when collected through the custom house.

If the subject was a chilling one for impassioned eloquence, the occasion was no more encouraging. The delegates are not here to outline any constructive work; they have learned nothing from the experience through which they have passed.

They base their hopes of success upon a reunion of the two elements of the party and feel confident that this reunion can be effected without commending any of the reforms accomplished by the democratic party or pledging the republican party to any remedial legislation. "Let us forget our differences," is the republican slogan. But will the public forget the riot of privilege? This is the program as outlined, if it is stripped of its drapery and plainly stated.

If the platform to be written and the ticket to be selected are in keeping with the keynote the chief issues before the country will be whether the reforms which have been secured by twenty years agitation are to be lost by the restoration to authority of those who by the misuse of power aroused the voters to revolt. No wonder those who are interested in the success of this program seek to divert attention from economic issues to so-called preparedness.

The distinguishing feature of the progressive convention today was the demonstration in favor of Roosevelt. It was loud, earnest, and prolonged, but it has not shaken the confidence of the regular republicans. They are still in control and so far as they express themselves have no doubt of their ability to prevent a stampede in favor of the ex-president. All in-

dications point to the selection of someone agreeable to the standpat element, with Hughes as the leading possibility. W. J. B.

REPUBLICAN AND PROGRESSIVE CONVENTIONS COMPARED

Chicago, June 8. — The two conventions in session in Chicago are vastly different bodies, as anyone discovers who attends them. The delegates to both conventions call themselves republicans; they speak in the same spirit of reverence of the history and traditions of the party, and they look forward with equal hope and faith to the republican party of the future, but they are as different in the spirit which animates them today as if the delegates lived in different worlds and had nothing in the past or future to link them together.

The regular republican convention is a cut and dried affair. Everything moves like clockwork, and a stately dignity prevails except when the convention is enlivened by a joke. Then the delegates laugh just enough to show that they are human, and then they fall back into the manner of men in a treadmill.

The progressive convention is neither cut nor dried; it is a spontaneous body and most of the delegates feel like Henry Allen of Wichita expressed himself; he said he felt like a man in a powder mill with matches in his pocket. If any hotheads were sent to the regular republican convention, all the warmth has been refrigerated out of them. But there is heat enough and to spare at the auditorium. There isn't ice enough in Chicago to keep their temperature normal.

At the republican convention, the committee on credentials reported on the contests, and the report was adopted without discussion. How different from four years ago! But the situation is different. Then, a large portion of the convention was personally interested in the contests, and the final complexion of the majority depended on the action of the convention. The committee gave temporary seats to a Taft majority, and that temporary majority proceeded to make itself a permanent majority and then it completed the work for which it came into the political world. This year there were few contests, and it did not matter which way they were decided. The real contesting delegations are several blocks away, where, with a friendly credentials committee to pass upon their claims, all have been seated.

But what an ill-fated omen to have the republican party's claims to the nation's confidence presented by ex-Senator Depew and ex-Speaker Cannon! If the convention had deliberated four years it could not have found two men more responsible for the revolt of 1912, or more irritating to the progressives. Mr. Depew was one of the most conspicuous representatives of the predatory group which finally became so repulsive to the republican party that four million republicans preferred defeat rather than submit longer to its dictatorship. He was the man who led the last fight in the senate against the direct election of United States senators. There is not a single reform accomplished by the people during the last twenty years which has had the honor of his support. What a campaign the republicans make when they put him up to represent stand-pat republicanism as it is to re-appear before the public! "Laugh and forget our sins and your sorrows" might well have been the text of this distinguished humorist who so ably represented the New York Central in the United States senate.

And Uncle Joe! In spite of his lovable personal qualities he succeeded in making republicanism synonymous with Cannonism, and this contributed as much as any other one thing to the revolt which cost the republican party more than half of its votes in 1912. There is only one thing that they can do which will aggravate the progressives more than the prominence given to the Messrs. Depew and Cannon, viz.: to make them a conference committee to confer with the progressives on plans for the reuniting of the two parties.

Senator Borah followed Depew and Cannon and presented what might be called a violent contrast. He was clear, forcible, and earnest. He spoke as one conscious of the difference between republicanism as it was in the beginning and republicanism in its fallen state. He manifested an interest in having the party respond to the advanced thought of today, but he neutralized the effect of his effort by his attack upon the administration's Mexican policy. The American people do not favor intervention in Mexico, and it is not likely that the republican convention will challenge judgment on his sub-