

## Ex-Governor Joseph W. Folk on "The Crisis"

The following is from the Minneapolis Tribune of June 2: Former Governor Joseph W. Folk of Missouri, possible candidate for the democratic nomination for president and a star figure at the democratic banquet in St. Paul, is probably the only representative of old-style democracy so far as the tariff is concerned. Mr. Folk believes in the old democratic proposition of tariff for revenue only. He thinks that if a tariff is bad on one thing it is bad on all things, and if one industry is entitled to protection other industries are equally entitled to protection.

Governor Folk was the only real live candidate present at the democratic dinner and made an excellent impression. With his soft-spoken southern speech, his keen, brown eye, and his general attitude of alertness and integrity, the former Missouri governor, who put the hoodlums and gangsters out of business, was accepted as a real man.

Of all the candidates for the democratic nomination for the presidency, Mr. Folk stands out as the man who went through the test of fire when doing so involved the taking of a man's political life in his hands. Today progressivism and honesty in politics are popular issues. Former Governor Folk was one of the trail-blazers who made these issues popular when they were unpopular.

### PROSPECTS CALLED BRIGHT

Concerning national politics Governor Folk yesterday said: "The prospect for democratic success is very bright. If the party is true to its ideals, it will, I believe, win in the next campaign. The ideals of democracy are embraced in Jefferson's maxim, 'Equal rights to all and special privileges to none.' This maxim opposes privilege in any form, whether it be a protective tariff, subsidy or bounty.

"If protection is right in one thing, its justice on some other things can not be denied. The only true democratic idea is that there be no protection at all merely for protection.

"The great question before the country is, 'shall there be government by the people for all, or government by privilege for a class.' This is a question within parties as well as between parties.

"We have agents of privilege within the democratic party. We cannot keep them from being in the party, but we ought to prevent them from running the party. If the party is dominated by the agents of privilege, it cannot hope to benefit by the growing sentiment against privilege.

"There is a tidal wave of democracy rising in the country, and as to whether the democratic party will ride on its crest or will be buried beneath it depends on the party's being democratic. It must be true to its principles and convince people not so much of what it can do for itself but what it can do for them.

"The democratic congress has done well so far in the resolutions for the direct election of United States senators, publicity for campaign contributions, and so forth.

"Democracy is coming into its own and a realization of its ideals will lead to success."

### JOSEPH W. FOLK'S ADDRESS

Joseph W. Folk, former governor of Missouri spoke of revenues as "graft." He said in part:

"A crisis has been reached in the affairs of the republic. The newspapers are filled each day with accounts of thievery and graft. What does it mean? Is corruption becoming a national disease? Is there something in our system of government that encourages men to violate the commandment, 'Thou shalt not steal.' Is not the government itself in a large sense to blame for this seeming general disposition? Has not the example which the government sets of enriching a few by taking from all by means of privilege been an influence for corruption?

"With the example of the national government giving privileges to a few, there is encouragement afforded all forms of graft, for all graft is based upon privilege. Officials are not bribed to give equal rights to all, but to confer some privilege on the few denied the many. The elimination of privilege is the fight confronting democracy. All political parties ostensibly oppose the privilege of lawlessness,

but when it comes to privilege conferred by law, there is a distinct issue between the parties.

"The republican party stands irrevocably for the privilege of a protective tariff. The democratic party if true to itself and its teachings, much stand squarely against this injustice. A tariff for revenue only is for the benefit of the public; a tariff for the expense of the protection of a class is for the benefit of that class at the expense of the public.

"The chief purpose of a high tariff is to stifle competition and to that extent give monopoly. The republican idea is to protect monopoly from the people; the democratic idea is to protect the people from monopoly. When a government by means of a monopoly tariff attempts to take from one class and give to another, a moral question is presented. Wealth created by legislation must in the nature of things be drawn from the public, and it is unjust for all the people to be taxed in order that a few may profit.

### HIGH TARIFF DECLARED GRAFT

"A tariff other than for revenue is merely legalized graft. Let the democratic party take an unmistakable stand on this question and invite everyone of all parties opposed to the system of protection to unite with it in the fight, then there can be a square issue between privilege and equal rights. A battle over tariff schedules claiming that some are too high, and others should remain as they are, does not involve any principle, and can only result in a sham fight. There should be no tariff at all merely for the sake of protection. The congressman who votes for protection on wool produced in his district can not deny the demands of other congressmen for a larger share of the tariff plunder for their districts.

"The doctrine of equal rights should be made a living, vital, controlling force in government. The doctrine opposes the privilege of subsidies, bounties and all forms of governmental favors to a few at the burden of the many. The government has no more right to take from one man indirectly to add to the wealth of another, than it has to compel one man directly to contribute to the fortune of another.

