

Where Battle Rages

OHIO DEMOCRATS

The Ohio democratic state convention met at Dayton June 22. Governor Harmon was endorsed as a presidential candidate in the following resolution:

"We invite the attention of the nation to Judson Harmon and the work he is doing in Ohio. Two years hence it will have been completed, then we can spare him for larger duties. He believes that guilt is personal—is acting on that belief at home, and would act upon it in larger fields. A high sense of duty provides his only motives for official actions, and his sense of justice alone compels judgment. Firmness and strength mark him the man to supplant vacillation and weakness. The nation needs a real man and the Ohio democracy here presents and indorses for the presidency in 1912 Judson Harmon."

Newton D. Baker of Cleveland, supported by the Cleveland delegation and Tom Johnson men generally, led the fight for the nomination by the convention of a candidate for senator. The resolutions committee by a vote of 19 to 2, refused to adopt an endorsement plank. Mr. Baker offered a minority report and he was wildly cheered by his supporters. The proposition to nominate a candidate for senator was, however, defeated by a vote of 1,099 to 254. Judson Harmon was renominated for governor and Atlee Pomeroy of Canton was nominated for lieutenant governor.

The leading points of the Ohio democratic platform are:

"We submit the record made and making by the present democratic state administration.

"Instead of protecting and defending grafters, as was the way of republican officers, the present governor is having them prosecuted and sued for the return to the state of the many thousands of dollars secured by fraud and wrong-doing.

"The governor is handicapped in the task of purifying and improving the public service by the opposition of a hostile legislature and republican state officials.

"We demand the election of United States senators by direct vote.

"We demand the revision of the present unjust and oppressive tariff, reducing rates so as to lower the prices imposed on the consumers; the need of revenue for the economically conducted government must be the guiding principles instead of the demands of favored interests.

"We believe in the conservation of our natural resources and we denounce the administration, especially Secretary Ballinger, for dismissing from the public service tried and true officers whose only aim was the preservation to the people of such resources."

Governor Harmon, on being renominated spoke in part as follows:

"The voters of the country have often been imposed on by tariff taxes levied ostensibly for public revenue, but really for private profit. But they were never before fooled by a promise of substantial reductions of these taxes, broken in their faces as soon as their votes were secured. A power so insolent in its control of the law-making powers must be overthrown without delay and will be if the American people have not lost their spirit.

"There can be no relief as long as the interests which profit through tariff laws are allowed to frame them, as thus far they have always done. It has just been shown in the most striking way that these have complete command of the republican party, as an organization. Insurgency is merely a protest. They scoff at it. The only agency by which they can be dislodged is the democratic party.

"The election of state officers will turn, as it should, on the important home affairs, which are now the chief concern of our citizens. I shall refuse to be drawn away from these. What the present administration has done and tried to do is known to all and the question is, shall it be approved or condemned?

"But good government means just the same in Washington as it does in Columbus and if the discussions which the state campaign involves shall help the voters to elevate the public service in both capitals at once I shall be doubly glad to have had a part in them."

Governor Harmon referred to the honor accorded him by the democracy of Ohio and the renewal of confidence and continued:

"I shall keep on trying to make the phrase 'serving the people' a true description and not a false pretense or a figure of speech. It ex-

presses the vital idea of democratic government.

"A chief magistrate does not serve the people who uses the powers entrusted to him to advance his own or any other than the public interest or fails to use it to safeguard the general welfare whenever it is endangered by neglect, incompetence, wrong doing or the passage of unwise or unconstitutional laws.

"Efforts to continue reforms in the state will have a further effect this year. The need of reforms is still greater in the federal government and it can be met in the election of congressmen. The waste of public funds which, to the extent of \$300,000,000, is openly confessed, is well worth looking after, especially now when the people, who have to make it up, are everywhere struggling to meet the cost of living. And neither economy or watchful regard for the common welfare is possible in Washington while the reign of the favored goes on and the practical genius of our people finds such small expressions in the conduct of their public business."

MINNESOTA REPUBLICANS

The Minnesota republican state convention met at St. Paul June 21. It nominated O. E. Eberhardt, present governor, as its candidate for governor. Then it unanimously nominated Senator Moses E. Clapp, insurgent. The platform endorsed the administration of President Taft, declaring it to be "wise and conciliatory," and by an overwhelming vote it tabled a resolution re-affirming "our unalterable support of the policy promulgated by Theodore Roosevelt." Then it endorsed the work of the entire Minnesota delegation in congress "for their efforts in endeavoring to secure legislation in the interests of the people." It defeated a resolution denouncing the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill and finally as a sop to the insurgents it adopted a resolution in favor of "conservation along the lines suggested by Theodore Roosevelt."

PENNSYLVANIA REPUBLICANS

The Pennsylvania republican convention completely dominated by Senator Penrose met at Harrisburg and named the following ticket:

Governor—Congressman John K. Tener, of Washington county.

Lieutenant Governor—Congressman John M. Reynolds of Bedford county.

