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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

First things are not always the ones that count most. The first ballot at a political convention for instance.

Whatever may have been the promises held out by one group of leaders to the other, there are growing indications that the bull moose will not suffer from indigestion caused by too much fattened calf.

So far as we have observed George W. Perkins has not given out any statement as to whether he thinks he got the worth of his money in the national convention he financed.

"The direct primary can be indicted on a thousand counts," declares the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Gazette. At least 999 of them undoubtedly are that the Gazette's candidate was beaten.

Largely in order that history may be kept straight it should be said that the bull moose displayed a lot of vitality even towards the end. But it was georgewperkinized at last.

The last troop has marched out of the fort at Armageddon, and it has been turned over to the bat and the owl and the various other zoological specimens that haunt the deserted spots.

The simple little query of "Well, what would you have done with Mexico if you had been president?" is destined to put an abrupt end to a good many amateur political debates this campaign.

The exact size of the republican bed is not given, but the fact that it seems to be comfortably accommodating both Taft and Roosevelt would indicate that economy in building it was not in the minds of the boss carpenters.

Candidate Hughes held a two-hour conference with ex-President Taft the other day, but the reporters were unable to find out what they really talked about. Our guess is that one of the things Mr. Taft advised Mr. Hughes was to make no campaign speeches at Winona.

The precise moment when Colonel Roosevelt went "out of politics" may never be known, but there are a number of progressives who think that if anybody will look up the hour when the message "take Lodge" reached Chicago he will be about as close as anyone can get.

The great crops that are now being harvested in the wheat growing sections of the country are added proof that the old partisanship republican leaders formerly claimed to exist between God and the G. O. P. has been dissolved for good. And it wasn't by any act of the republican organization.

"The republican party needs only to remain true to its principles to insure an old-time republican victory this year," is the chorus sent up by the G. O. P. press. But it is not stated whether it is the principles of the 1912 platform or of the one recently borrowed from the progressives to which the party must remain true.

What T. R. Asserted in 1913; Stand He Takes in 1916

1913

Speaking at a dinner tendered by national progressives on the eve of his departure for South America, Oct. 3, 1913, his "farewell address," Colonel Roosevelt declared:

"The party is solid, and it is the firm determination of the rank and file, no less than the leaders, to preserve its political entity, its solidity and integrity."

* * *

"Men and women, I would continue the fight even if I stood entirely alone. I shall continue it with a glad and proud heart because it is made in your company."

* * *

"Win or lose, whatever the outcome, I am with you, and I am for this cause to fight to the end. We are dedicated in this great war for righteousness, and while life lasts we can not and will not abandon it."

* * *

"The men who believe that we will ever betray these ideals or abandon the task to which we have set ourselves do not know us and can not ever guess at the faith that inspires us."

* * *

"This movement will never go back, and whatever may betide in the future, of one thing the disciples of an easy opportunism may rest assured—I will never abandon the principles to which we progressives have pledged ourselves, and I will never abandon the men and women who drew around me to battle for those principles."

1916

In his message declining the progressive nomination for President, Colonel Roosevelt declared:

"Our loyalty is to the fact * * * not merely to the name, and least of all to the party name."

* * *

"Yet it has become entirely evident that the people under existing conditions are not prepared to accept a new party."

* * *

"The progressive national organization no longer offers the means whereby we can make these convictions effective in our national life. Under such circumstances our duty is to do the best we can, and not to sulk because our leadership is rejected."

* * *

"Under existing conditions the nomination of a third ticket would, in my judgment, be merely a move in the interest of the election of Mr. Wilson. * * * I shall therefore strongly support Mr. Hughes. * * * I can not accept the nomination of a third ticket. I do not believe that there should be a third ticket."

* * *

"Without and regard to what the personal feelings of any of us may be as regards the action of the republican convention, I wish very solemnly to ask the representatives of the progressive party to consider at this time only the welfare of the people of the United States."

* * *

"I earnestly bespeak from my fellow progressives their ungrudging support of Mr. Hughes."—New York World.

Those big town newspaper and magazine editors who pretended to be greatly shocked and amazed when President Wilson made his "too proud to fight" reference, have apparently assumed the same attitude themselves now that the call for recruits for the army has gone out. At least we see none of them making a mad rush for the recruiting offices.

"There's nothing to equal W. J. Bryan's fatuous optimism," says the Wichita Eagle, commenting on an interview with Mr. Bryan in which he said that he was confident a peaceful solution for our difficulties with Mexico could be found. After glancing at the morning dispatches, it might be retorted that it would be equally difficult to find anything to equal the Eagle editor's ignorance.

The citizens of Ripon, Wis., have asked congress to divert the \$75,000 appropriation made by that body for a new public building in their city to the fund for supporting the national guard. And everyone who read the news item turned to look up right away whether the state insane asylum is located at Ripon.

The democratic newspaper paragraphs are having a lot of fun with the icicle trust, as they call the two Charlies on the republican national ticket, but they hope to do better in the way of wit before the campaign grows much older.

A little experience at the Mexican border ought to fit the members of the national guard to make a successful attempt to recapture the positions they left vacant, when they get back from the front.

Hyphenitis is a new disease that is, however, listed only in the vocabulary of the political spell-binders. It is safe to predict that the epidemic will have run its entire course by November next.

They have been having so much rain down in the Kansas wheat belt that the opinion prevails that what this country needs more than a floating dock or floating mines is a floating reaper and binder.

The San Francisco Bulletin declares that Mr. Roosevelt pussy-footed at Chicago and that "when the pinch came he wasn't loyal to his own best friends nor to the principles of the progressive party—and he has been preaching loyalty for many months." Apparently the Bulletin editor is convinced the colonel is not including California in any speech-making tour of the country in behalf of Hughes he may make.

The press prevaricators spread it far and wide that Henry Ford has announced that he would discharge any employe who might enlist for the Mexican trouble, although Mr. Ford has said nothing of the kind and had no such idea in mind. It may be worth noting that until Mr. Ford took such strong grounds against war the press prevaricators never had anything but kind words for him.

The annual appearance of determined criticism and opposition to the direct primary promptly followed the announcement of results this year. The fact that there isn't a single argument that can be brought against the selection of candidates at a primary that is not equally as forceful against their selection at a general election usually ends the debate.

When the threat of political disfavor from the women who vote for president in equal suffrage states is sufficient to bring two previously hostile national conventions to even a recommendation of the principle, it is a striking answer to the query often raised, what good would the ballot do women anyway?

The republican campaign managers are a cheery lot of chaps. They insist they are going to carry the presidential election and not less than thirty states. That certainly will be going some for an organization that had to be content with Vermont and Utah when it was last in a presidential contest.

The republican newspapers sneeringly insist that because all the democratic national convention did was to renominate Wilson and Marshall, it was nothing but a ratification meeting. Wrong; it was merely a meeting to arrange for a ratification meeting in November.