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A Question of Fact

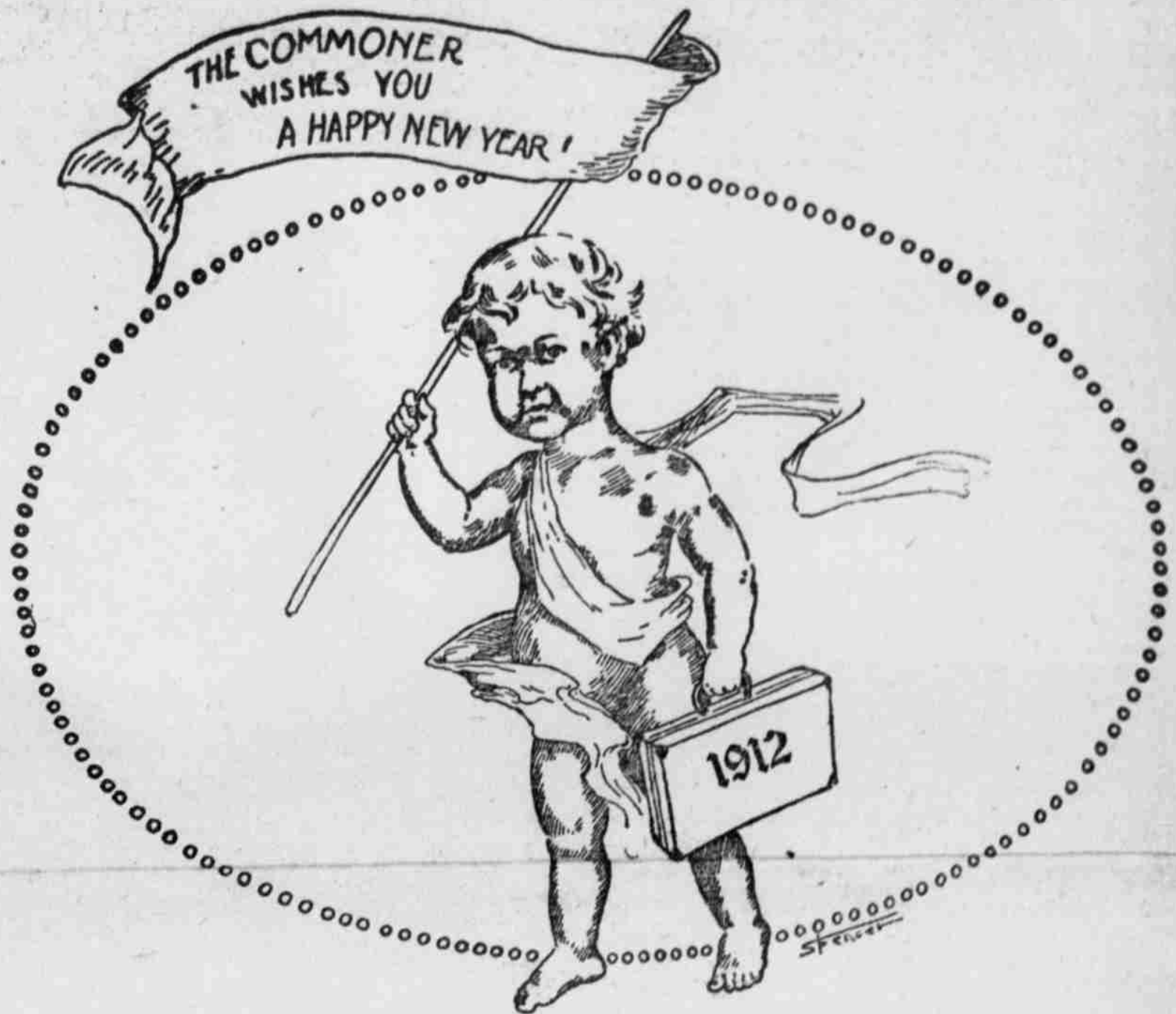
The Houston Post settles the supreme court question to its own satisfaction by the simple assertion that each of the judges was appointed because of his special fitness for the position. For instance, he says, "Justice Vandevanter was appointed because of the record he has made in the public service representing the people." Now who told the editor of the Post this? How does he know that that was the reason? And why is he so careless in his statements unless he does know? If he will examine Judge Van Devanter's record, he will find that he was a Union Pacific attorney for seven years, and if he will examine the decisions rendered by Justice Van Devanter, he will find evidence that Justice Van Devanter has not forgotten the fact that he was attorney for the Union Pacific—or possibly it might be more polite to say that he became so deeply interested in the railroad while its attorney that the impression then made upon his mind in favor of the railroads has not had time to wear off. Does the Houston Post know whether any of the Union Pacific officials were active in securing the appointment or will it make any difference in its opinion if they were?