Secretary of Internal Affairs—Henry Houck of Lebanon, incumbent.

State Treasurer—Former Congressman Charles F. Wright of Susquehanna county, incumbent.

The platform adopted indorses the national and state administrations and declares that the tariff bill recently enacted is in accord with the republican policy, expressed in the last platform.

DEVELOPING A MENTAL NEGATIVE

I will warrant that if you ever developed a photographic negative, or watched one while it was being developed, you found the process extremely fascinating. At first you saw only a milky white surface without design or form of any kind. Then came spots here and there. Presently you recognized something; quickly, quickly then the whole scene sprang into view, and you held your breath lest you might carry the process too far and lose it all.

It was in the summer of 1896, a hot day in July, and during our Washington convention. I was standing in front of a newspaper bulletin-board reading the astonishing statement that some one named W. J. Bryan had been nominated for president of the United States by the national democratic convention. That bulletin-board became a mental negative to me. At first it meant nothing at all; then two spots appeared, one of which meant that the democrats had "gone off" again, and the other said it must be an Irishman. Now that mental negative has been developing in the bath of time ever since, and last July at St. Paul, while attending another Christian Endeavor convention, thirteen years intervening, the negative came out a portrait complete in every line and tone, and a day's close fellowship with William Jennings Bryan, at the table, on the platform, in conference before the populace, has fixed indelibly in my mind and heart the outlines of a great American, a noble Christian, and a true democrat.

As I go back over those thirteen years and follow the development of this man's character as it appeared to my mind's eye on the slowly developing mental negative, I find it a fascinat-

ing study; and just as in the case of the photographic negative, so was it with the mental negative, a final quick completion of all the details, each in its right place with the proper emphasis, and the whole thing at last fixed indelibly in a bath of comradeship.

Although I never voted for Mr. Bryan, being of the opposite political party, and although I have shared in some measure at least most of the popular notions (if not hallucinations) as to the dangerous qualities of his political doctrines, I have found him as a man one of the cleanest, straightest, bravest, strongest, and ablest men I have ever met.

I can say this now without being charged with any political motive, and I am moved to say it by the fact that Mr. Bryan's open and aggressive espousal of the cause of temperance shows that he is ready to stand for what he thinks is right irrespective of its effect upon his political fortunes.—Christian Endeavor World.

'BUYING A PIG IN A POKE'

Prior to the meeting of the state convention the Columbus (Ohio) Citizen printed this editorial:

"It should not require a club to persuade the Ohio democracy to be honest with itself in this senatorial matter. If one is necessary, though, the voters have the club.

"THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IN AND OUT OF OHIO HAS BEEN DECLARING FOR THE POPULAR ELECTION OF SENATORS MANY YEARS. THE LAST STATE CONVENTION DIRECTED THE PARTY COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE THE INDORSEMENT PROPOSITION IN THE CALL FOR THIS ONE, A DIRECTION WHICH THE COMMITTEE DELIBERATELY IGNORED.

"Twice the party has indorsed senatorial candidates in convention. It is a ridiculous argument against further indorsements to complain, as 'Bill' Finley does, that neither was elected. If the democrats can't name a satisfactory candidate, they don't deserve to have the legislature. It is pretty certain that the people will not give them authority to elect an unknown. Ohio people are too shrewd to buy a pig in a poke.

"Governor Harmon argues that since the primary in which Dick ran alone was ignored by democratic candidates, the party now has no legal way to pick a candidate. He also contends that, since the state committee did not include the senatorial indorsement in the convention call, the delegates have no right to indorse, since they have not been selected with that end in view.

"This is mere quibbling; technical lawyer talk.

"Getting down to brass tacks, there is no legal or regular fashion in which any party in any state can pick a senator. Neither a primary nor a convention has any binding force on any member of the legislature anywhere. It will take a constitutional amendment to give the people the right to elect senators.

"But remember that there is nothing binding upon presidential electors in the popular vote for president. Legally the Ohio electors in 1908 were free to vote for Governor Hughes or Theodore Roosevelt instead of Taft. Yet the moral obligation on presidential electors is never ignored.

"In like fashion the people all over the country have come to take a hand in picking senators, either through primaries or by demanding state convention indorsements. Such indorsements have been violated, as was the Toledo convention pledge to M. A. Hanna. But the violators had to quit politics. The last Illinois legislature ignored the primary victory won by Senator Hopkins and several grand juries are now busy with men who were 'persuaded' to vote for 'Billy' Lorimer. It is safe to say that the democratic members of the next legislature will respect any moral obligation the party puts upon them. They had better.

"The people of Ohio want to know whom the democrats will elect senator if they get the legislature. The people are not interested in any technical or political difficulties the democrats may have in picking their candidate. An indorsement of the man by the democratic state convention will be perfectly satisfactory as a declaration of intention. Moreover, this is now the only means left to that party."

The Citizen has described the situation accurately. Every Ohio democrat who assumes the rank of leader ought to understand that the party which in its methods and its candidates gets the nearest to the people will make the greater progress in the effort to secure the people's endorsement.