

Let Candidate Fit the Times and Issues

The Cincinnati Enquirer, in its issue of Monday, December 4, printed, under the headline, "Let the Candidate Fit the Time and the Issues" the following editorial:

That in prior political campaigns political machines within the democratic party, and also those operated within the republican party, have nominated candidates for the presidency goes without contradiction.

Neither can it be denied that organized interests, which know no party, when it comes to a question of pecuniary gain, have not only made nominations in the past, but have influenced and determined elections to the highest office in the land.

What has been done before may be attempted again, but the present time is not so auspicious for the success of such outrages upon the elective system of the United States.

If there has been one lesson in the elections of 1909, 1910 and 1911 it has been that exhibiting the revolt of the voters against syndicates of political promoters, against boss rule and machine politicians.

This revolt has not been confined to any political party, for it has struck at republican and democratic machines and leaders alike, and it will continue to strike at the candidates suspected of representing such machines, such syndicates or such bosses, no matter upon what platform they may stand, what pledges they may give, or what party label they may attach to themselves.

There are known interests, powerful influences, and certain leaders prominent in the political circles of the day that are "suspects" among the electors of the country, and the defeat of any such leader for a public office of the importance of the presidency of the United States would be assured from the very day of his nomination.

No interest so great, no influence so powerful as to save such a leader from most humiliating and crushing defeat by the voters of the union.

In the democratic party is this antagonism of the voters to such interests especially strong, and in the campaign of 1904 the verdict of the polls attested its power to defeat.

Judge Parker was doubly the victim of the political play of that year's campaign.

He lost approximately a million of democratic votes through the suspicion that he was allied with certain interests, while at the same time the money of those same interests was poured into the campaign funds of the republican party.

The friendship of those interests in itself would have defeated him, but their cash contributions made that defeat doubly sure.

The democratic party in 1912 deserves no repetition of the political play of 1904.

The democratic voters do not wish as their candidate any agent, counselor, attorney or representative of interests which has been banded against them since 1896.

They want no "suspect" of the present nor deserter in the past, no advocate on the hustings for the rights of the masses while a pleader in the courts for the special privileges of a class.

THE SORT OF LEADER ESSENTIAL

"A Fight Ahead" is the caption of an editorial review of the results of the election on November 7, appearing in the current issue of The Commoner, and we think that opinion is generally shared by those who give the closest study to political conditions in this country. It is all right to be hopeful, but it is very unwise to be so confident that carelessness results or that the opposition is accorded an advantage.

The democrats have the best of the situation at this time. That is, it looks so to us, but it must be borne in mind that when we go to the battle next year it will be twenty years since we won a victory and that more than once in those years there was a feeling that the "party of the people" had the advantage. Whatever advantage democracy now has lies in the awakening of those people of the country who have heretofore followed blindly the beaten paths. East and west millions have trailed after the republican party in blind belief. That belief has been shaken to a considerable extent, and the elections of 1910, together with other signs of unrest, especially the insurgent movement, gives good grounds for believing that hundreds of thousands of men who have heretofore voted the republican ticket will support a democratic candidate for president in 1912.

But let this be clearly understood: While the democratic party needs those hundreds of

thousands of former republican voters to carry it to victory, those insurgents are not going to vote blindly. They are disposed to desert the republican party in 1912 because their eyes have been opened, but they will not be disposed to vote a ticket they have never voted before unless that ticket appeals to their reason. Insurgents are thinking men; they sincerely wish better government and when they lend their influence to effecting a change of government they must have faith in the sincere purpose of the democrats to effect reforms.

The insurgents in 1912 will hold the balance of power between the two parties. They are progressives; they are revolting against standpatism. The democrats of the country outside the influence of rings and bosses are likewise progressives and anti-standpatters. Therefore, in choosing the party leaders for 1912 with the certainty of "A fight ahead" it behooves the democrats to act soberly and with judgment. Not only does victory in 1912 depend upon the leadership in the campaign, but a continuance of power of the democrats, should they carry the election, depends upon wisdom and strength, progressiveness linked with calmness and sanity, in the White house. To retain its power those insurgents who vote the democratic ticket in 1912 must be welded to the party.

No mere politicians can lead democracy to victory in 1912; the call of the people—the people who will turn the tide for one party or the other, is for a vigorous, militant statesman.—Columbia (S. C.) "The State."

THE HARMON BOOM

Akron (Ohio) Beacon-Journal: The first move of Akron democrats regarding the presidential campaign was made this morning, when Len Koplin, one of the prominent democrats of Akron, and a man always closely affiliated with the politics of Summit county and the Nineteenth congressional district, announced that he would be a candidate for delegate from this district to the democratic national convention, which will be held next spring.

Koplin's platform, under the circumstances, is considered somewhat unusual, and is said to be backed by every man in his particular wing of the democratic party. Koplin stands straight for Bryan and a Bryan platform, or for any man Bryan shall stand for at the convention.