The Post also says "Justice Hughes was appointed because of his eminent position in the public life of New York, etc." How does the editor know that this was the reason? Does the editor know that a number of the predatory interests contributed to Mr. Hughes' campaign when he was elected governor? Does he know that Governor Hughes vetoed a two-cent rate bill passed by the New York legislature? Does he know that Governor Hughes sent a message to the legislature opposing the ratification of the income tax amendment—the amendment since ratified by New York and thirty other states? Does he know that Governor Hughes appointed a committee to whitewash the dealings of Wall street? Does he know that Governor Hughes was put forward to defend the trusts in the last presidential campaign and that he interpreted the republican platform to promise the very amendment that the supreme court has made in the anti-trust law? Does the editor know these facts or would it make any difference if he did?

And now will the editor of the Houston Post tell his readers what objection there could be to a little publicity as to the recommendations for judgeships? Is there any good reason why the people should not know at whose request these judges were appointed? The opinion of the editor of the Post may be enough for those who do not want anything more, but he may have some readers who prefer the facts to the editor's opinion.

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TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE—AND FOREVER!

In a Dual Role

Those who have read the literature sent out by the Harmon bureau must have been impressed by the fact that a labored effort is being made to prove that Governor Harmon is a progressive. He is being urged in the same way that President Taft was when he became a candidate. All of the energies of Mr. Taft's friends were employed to prove that he was a progressive and in harmony with Mr. Roosevelt's policies, but it was known at the same time that he was satisfactory to Wall street. To those who understood politics it was plain enough that he could not be both a standpatter and a progressive, but the progressives were deceived. The standpatters knew their man, and they must have enjoyed reading the literature that was sent out to show that Mr. Taft was going to strike a blow at Wall street at every opportunity. When the election was over Mr. Taft could not be both, and he naturally preferred to be himself rather than a second edition of Mr. Roosevelt. Now the progressives are camping on his trail.

Mr. Harmon is the same kind of candidate Mr. Taft was. The important thing is to make him acceptable to progressives, and therefore the literature is telling how radical he is. This scheme worked in the republican party because the republicans were not as well acquainted as the democrats are with the difference between a standpatter and a progressive. Some sixteen years ago the democrats passed through the fight in which the republicans are now engaged, and since that time democrats have been able to distinguish at sight the standpat variety of democrats and the progressive democrat. It is not reasonable to suppose, therefore, that democratic voters can be deceived as republican voters were by a candidate who is appearing in a dual role. If Governor Harmon's managers are not frank with the people, Governor Harmon

either knows or does not know what his managers are doing. If he knows, then he shares the responsibility for the deception which is being attempted. If he does not know, how will he make the people believe him able to conduct the national government if he is not able to control the managers of his campaign?

Governor Harmon is either a standpatter or a progressive—he can not be both. Would the Wall street element be for him if they did not know where he stood? And will progressives be for him when they know that he is satisfactory to Wall street? Ask those who were out of harmony with the policy of the party during the campaigns of 1896, 1900 and 1908, and they will almost to a man tell you that Governor Harmon is the man to nominate—unless they have shifted to Mr. Underwood. Is this a good recommendation for a democratic candidate? Ask the big railroad attorneys—those who call themselves democrats but vote the republican ticket—what democrat should be nominated for the presidency, and they will almost without exception tell you that Governor Harmon looks good to them—unless they have decided that Mr. Underwood has a better chance for the nomination.

Ask those democrats who are connected with the trusts and you will find that they are as a rule for Governor Harmon or Mr. Underwood. There is no reason, of course, why Wall street should not make a fight to control the democratic party but it ought to be an open fight. If the Wall street democrats are in a majority, they ought to write the platform and nominate the ticket, but it is not fair for them to make their fight under cover and represent their candidates as progressives. Fairness, however, is not to be expected from Wall street. Those who defend privilege and favoritism are conscious of the wrongs they are perpetrating upon the masses of the people, and therefore do not take the masses into their confidence. They must win by double dealing if at all, and the progressives must be on their guard against the dark