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Eternal Vigilance Necessary

It behooves democrats to be on their guard. The friends of predatory interests—the beneficiaries of special privilege and governmental favoritism—are always at work. They never sleep. With them politics is a business because they make the government a business asset. They are able to bring pressure to bear upon their class of papers. When they want to nominate a man for office, he at once becomes a man of distinction, a man of ability—just the man for whom the people are looking. And they have somebody for office whenever there is a place to be filled. They have their candidates for congress and for the senate. They have their candidates for all the judgeships, for the cabinet and for the presidency. They are just now laying their plans to capture the democratic national convention and nominate a candidate who will be satisfactory to the Wall Street interests. If they find that the progressive sentiment is too strong to be entirely ignored, they will take someone who has been progressive enough to furnish them something to talk about but not progressive enough to frighten the interests.

The democratic party seems ready to come into its own. After a long fight the progressive policies which aroused the opposition of all the predatory interests in 1896 are becoming the accepted policies of the country, but the interests will do their best to nominate a candidate who is not in sympathy with them and who tried to retard their progress. Let not the democrats be deceived. The work of a democratic president will be no easy work. The cleaning out of the stables will be a Herculean task. It will require strength of body, strength of mind and unflinching moral purpose. It is no time for compromise. The times require a stalwart, fearless, progressive leader. The time is not ripe yet for the selection of a candidate. Congress will largely shape the issues and may develop the man but whether he comes from the senate or the house or from a state position, he must measure up to the requirements of the occasion and be able to summon the progressive hosts to his banner. He must be positive and progressive if he is to win the confidence of those who are seeking remedial legislation.

REORGANIZATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

The democratic state committee of Pennsylvania has "reorganized" itself by the expulsion of its chairman and the removal of its national committeeman. Ex-Mayor Guthrie, of Pittsburg, has been elected chairman of the state committee in place of A. G. De Walt, and Congressman A. Mitchell Palmer, the Pennsylvania member of the ways and means committee, was given the position of national committeeman, James M. Guffey, removed. It is reported that the present incumbents will resist removal, but it is not so important that the change shall be accomplished at once; it is enough that the beginning should be made. The democratic state campaign last fall seemed to be conducted in the interest of the republican party and it is a healthy sign that there is enough virtue in the committee to enable it to reform itself.

As to Mr. Guffey, little need be said. He was removed from the national committee by the democratic national convention in 1908 and his selection by the state committee to succeed

James Kerr, deceased, was an insult to the party in the nation. After his repudiation by the convention the party polled more than one hundred thousand votes in excess of the vote polled in Pennsylvania in 1904, under his leadership.

If the action of the state committee presages the retirement of the assistant republicans who have paralyzed democratic prospects in Pennsylvania for years the democratic party in the nation has reason to rejoice.

WHY NOT?

Resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the state of Rhode Island:

"Resolved that a majority of all members elected to each house of the general assembly voting therefor, that the following amendment to the constitution of the state be proposed to the qualified electors of the state, in accordance with the provisions of article XII of the constitution, as follows, to wit:

"Section 1. Every male citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years, who has had his residence and home in this state for one year, and in the town or city in which he may offer to vote for six months next preceding the time of his voting, and whose name shall be registered in the town or city where he resides on or before the last day of June in the year during which he offers to vote, shall have a right to vote in the election of all civil officers and on all questions in all legally organized town or ward meetings.

"Section 2. This amendment shall take, in the constitution of the state, the place of section 1 of article VII of articles of amendment, which said section is hereby annulled."

CONGRATULATIONS, GOVERNOR PLAISTED

The press dispatches report that Governor Plaisted has persuaded the legislature to reverse its action and ratify the income tax amendment. This puts Maine in line with the democratic party and the country. Congratulations, Governor Plaisted. You have done well. You have justified the confidence of your friends.

THE NEW YORK SENATOR

The New York democracy has surprised the nation by the wisdom shown in the selection of a senator. Justice O'Gorman is, according to

all reports, a man of high character and ability, and is, in addition, possessed of rare talent as a public speaker. His declaration of principles shows him to be a progressive democrat.

Good for New York.

WHEN SILENCE IS GOLDEN

The efforts of the sensational press to convert the mobilizing of twenty thousand troops at San Antonio into big head lines is not likely to raise the level of journalism. Whether the president was justified in sending so many troops to the Mexican border is a question upon which one can not well form an opinion without knowing all the facts. Until these facts are known it is only fair to give the president the benefit of the doubt. He must be deficient in consideration for the public welfare who would spend the time in looking for ulterior motives or in speculations which tend to create prejudice between the two countries. If the president makes any mistakes in dealing with the situation he will be the one to suffer for them. Democrats can not afford to embarrass him by expressing a lack of confidence unless he abuses the discretion vested in him by the constitution. This would seem to be a time when silence is golden. Words of censure will have more weight when they are used—if they are later found to be necessary—because of silence now.

WILSON SCORES AGAIN

Governor Wilson has hit the mark again in urging the ratification of the income tax amendment. It was a courageous thing to do. The New Jersey legislature has divided on the question, the house has ratified while the senate has rejected.

Now if the governor can follow Governor Plaisted's example and secure a reversal of the senate's action he will give to his state a still higher place in the party's councils.

MISSOURI AND LORIMER

The Missouri senate has unanimously endorsed the senators from that state for voting against Lorimer. As both of the Missouri senators voted no, it was easy to be unanimous, but what will those states do that were so unfortunate as to have senators voting on both sides; which senator will they indorse?

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