

The Commoner.

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Victory of Gov. Foss

The re-election of Governor Foss in Massachusetts on a radical platform, advances his stock in the presidential market. He was elected a year ago and is now re-elected on a platform that leaves no doubt as to his positive and aggressive stand for remedial legislation. The Commoner has already printed the platform, written largely by George Fred Williams, one of the militant reformers of the country. If you are a progressive democrat read the Massachusetts platform and the election returns, and then ask yourself, "What's the matter with Foss?"

The Commoner is not attempting to express an opinion as to the relative availability of the various progressives who are being discussed, but it takes pleasure in calling attention to the fact that Governor Foss is not only one of the men to be considered, but to the further fact that his claims upon the party have been materially strengthened by the indorsement just given him by the voters of Massachusetts.

MR. UNDERWOOD'S CANDIDACY

The Harmon strength shows signs of shifting to Congressman Underwood. This was to be expected. The Wall street crowd does not lack intelligence and it would be very dull if it did not see in Mr. Underwood a more efficient representative than Governor Harmon could possibly be. In the first place Governor Harmon's age is against him. Wall street does not expect to elect a reactionary democrat, even if it succeeds in nominating him. Wall street needs a strong man in the democratic party to lead its fight against reforms. Mr. Harmon does not fill the bill as well as Mr. Underwood. He will be sixty-six next year—past the fighting age and he lacks Underwood's fighting spirit, anyhow. Then again, Governor Harmon is not at Washington while Mr. Underwood represents a district in which the Steel trust has enough influence to keep him in congress.

If Mr. Underwood is nominated it will increase his prestige and he will be in a position to lead the reactionary element of the party against progressive measures. It would be easier, too, to nominate him than to nominate Governor Harmon. He lives in the south and could take advantage of the feeling that the south deserves the honor. Northern democrats would like to give the place to a southern man and those who want a reactionary could conceal their real reasons behind a plea for the south. Mr. Underwood has youth, ability and courage—just the combination that Wall street needs. Watch him grow—in the subsidized press of both parties.

His nomination would, however, be unfortu-

nate for the south, for his defeat would be wrongfully charged to his location instead of being charged, as it should be, to the fact that he is not in harmony with the progressive spirit of the day.

If the south wants the candidate—and there is no reason why that section should not have him—it should select some one who will appeal to the progressive element in all parties. It is hard enough for a republican to be a stand-patter now—a democratic standpatter is more lonesome still.

A NON-PARTISAN PLUNDERBUND

The American Protective Tariff league has adopted the following resolutions: "Resolved, that we strongly recommend that our members and connections work and vote for the defeat of any candidate who is not a protectionist, and work and vote for the election of all candidates of WHATSOEVER PARTY who are protectionists."

Here we have the plan of the plunderbund. There is no partisanship in the American Protective Tariff league. While it ordinarily works with the republican party, it stands ready to bolt any republican who is not willing to take his orders from the tariff barons; it will render assistance to any democrat who is willing to betray his constituents into the hands of the tax eaters. How long will it take the consumers to learn the real character of the man who makes his money out of a protective tariff? How long can the consumer be misled by the appeal to his patriotism when the protectionist has no thought beyond the amount of money that he can squeeze from the public through the operation of law?

It is high time that the farmers, mechanics, merchants and the general public get together and resolve to oppose protectionists and to favor those who are pledged to a reduction of the extortionate tariff rates.

A GREAT FIGHT

The democrats and progressive republicans made a great fight in New Mexico. While they failed to carry the state legislature because of the gerrymandering of the state, they surprised their friends outside by what they did accomplish and proved that New Mexico is fighting ground. The democrats in the legislature should begin at once to insist upon the ratification of the income tax amendment to the constitution. That ought to be the first act passed by the legislature, and the second ought to be the submission of the initiative and referendum. These two acts will make a good beginning for the new state. The Commoner congratulates the democrats of New Mexico upon the showing that they made and wishes them success in the contests yet to come.

