

Wisconsin Democratic Convention

nomination. On the second ballot they show a slight gain for Taft, and a heavy gain for Hughes, with a loss of thirty votes to Speaker Cannon. To my mind this is the weakest point to the argument. That on the third ballot Hughes will gain forty votes and Taft twenty-five. The gain to Hughes coming from Cannon, from Foraker, and from Knox. On the fourth ballot they figure Taft 364, Hughes 506, Cannon eliminated. Four hundred and ninety-one votes being necessary to a choice, this would nominate Hughes.

The theory is that the Cannon vote and the Pennsylvania vote for Knox will go to Hughes.

I have expressed sometimes doubt as to the value of polls and of prophecies. Conceding to this effort to forecast the action of the convention every possible purpose of honesty, I must still question its probability. It is my impression that the forces behind Speaker Cannon, while not at present numerically strong, have got the sticking quality. He has his own state behind him, not merely as a matter of state pride, but as a matter of personal and political devotion. If the machine should run remorselessly over all candidates except Roosevelt or Taft, the Cannon men will get up and keep on fighting. If it is to be a combination upon some man not selected by the administration, my guess is Cannon rather than Hughes.

The attitude of Governor Hughes toward national questions is the half way position between Roosevelt and the reactionaries. This is evident when one compares the recent message of the president, with the recent speech of the governor. Roosevelt strikes out into democratic fields anew—purling more of Mr. Bryan's clothes. His message sounds more like Senator Jeff Davis addressing a friendly democratic rally in Arkansas than like a republican president addressing a hostile republican congress.

It is evident that Governor Hughes is playing politics, and playing it well. He has placed himself on record as praising the president in very general terms. That ought to please the president's friends. On certain specific issues, however, he has most pointedly assailed the Roosevelt policies. That ought to please the president's enemies. He is playing both ends against the middle. No one can say that Hughes has not gone as far as Taft in the acceptance of Roosevelt doctrine. But it cannot be said of Hughes, as is said of Taft, that he wears the Roosevelt collar. Hughes holds the strategic position. He has placed himself in the attitude of a logical compromise between those who neither want Roosevelt's man or Roosevelt's policies, and those who want both Roosevelt's man and Roosevelt's policies. He has endorsed Roosevelt in general terms. He has assailed him with veiled thrusts more specifically. Hughes holds the pole in the republican presidential race. He is a great politician.

Against him in this contest is pitted the most consummate politician in American history—Theodore Roosevelt. Any one who imagines that the president's message was not intended to kill several birds with one stone sadly underestimates the political skill of the man in the White House. It is universally admitted here that the primary purpose of the message was political. Men merely disagree as to the chief end that the president had in view. Summarizing the varying opinions of congressmen, the following stand out most prominently:

One—To force the president's renomination.

Two—To give the republican national convention the choice between Taft or Roosevelt.

Three—To answer recent attacks on the president's policies.

Four—To frighten congress into enacting legislation.

Five—To offset the effect of Governor Hughes' speech.

This latter accusation is not based on mere conjecture. There is some significant evidence to support it. For instance—advance copies of the president's message have been out for several days. The senate has been adjourning from Thursday to Monday for some time past. The message could have been transmitted to congress and read on Thursday as readily as on Friday. Yet on Tuesday, when the usual arrangement for an adjournment from Thursday to Monday is made, Senator Lodge, the president's closest friend in public life, appealed for the unusual Friday session. It was then known that Hughes would deliver his address Friday night, and the fact has not been overlooked that the president's long document appearing in Saturday morning's papers might crowd the Hughes address for space and take the edge off whatever Hughes might say.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.

The Wisconsin democratic state convention met at Milwaukee, February 14. Following is the Associated Press report:

The Wisconsin delegation to the national democratic convention at Denver, Colo., was today, at the closing session of the state convention, instructed to vote as a unit for William J. Bryan as the democratic nominee for president first, last and all the time. The platform containing the instruction was unanimously adopted by the convention by a rising vote.

Delegates at large to the national democratic convention at Denver were this afternoon elected as follows: Charles H. Weisse, of the Sixth congressional district; Herbert H. Manson of Wausau, John A. Aylward of Madison and Melville A. Hoyt of Milwaukee.

When the convention resumed today Evan A. Evans of Baraboo, was made permanent chairman. Mr. Evans made a lengthy speech touching on various national issues and sharply criticised the republican party throughout. He concluded by paying a glowing tribute to W. J. Bryan in whom, he said, "you see democracy personified, see democracy at her best."