"When such governmental favors are conferred they go to those of wealth and influence enough to secure them, and are beyond the reach of the average man. If one of you were to engage in the manufacture of some article and were to go to Washington, you would receive scant attention unless you had means sufficient to employ legislative agents enough to obtain consideration from the powers that be. So such governmental favors usually are denied those who have not the money and time to obtain them, but are granted to those who are powerful enough to secure them. The beneficiaries of privilege keep their agents constantly infesting the halls of congress, influencing the legislators in order that they may reap where the many sow. If these favors benefited all alike, no one would want them.

"It is because they give a class privileges denied to others that those few clamor for them, and it is for this reason the rest of the people should not submit to such discriminations.

"Privilege bestows upon its holder some monopoly of opportunity and gives him some advantage over other men. As privilege increases opportunity must diminish, and as opportunity diminishes the rights of the individual are destroyed. That is the reason why under the republican system the classes are becoming more opulent, and the masses are finding the opportunity for individual effort growing less as the years go by.

### EQUAL RIGHTS IS SLOGAN

"Let us in this crisis be conservative in charging wrong-doing, lest injustice be caused in charging where it does not exist, but once sure of the evil let us be radical in its extermination. Let us have neither the conservation of stagnation, nor the radicalism of indiscriminating destruction. We want progress along right lines. States and nations, like men, should never be satisfied, but ever strive for higher development. Our surest and safest guide is still the old maxim that there shall be 'Equal rights to all; special privileges to none.' With this axiom as our chart, we cannot lose our course; with this rule for our guidance, the infamies of privilege in every form can be destroyed, and unto all men there will be restored the equal right that belongs to each; the fair and equal opportunity of each and every man to live and labor upon the earth which

God has given to all, and may enjoy untrammelled and unrestricted the gains of individual industry.

"The gospel of equal rights sounds the death knell of privilege and means the uprooting of monopoly throughout the land. This gospel teaches that the prosperity of all the people is of more importance than great riches to the few and that it is better that all of the people should have the wealth than that all of the wealth should be in the hands of a few. The other republics that have lived and died during the flight of time through the ages have been wrecked upon the rock of privilege. But the hope for the perpetuity of this government was never brighter than it is today, because the people are awakened to the dangers ahead. As long as the people are aroused there will be only safety lights for popular government.

### OLD PARTY SHOULD BE PRESERVED

"It is a question for us, not of founding a new party, but in the preservation of the ideals of the old party. Not the formation of a new government, but the purification of a nation's life. Not the conquest of foreign foes, but the subjection of those within. The capacity of a people for self-government is to be proved, not by the glitter of wealth, nor bravery on battle fields, nor by the extent of the nation's dominions, but by the happiness and welfare of the average man. The dangers today are not from without. Selfishness, greed, avarice, privilege, the decay of public virtue, those who would subvert the public functions of government to sordid uses—these are the enemies we have to fear.

"There can be no peace between these enemies and the people's safety. We can not avoid the conflict with them without being recreant as democrats and traitors to our better natures. It is not enough for us to rest upon the splendid history of the democratic party; there must be hopes and aspirations for the future as well as history and records of the past. No man, no nation, no party, can stand still—we must progress or decay.

"Progressive democracy is constructive, not destructive. It would not array class against class, but would preserve the rights of all by causing each to protect the rights of the other. It does not attack wealth honestly acquired, but the privileges that produce tainted riches on one hand and undeserved poverty on the other. It favors the protection of property rights, but recognizes the fact that property rights should not be inconsistent with human rights. It seeks as a remedy for existing evils more government by the people instead of less government by the people. It appeals to conscience instead of avarice, and to the common good instead of private greed."

### INDEPENDENCE

Writing to the New York World, H. LeDagger of New York, says: "Col. Watterson's argument to sell the Philippines to Japan is un-American. It will not enhance his reputation as a democrat. Having blundered in purchasing them, is it commendable to shirk the duty of developing them, to sell into bondage their inhabitants? What country other than the United States has a right to rule these islands? If the burden is too great, if in the future it be deemed advisable to sever the union, let the emblem of a new born republic, reared under the protecting wing of the American eagle, supplant the flag hauled down. Given self-government the Philippines in the course of time would no doubt become a great nation that would reflect glory on the one to which it was indebted for existence. Such an act of magnanimity would be a fitting tribute to the illustrious dead who helped to establish and perpetuate this republic and its ideals."

### A "REASONABLE" RESTRAINT OF STOCKINGS

On May 16 the supreme court judicially legislated favorably to "reasonable" restraint of trade, and sent all trust stocks soaring.

On May 24, in convention in Philadelphia, the National Hosiery association resolved to boost the price of their product by restraining the production.

June 1 this "reasonable restraint" so successfully engineered had already sliced production 30 per cent.

The hosiery manufacturers are now making our socks and stockings and other knit wear for next winter's use, and it will be then that this "reasonable restraint" of production will be made more clear to us.—Omaha Daily News.