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Measuring Up to the Requirements

The New York World says: "The World agrees with the Times that both James Smith, Jr., and James E. Martine should withdraw from the senatorial contest in New Jersey. For the legislature to elect Mr. Smith would be a double violation of democratic faith. For it to elect Mr. Martine would be to choose a senator who does not measure up to the requirements. As the Times says, Mr. Martine's independence and his honesty are unimpeachable, but something more is required." The democratic senator from New Jersey should be a man capable of taking position among the leaders of the democratic party. He should be the kind of a man whose election would strengthen the party everywhere. The only way such a senator can be elected is for Mr. Smith and Mr. Martine to put the welfare of their party above personal ambition."

But who says Mr. Martine does not "measure up to the requirements?" The Times and World both concede that he is independent and honest, and Governor Wilson says that he received 48,000 out of the 70,000 democratic votes voting in the primary upon preference for senator. Doesn't that indicate that, in the opinion of the people, Mr. Martine does "measure up to the requirements?"

As a matter of fact Mr. Martine is an able man. He is probably, all things considered, the best equipped for a senatorial seat of any man New Jersey has put forward in recent years. The New York Times and the New York World, both spokesmen for special interests while pretending to be free and independent newspapers, cannot defend the aspirations of former Senator James Smith, Jr., they cannot successfully attack Mr. Martine and so they join in the chorus, "Martine does not measure up to the requirements!"

Requirements of what and by whom? These newspapers admit that Martine is independent and honest; and independence and honesty are the first requisites in the public official. If New Jersey can elect to the United States senate a genuine democrat who is not controlled by special interests and of whom such papers as the New York Times and the New York World are bound to say "his independence and his honesty are unimpeachable," then surely New Jersey has taken rapid strides along the pathway of popular government; then surely the people of New Jersey need have no fear that they will blush when their new senator takes his stand even "among the leaders of the democratic party." Surely the election of such a man would strengthen the party everywhere.

Governor Wilson has taken the proper position. He does not agree with Mr. Martine in all things, but he knows that Martine is the

democratic nominee, he knows that in all fairness Martine should be elected.

It is well enough to demand the retirement of Mr. Smith for Mr. Smith has no standing on democratic ground either so far as concerns his record, his trend of thought or the desire of the voters as expressed at the primaries. But Mr. Martine is independent, honest and capable. He believes that corporations should be the servants rather than the masters of the people and he is the choice of the democratic voters—a choice regularly expressed. It is absurd to ask him to retire.

AN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

The Commoner receives a great many inquiries in regard to men whose names are being mentioned in connection with the democratic presidential nomination. It is not able to answer all questions but it will be pleased to answer where it can and to make inquiry where it is uncertain. Four persons are being mentioned with frequency—Folk, Gaynor, Harmon and Wilson, and their records are being examined.

Folk was an active supporter of Bryan and Sewell in 1896 and has supported the democratic national ticket in all the presidential campaigns since.

Mayor Gaynor has supported the national ticket in all campaigns. In 1896 he was conspicuous as a supporter of the Chicago platform—he was one of the few prominent democrats in the east who stood up for the party creed and ticket—and he has been faithful ever since.

Governor Harmon, then a member of Mr. Cleveland's cabinet, did not vote in 1896, but in 1900 presided at Mr. Bryan's meeting at Cincinnati.

Governor Wilson supported Palmer and Buckner in 1896, but is supposed to have supported the democratic national ticket in subsequent campaigns. The Commoner has no positive information as to the campaigns since 1896, but will be pleased to publish any authoritative information which any reader may have on the subject.

PROGRESSIVE ARIZONA

Arizona is progressive. She has not allowed herself to be terrorized by the threats of the republican leaders. She has gone along with her constitution-making with an eye single to her own interests. She has adopted the initiative and referendum—the most fundamental of all reforms. This makes it possible for her people to correct any errors they may find, and to direct their government. She has also adopted the recall, which makes it possible for her to turn out those officials who betray their constituents. She is keeping pace with the times. She has inserted other good provisions in the constitution, but above all and beyond all, she has reserved control and can make her government what she wants it to be and can coerce her public servants into obedience to those whom they serve.

THEY KNOW

When Mr. Hughes of New York was appointed to the supreme court, Mr. Bryan said that the appointment was satisfactory to Wall Street. For this statement Mr. Bryan was hotly criticized. The New York News Bureau, Wall Street's organ, in describing those upon whom the "safe and sane" may rely puts Mr. Justice Hughes alongside of Mr. Justice Lurton and other members of the court whose "safety" and "sanity," from the corporations' standpoint, no one has questioned.

SOMETIMES IT PAYS

The vindication of Ballinger and the vindication of Lorimer indicate that sometimes it pays to stand pat.

Song for Christmas

Will M. Maupin

Never too old for Christmas, with all of its meaning sweet.
Never too old for playtime, with laughter and joy complete.
Young as the youngest youngster who dances in childish glee
In dawn of the Christmas morning, under the Christmas tree.
For youth is of heart and purpose; years are of passing time—
All the future is brightened by sound of the Christmas chime.
Laughter and love and music—Ah, these are the sweets of life—
And Christmas the culmination—with all of life's good things rife.

Born to the world a Christ-Child, 'midst Judah's far-flung hills,
Whose love for the little children each slow-moved century fills,
The Babe in the manger lowly, the Teacher of Galilee—
The King of Kings by birthright, we bow to Him our knee,
And the love that he lays upon us we share with our loved ones dear
As the Christmas bells are ringing the good will message clear.
Laughter and love and music—Ah, these are the sweets of life;
And Christmas the culmination—children and home and wife.

Ring the bells for Christmas, peace and to men good will,
Sending the old love message over the vale and hill.
But what of the little children in squalor and want and woe—
Children by love forgotten, who never a Christmas know?
Can we who are singings carols to Him of the manger birth
Be blest if we fail to succor the poor and the low of earth?
Can we as a Christian people declare that our duty's done
Till of hopeless and hungry children the wide world knows not one?

Laughter and love and music—but think of God's lowly poor—
The hungry and helpless children who pass by the Christmas door.
Never a gleam of pleasure, with Christmas a barren dream;
Never a day of playtime, never a Christmas gleam.
Can you who ne'er knew hunger, and never the pinch of want,
Feast fat while a thousand children, haggard and cold and gaunt,
Are hearing the Christmas music and starving at plenty's door?
Remember the Manger Baby—the Lord of the rich and poor!

Carry the Christmas message! Go out with your baskets filled!
Seek homes where love and laughter by hunger and woe are stilled.
In the name of the manger-cradled, spread pleasure along your way
By making all God's poor happy this glorious Christmas day.
"As ye have done to My Children, 'tis thus I shall deal with you!"—
Pay heed to the old, old message; though old it is ever new.
Laughter and love and music—Ah, these are the gifts sublime,
And ours the bounden duty to spread them at Christmas time.

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