At the conclusion of Mr. Evans' speech the committee on resolutions presented its unanimous report as follows:

"The democratic party of the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its allegiance to the time honored principles of Jeffersonian democracy and declares its undying hostility to the sham and hypocrisy of republican national administrations.

"It charges that the appalling abuses disclosed in recent messages of the president are the direct results of the long-continued reign of the republican party in national affairs. The people can no longer doubt the inherent perfidy of the system of government fostered and maintained by the republican party, since the republican president himself has furnished the evidence against it. Its malefactors, convicted and unconvicted, are but the shameless products of a system of public plunder and debauchery too long endured by a patient and suffering people.

"We regard with pride and admiration that typical American, that matchless leader, who has blazed the way to wholesome public opinion and so ably championed the cause of the people. His zeal and undying energy, his wise and far seeing statesmanship stamp him, as the greatest living American statesman and endear him to all those who believe in equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

"We therefore declare that we are unanimously in favor of that great commoner, William J. Bryan, as the next democratic candidate for the presidency of the United States, and we hereby instruct our delegates to the next national democratic convention at Denver to vote for William J. Bryan as the democratic nominee for president, first, last and all the time."

The report of the committee on resolutions was unanimously adopted by a rising vote. The convention then proceeded to place in nomination candidates for delegates-at-large.

Constitution and By-Laws for Democratic Club

The following are declared the purposes of and the rule for the Jacksonville, Illinois, Democratic club, which was recently organized in that city:

ARTICLE I.

The name of this organization shall be the Jacksonville Bryan club.

ARTICLE II.

The objects and purposes for which this organization is formed are two fold:

First—The members of this organization believing that in the fundamental principles of the democratic party is found the true basis for the only practical and just rules and policies under which a free people can successfully maintain self government, and realizing the necessity for organized efforts among those who desire the success of democratic principles, have associated themselves together for the purpose, in the hope and under the belief that the great army of voters who are in sympathy with democratic principles and policies, if thoroughly organized, will insure a majority of votes for the democratic party at the next general election, and so believing desire to enlist as volunteers in the army of true democracy.

Second—Further believing and recognizing the generally accepted fact that in the nomination of William J. Bryan as the democratic candidate for president lies the greatest assurance of democratic success in the immediate future, this organization pledges its support toward a movement now being made in this state to secure a delegation to the Denver convention which will honestly represent democratic principles and favor the nomination of Mr. Bryan for president.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The elective officers of this organization shall consist of a president, one vice president, a secretary and a treasurer.

Section 2. The duties which usually devolve on like officers in other organizations shall be those of the officers of this organization.

Section 3. The term of office shall be one year and vacancies shall be filled by election of a member after two weeks public notice of time and place of such election being given.

Section 4. The president is authorized to appoint all committees; such appointments, however, shall be ratified by a majority of the members present and voting at a regular meeting of the organization.

Section 5. The president shall be ex-officio a member of all committees, and the vice president, secretary and treasurer shall also be members ex-officio of the executive committee.

Section 6. Each committee shall consist of

one member from each of the twelve voting districts of the precinct of Jacksonville.

Section 7. There shall be a district committee composed of the members of the various committeemen of each district of which the member on the executive committee from such district shall be ex-officio chairman.

Section 8. The following named committees shall be appointed:

- An executive committee.
- A finance committee.
- A membership committee.
- A headquarters committee.
- A speakers committee.
- A marching club committee.
- A music and decoration committee.
- A transportation committee.
- A banquet committee.
- A registration and polling committee.
- A press committee.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. The regular meetings of this organization shall be held at club headquarters on the first Tuesday of each month.

Section 2. The president is authorized to call special meetings whenever occasion requires, notice of the same to be published in the Jacksonville Daily Courier. In the absence of the president and vice president, or in case of their refusal to act, the executive committee is authorized to call special meetings.

Section 3. Fifteen members present at any regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. Any male person over the age of eighteen years living within Jacksonville precinct, who is known to be a democrat and in sympathy with the objects and purposes of this organization shall be eligible to membership.

Section 2. In order to become a member of this organization, the applicant for membership must sign the membership roll.

Section 3. Each member shall be entitled to vote on all questions which come before the club at any regular or special meeting, and a majority vote shall be necessary to sustain or defeat any proposed measure, except amendments to the rules of this organization.

Section 4. The rules or laws of this organization may be amended at any regular meeting, on a vote of two-thirds of members present and voting, notice of such proposed amendment first having been given by the secretary not less than two weeks prior thereto by notice of the same being posted at the headquarters of the club.