

Where the Old Ship is Leaking

WICKERSHAM'S SPEECH

Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald: Mr. Wickersham spoke authoritatively for the administration, and while the president declared extemporaneously that he wanted to read no one out of the party—protesting that he was not sounding any keynote—his attorney general's contemporaneous declarations are interpreted here as an attempt to do some "reading out."

The Wickersham speech has not worked for harmony—is not regarded as intended to harmonize. Insurgency still is insurgency. The progressive line of battle is not to be changed. The speech has aggravated those it called to particular attention; yet it is declared to be adroit and to have hit the mark his side wanted to hit.

"Mr. Wickersham may have made many mistakes in his life, he probably has," said Senator Cummins of Iowa to the Record-Herald correspondent today, "but he never made a greater one than his Saturday night's performance. The blunder was a natural one, however, for until he took a position as a cabinet officer he had little to do with the republican party and was ignorant of its make-up, its spirit or its purpose. He never fought its battles, sat in its councils or defended its doctrines.

"With this meager acquaintance with the party it is not wonderful that he looks upon the cabinet table as the whole thing. After he has had some experience he will know that fidelity to the party means fidelity to principles, not to men; and he will discover that the rank and file of republicans have not appointed him, or any other person, no matter how high his station, to fix the standard of loyalty to party principles and party organization."

"I think the speech very able and adroit," said Senator Borah of Idaho, a progressive, not a radical, and only occasionally an insurgent. "But his logic," declared Senator Borah, "followed to a final conclusion would render absolutely unnecessary a legislative body except for the formal endorsement of bills. In other words, it will not do to say that men can not zealously and earnestly discuss the details of bills and differ with other members of the party as to what bills should be without incurring the charge of giving aid and comfort to the enemy. That is the old machine rule of politics reduced to an absurdity."

HUNTING FOR TROUBLE

Editorial in the Chicago Record-Herald, republican: But the tariff controversy of the last year has not been wisely managed on the side of the president and his standpat friends, and nothing can alter this fact. The administration makes a mistake in adding provocation to provocation where it should try to conciliate and harmonize.

SCOUTS BRING BAD NEWS

Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald: Scouts have been out through the west, and they have brought their reports to the White House, and to the campaign chieftains. They have traversed Kansas, Illinois, Indiana and other states, and they report that conditions are the worst ever—that the house is going to be carried by the democrats.

The most regular leaders are hoping for right now is to save as many as possible of their "work horses" so as to have a nucleus for action two years hence, when it is hoped that reaction will set in. Speaker Cannon is admitted to be down and out, but it is declared he will run for re-election in his district (he could not be re-elected speaker, it is realized, if the republicans carry the house), and strive to be leader of the minority, in which position he can make it interesting for his enemies.

That the party organization machinery controlled by the regulars at present, will be devoted mostly to saving members of its kind, looking to the carrying of the country by the democrats, is regarded as likely. There is suspicion that some leaders prefer a democratic house for two years to a victory that will put the progressives in control of the party.

The progressive leaders are not pessimistic. They hold that there will be a republican victory; but that it will be won on progressive lines, overthrowing absolutely the present control. Friends of Senator Beveridge make prophecy that Indiana will go republican by a

big majority, some observers who claim never to have been mistaken in their judgment of results there placing the minimum at 50,000. Some of the same observers declare that conditions pertaining to the neighboring state of Ohio predict a democratic landslide there.

In Iowa a repetition of the recent events in Indiana is expected. The primaries will be held early in June, and delegates will be elected to the state convention, it is proclaimed, who will enthusiastically indorse the course of Senators Dolliver and Cummins and adopt a platform as forceful as that adopted by the Indiana republicans. At the primaries the defeat of three "regular" members of congress is predicted—Walter I. Smith, Hull and Kennedy. Dawson, who is sometimes regular and sometimes insurgent, is not a candidate for re-nomination. It is declared a solid progressive congressional ticket will be in the field.

If republican candidates are beaten at the polls in Iowa, it is asserted it will be due to defection on the part of "regulars," in other words, the so-called regulars in Iowa are the bolters, if any bolting be done. It is being urged as the duty of progressives everywhere to make a determined fight against the election of democrats. It is expected there will be some republican losses in the west, but it is declared the chance of defeat will be greatest in districts where progressives do not win in the nominations.

FRAUDS AT ST. LOUIS

Washington dispatch to the Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch: The alleged shortage of more than \$60,000 at the United States sub-treasury and of the collector of customs at St. Louis, which, it is charged, have been in existence since 1906, were discussed by the new rules committee of the house at its first meeting today. The matter came up in the form of a resolution introduced by Representative Shackelford, of Missouri, providing for a congressional investigation. Mr. Shackelford said that he had tried unsuccessfully to get an investigation for three years. He said there was no doubt in his mind that the guilty parties were being protected by others higher up. He pointed out that although the secretary of the treasury had recommended that suits be brought against the bondsmen of alleged defaulters, that the responsible parties in St. Louis had neglected to do so and that the statute of limitations had now run against them.