ASK LA FOLLETTE

The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch says: "Before nominating a successor to Justice Harlan on the United States supreme court, it might be well for the president to confer with Mr. Bryan just to see what sort of a judge he would appoint if he had the chance, and why."

Mr. Taft would learn something to his advantage if, before selecting a successor to Justice Harlan, he would call in a number of humble citizens. He need not, however, go outside of his own party for an advisor. Let him confer with Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin.

A MATTER OF TEMPERAMENT

Just before the election of 1908 Mr. Rockefeller said that he favored Mr. Taft because he was "temperamentally" better fitted than Mr. Bryan for the presidency. Now we know what he meant. He had examined both candidates carefully and from his standpoint he was right. Mr. Taft's temperament suits Mr. Rockefeller—the latter would rather defend a suit in equity than be a defendant in a criminal prosecution.

A Fight Ahead

The election returns answer the claims of enthusiasts on both sides who expected a landslide their way. If anything can be judged from the vote cast on November 7, there is a fight ahead of both parties. The republicans made gains in the east where several elections were held, while the democrats made some gains in the west. They gained a congressional district in Kansas, where a progressive democrat was running against a republican who promised to support Mr. Taft's policies. The victory in New Mexico is very gratifying to the democrats, but the fact that the republicans won the legislature in New York and New Jersey, elected their governor in Rhode Island by an increased majority, reduced Governor Foss' majority of a year ago and carried Maryland, these things indicate that the predatory interests are lining up back of Mr. Taft and that our party is going to have a tremendous fight on hand to dislodge the interests.

The democrats will rejoice over the return of Kentucky to the democratic fold. Governor McCreary's majority is a very large one, and the election of Congressman James to the senate is assured. James will add a giant's strength to the democratic side in the senate and will greatly aid the reform forces. The gains in several cities in Ohio are encouraging, although local issues have contributed largely to the result. In Nebraska the situation is apparently unchanged. An effort was made to enlist the aid of the progressive republicans in carrying the state ticket, but this failed, and the republicans carried the state. Under the circumstances the republican victory in Nebraska is likely to encourage the friends of Mr. Taft and to discourage those who have counted on preventing his nomination. The Third Nebraska district elected a democrat to succeed a democrat in congress.

If any democrat has expected to carry the east with a plutocratic democrat, he might as well give up the idea. There is no possible chance of the democrats getting the Wall street support. If they win, they must win with the aid of the progressive republicans, and they can not hope for that unless their candidate is a man about whose progressiveness there is no doubt.

Let the democrats gird themselves for the fight and from now on demand a platform and ticket in harmony with the progressive sentiment of the country.

SOMETHING THE MATTER

Something is the matter with the Omaha World-Herald. It used to be a vigorous, outspoken exponent of democracy. Its splendid service gave Mr. Hitchcock his chief claim to the reward voted him in his election to the United States senate, but since he turned the paper over to some one to run it has been gradually lapsing from its former position until its editorial page can now be quoted with approval by the Wall street crowd that it used to take pride in fighting.

On election day, for instance, the World-Herald contained the following editorial:

THE SHERMAN LAW

Uncommon interest attaches to the reports of the baiting of President Taft by Congressman Littleton of New York at the banquet tendered the peripatetic executive by the Pittsburg steel millionaires. Mr. Taft, the reports agree, was made very angry, and little wonder. But a president who spends a large part of his time parading over the country as the special pleader of a political party—or rather of a faction of a party—can expect that the high respect popularly felt for the office he holds will gradually be lowered until he stands about on a level with other exhorters.

Mr. Littleton, the reports agree, was given a genuine ovation when he made an eloquent plea for the repeal of the Sherman act, and President Taft was heard in cold silence when he reiterated his intention strictly to enforce it and his opposition to its amendment.

And this is full of significance. A few weeks ago, immediately following the supreme court decision in the Standard Oil and Tobacco cases, we were told that the Sherman law

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