"I will be a candidate for delegate to the convention," said Koplin, "but I want it understood that I will stand for nobody but Bryan or the candidate he shall suggest. I will also work for Bryan's choice for national committee-man."

"I am not for Harmon, and I do not believe the people of the Nineteenth district will stand for a Harmon man to go to the national convention. It is my firm belief that Harmon will not pull half of the delegates in Ohio."

The break from Harmon in this district by that wing of the democratic party, coming as it does at this early date, is unexpected, although it has never been believed that Harmon could win as he pleased with democrats in Summit county.

Koplin is supported almost to a man by the members of his faction in Akron, and a bitter fight is predicted between the Bryan democrats and the Harmon branch of the party.

It has been Harmon's ambition to go to the democratic convention with as near a solid delegation from Ohio as possible, and every break in the party means trouble for him. Harmon is preparing to carry on the fight in the enemy's territory, and it is said that neither side will give or take quarter.

From the present outlook Summit county will probably be one of the fiercest battle grounds in the state on the issue of who will control the democratic party next year.

Jacksonville, Oregon, October 27th.—To the Editor of the Portland Evening Journal: I have read the Journal's account of the recent meeting of the Jackson club of Portland, at which presidential candidates and possibilities were discussed.

It looked as if it were a gathering of those who put expediency before principle, for "the noblest Roman of them all," William J. Bryan, and his mighty, unselfish work for the people were barely mentioned. They seemed to forget that but for the great commoner the democratic party would be but an asset of the predatory interests in control of the republican party, impotent for honest, patriotic service. His is a

name to conjure with, for no democrat has ever polled nearly as many votes.

Fred Holman, who works for the corporations when he is not raising roses, was there. Every four years he makes his entree, insisting that he is a Simon-pure democrat and is liberal in his advice that the democrats should nominate for president somebody who is willing to let big business do about as it pleases. Only once since Cleveland's last election has he voted the democratic ticket for president, and that was for Parker. It is no wonder that he should be so loud in his advocacy of Judson Harmon.

Ordinarily it would seem incomprehensible that Governor Harmon of Ohio should be considered a presidential possibility from a democratic standpoint. However, the privileged classes, always alert to protect themselves and to do business with both of the large parties, have their minions busy in the attempt to capture the democratic nomination for one of their friends, being reasonably certain already that President Taft will be renominated. "Heads I win, tails you lose," you know.

Governor Harmon was one of the coterie of Cleveland democrats that accomplished the defeat of the democratic nominee for president in 1896. A corporation lawyer, he is by practice and environment plutocratic and reactionary and against rule by the people. The measures proposed by progressive democrats and republicans have no charms for him.

To nominate Harmon would be to invite a repetition of the democratic disaster of 1904. It could not possibly make any difference to the corporations and trusts whether he or Taft was elected. They are of the same kidney, man, different label.

There are thousands of democrats in Oregon and millions of them in the United States who will never vote for Judson Harmon for president, and they are the kind of democrats who scratch their tickets only on the greatest of provocation. CHARLES NICKELL.

California Outlook: Judson Harmon of Ohio is a big man. He is of sterner stuff than the gentleman from the state who now fully occupies the executive chair at Washington. The latter dents rather easily. Harmon is flint-like. He is as laborious as Cleveland was, without being as fat-witted. No stuffed prophet he. He is a resolute man who knows what he wants and knows the best way to get it. It is good politics for the democrats to choose their candidate from the same state from whence comes the republican candidate. That obviates the state pride problem and makes a fairer and a squarer stand-up fight.

Harmon is a conservative. His type of mind is that of the Sage of Esopus and his associates are very similar as to quality of mind and financial predilection. He sees in the prosperity of the business interests the greatness and glory of the nation. He is more conservative than Taft and would better suit the financial interests than Taft, who, conservative though he is, can not refrain from "monkeying" with the trust problem and giving the interests occasional bad days in Wall street. Still, with these two men nominated by the two great opposing parties, the interests would rest in tolerable security which ever won the election. And, what is more important to the aforesaid interests, the progressive elements in both parties would be non-suited, thrown out of court neck and heels, with no one to represent their cause before the people. Or would they? Is it not at least thinkable that just as the interests got the political cards all stacked to suit them some meddlesome radical might raise the cry of "LaFollette and Wilson," and invite all men of progressive minds to rally under a third standard? Bourbonism has blundered similarly many a time and bourbonism never learns anything from its disasters. If the powers are shrewd, really politic, they would concede to the progressive element in this nation a voice and a candidate representative of it least a worse thing come to pass, and then try to defeat that candidate with a safe and sane candidate of their own choosing. The convention machinery of the country is in the hands of the powers and they may be able to work their will at the national convention, but let them beware lest they make their victory too complete. Nevertheless, watch Harmon. Word has been passed from mouth to mouth, from ocean to ocean, that "There is nothing to it but Harmon."

NOT A DICTATOR

Belding, Mich.—Editor The Commoner: I herewith enclose "clipping" from the Grand Rapids News, of date Sept. 11, 1911. This edi-