

Springfield Republican for Wilson

[Springfield, Mass., Republican.]
 Mr. Wilson, in the face of difficulties and criticism such as have confronted no president since Lincoln, has accomplished much. To declare his foreign policy futile is idle. The conclusive answer is contained in the bitter protests of the radical faction in Germany that the German submarines have been caught "in a net of notes." The outstanding fact is that Mr. Wilson, without bringing the United States into war, has forced a recognition of neutral right. With relation to Mexico, Mr. Wilson has grasped the underlying principle that we shall not have a permanently peaceful neighbor to the south of us until the most patent wrongs which the masses of the Mexican people have suffered are righted through their own efforts. The recognition of this principle in the long run means the minimum of evil to this country from the Mexican problem. It is to Mr. Wilson's everlasting credit that in spite of difficulties, discouragements, and possibly of incidental mistakes, he has not wavered in his endeavor to apply this principle to the changing circumstances of the times.

Mr. Hughes' Obligations

Much is made, and very properly, of the fact that Mr. Hughes, if elected, would take office free from hampering pledges. But if free from pledges, he is not free from obligations. Having courted and gained the support of Colonel Roosevelt, it would be impossible for Mr. Hughes, as a matter of practical politics, to sign a treaty with Colombia redressing the wrongs done that nation when Colonel Roosevelt "seized" the canal zone. Mr. Roosevelt has angrily and bitterly opposed such action on the part of our government, correctly estimating that it would be a repudiation of his course and a personal humiliation to him. Consequently, for Mr. Hughes to support such a treaty would be to invite an experience similar to that which befell Mr. Taft. Yet adjustment of Colombia's wrongs is important for the United States, not merely as a matter of national honor, but as a matter of dollars and cents in our commercial dealings with all Latin-America, where sympathy could be gained to so large a degree by no other one act.

Wilson is Progressive

Under Mr. Wilson's leadership the democratic party is today a better instrument of progressive government than in a generation, if not in its entire history, and, what is more to the point, a better instrument, in the opinion of this paper, than the republican party promises at this moment to become under Mr. Hughes. Various episodes have emphasized the fact that the democratic party has had comparatively few outstanding leaders of national reputation. But it is one of the chief items of Mr. Wilson's leadership that during his term progressive and enlightened democrats such as Newton D. Baker, secretary of war, have been brought more and more to the front while the reactionaries have been sent more and more to the rear. The party has been in training and it has gained. But in spite of any comparative lack of leaders, the democrats meeting in caucus, whenever caucus has been necessary, have threshed things out and determined to support, one after another, a long series of soundly constructive legislative measures of historic importance—notably among them the income tax, the banking and currency act, the

rural credits act, the child labor bill, the federal unemployment service, the humanitarian features of the seamen's act and the provision for vocational training for civil life in the army. To achieve such a record without leaders, if it were literally true that the democrats had had no leaders, would be in itself a triumph of democracy and a better promise than any amount of leadership stamped with the political conceptions of Boies Penrose.

Admirable as was Mr. Hughes' record of Albany, there can be no definite assurance that he would be able to force Penrose and others of that ilk to a back seat in the degree to which Mr. Wilson has revitalized the democracy. Mr. Hughes would make a good president; it was a matter of national good fortune that he was nominated at Chicago. But Mr. Wilson, by reason of his exceptional experience in office and his overwhelmingly evident leadership of his party along progressive lines, is, in the opinion of "The Republican," better fitted to meet the problems of foreign relations and social evolution in the broadest sense, which the next four years hold in store.

TRUE PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP

Henry Ford, who makes public announcement that he intends to vote for Mr. Wilson, is more than a political progressive. Like Thomas A. Edison, who has expressed the same preference, he is industrially, commercially and socially progressive.

Such men, always forward-looking in their business affairs, always hospitable to new ideas, always open-minded and self-reliant, naturally abhor reaction and turn with contempt from standpat policies of government based largely upon favor and greed. The wonderful successes that they have achieved have been due to their own ability and courage. While other men have been hanging around congress begging for laws in their own interest, professedly as friends of labor, Ford and Edison have blazed new paths, hit upon new devices, and by the force of their genius established vast industries which make many of the law-pampered enterprises appear feeble by comparison.

In their cases progress has not been altogether materialistic. Both Ford and Edison have carried generous sentiments into all of their activities. There never was a tariff or a subsidy of any kind that conferred such benefits upon workingmen as have been derived from the just and even benevolent practices of these great captains of industry and invention. They will vote for Mr. Wilson because they are honest intellectually as well as commercially.

If the so-called progressive party is faithful to a small part of its professions, such leadership as this must appeal more powerfully to its intelligent elements than that of the noisy political hacks who with easy consciences have enlisted under the banners of the old guard.—New York World.

WILSON DID RIGHT IN RAILWAY CRISIS SAYS ERIE CHIEF

A Milwaukee dispatch, dated Sept. 19, says: "The railroad chiefs of the country were not opposed to the eight-hour day, contrary to the opinion that has prevailed throughout the country," said President F. D.

Underwood of the Erie railroad in an interview in the Milwaukee Journal today.

"There is a general feeling that the eight-hour day is coming and no doubt it will come and it ought to come.

"The eight-hour law will cost the Erie \$3,000,000 a year. I do not believe any additional legislation is needed by congress on this question.

"The interstate commerce commission can take care of the raise in rates, should any be needed. Congress has set up the interstate commerce commission to take care of railroad matters. If the commission could take care of both wages and rates there would be no objection, because the commission is unquestionably honest and capable.

"Mr. Wilson, however, is not playing politics. He was doing what he honestly believed was for the good of the country.

"No one could associate with Mr. Wilson as the railroad men of the country did during these negotiations and charge Mr. Wilson with playing politics in any way. Only some newspapers charged the President with working for political effect."

THE CHILD LABOR LAW

Owen R. Lovejoy, secretary of the national child labor committee, sends out the following reply from Senator Cummins to the attack made by James R. Garfield and others on the Child Labor law lately enacted by congress. Senator Cummins is quoted as follows:

"I have just read your letter suggesting that certain critics of the recently enacted Child Labor law claim to have discovered a joker or jokers in the act which reflect upon either the integrity or intelligence of those who are responsible for its passage. If republicans are making any such charge against the law in order to discredit the administration the effort is disreputable and must react upon those who are foolish enough to give currency to the charge. If democrats are endeavoring to impeach the good faith of the republicans who helped to compose and pass the bill they are guilty of a flagrant offense against public morals."

Senator Cummins goes on to say that if the supreme court is called upon to decide the constitutionality of the law, and grants that it is constitutional, "it will end for all time the employment of children under conditions forbidden in the statute. The claim, if it is made, that the prohibition of the statute can be evaded by retaining the output of a mine, quarry, mill, cannery, workshop, factory or manufacturing establishment for thirty days after children have been employed and that then the output may be shipped from the state of production to some other state is too absurd for consideration.

"I venture the prediction that no industrial concern will ever attempt to evade the law in this respect. An honest examination of the act will convince any person that it is just as effective as it could be made without creating such a disturbance in the commerce of innocent people as would have awakened a sentiment against the measure that would have brought about its speedy overthrow. I have reviewed again the entire subject and I am thoroughly persuaded that the act would effectuate the humane purposes toward which the friends of child labor legislation have for a long time been striving."—Chicago Herald.

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