Bills had been pending in congress for several sessions to relieve the St. Louis treasurer of the liability, he said, and unless an investigation was had without delay it might soon be too late.

Representative Champ Clark, of Missouri, told his fellow committeemen that the "federal offices at St. Louis had long been passed around in a little clique, and that if an investigation could be had, a lot of big fellows out there would be sent to the penitentiary. It would get some republicans and it might some democrats, and I don't care if it does," added Mr. Clark.

"The only thing I want," said Mr. Shackelford, "is to be assured by this committee that there will be no white-wash."

The committee thought an investigation of the charges should be undertaken by the house committee on expenditures in the treasury department. After the hearing Representative Shackelford went to the committee on expenditures to arrange for the investigation.

WAITING FOR PRINCIPLES

Editorial in New York World: What could be more pathetic than this spectacle of the republican party—the party of Lincoln, Grant and McKinley—waiting with ill-concealed apprehension for the coming of Theodore Roosevelt and the day of judgment?

Waiting for him to divide the sheep from the goats—waiting for him to judge the quick and the dead—waiting for him to say whether it has fought the good fight—waiting for him to say whether it has kept the faith—waiting for him to say whether it has finished its course—it is prostrate before him like the mandarins before the son of heaven.

But when omniscience has come, and when infallibility has judged, what then?

Suppose the decision is in favor of Mr. Taft and the tariff? Will the storm of protest be stilled? Will the waves of popular discontent subside? Will the country stop clamoring about the cost of living, and weep tears of gratitude for half a loaf? Will labor joyfully accept its wage, exulting that it is permitted to earn its bread in the sweat of its face? Will Aldrichism and Cannonism be sanctified, and Ballinger be

hailed as the great conservator? Will reactionary and insurgent alike find peace that passeth all understanding?

Or suppose the decision is against Mr. Taft. Will the president meekly confess that he is only a proxy, and an incompetent proxy at that? Will he be contented to go down in history as a political understudy, a sub-tenant in the White House, who did not wait for dispossess proceedings? Will the administration kiss the hand that smites it, and bless the foot that kicks it into oblivion? Will MacVeagh return cheerfully to the wholesale grocery, and will Knox, Wickersham, Dickinson and Nagel gracefully resume the gentle art of corporation law, while Wall Street gets ready to make its regular campaign contribution to the cause of the just man armed?

Whatever the decision, there must inevitably be anguish and disappointment and heart burning; for even infallibility can not bring ecstasy to everybody, and millions of republicans seem doomed to suffer in silence. There can be no protest, of course; no appeal. He is the court of last resort. He is the ultimate judge. Republicanism has bowed its neck to the yoke and is waiting in breathless suspense for his verdict.

We recall no other such awe-inspiring spectacle since political organizations were instituted under free government. When Tom Reed died was there nobody left in the republican party with a sense of humor?

A BOLT THREATENED

Editorial in the Kansas City Star, republican: With the rank and file of the republican party overwhelmingly in sympathy with the progressives, and with the democratic party in its full strength opposed to the reactionaries, one of two things soon must happen: Either the progressives must gain control of the republican organization or the democratic party must get control of the government.

Therefore, representatives of this republican minority may set forth from time to time to read the progressives out of the party, as did Attorney General Wickersham Saturday night; those in places of power may continue to depose the earnest disciples of Theodore Roosevelt from appointive places in the government service, as Pinchot and Glavis were deposed; the priests of the party caucus may continue to pronounce the sentence of excommunication on those who defy their laws; the money changers may continue for a time to have the chief places in the temple and at the council board; but in an intelligent, assertive democracy, no faction of a party can withstand a hostile majority; no democratic government can long remain in the hands of those to whom the great majority of the people are opposed.

These truths ought to be as apparent to the organization leaders of the republican party as they are to other observers, but either they are not or there is a defiant purpose to rule or ruin. In the face of these truths the attempts of any man or set of men to put the progressive republicans out of the party are so fatuous as to be almost ludicrous.

That is a mighty big contract. If it should succeed, the host that would follow the banished leaders would dumfound the few that would remain. In some states not enough republicans would be left to hold a barbecue.

ALDRICH TO RETIRE

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington quotes Senator Nelson A. Aldrich as saying that he will not be a candidate for re-election to the senate but will retire to private life at the expiration of his present term on March 3, 1911. Senator Aldrich says that there is not the slightest doubt but that a republican will succeed him in the senatorial seat.

HALE TO RETIRE

Washington dispatches say that it is very probable that Senator Eugene Hale of Maine will withdraw from the senatorial contest and will prepare to retire to private life. Senator Hale's friends have informed him that unless he voluntarily retires he will be defeated for the nomination by Judge Frederick Powers.

MR. BRYAN AT HOME

Mr. Bryan reached New York, returning from his South American trip, April 18. He paid a brief visit to Mayor Gaynor and at night was entertained by the Circumnavigators club, of which he is a member.

PROTECT THE SUPREME COURT

The members of the Nebraska railway commission have sent to the president a petition asking him not to appoint a railroad attorney to succeed the late Justice Brewer.