

The Situation in Ohio

Editorial in the Bucyrus (Ohio) News Forum: What every good democrat wants for next year is, first, to stand loyal to democratic principles and free from all entangling alliances, and second, to nominate a ticket that can win. With these two objects in view it behooves every loyal and unselfish democrat to look over the record and attitude of the men whose names are presented for consideration, and make his choice free from all personal prejudices and all selfish motives.

Other things being equal, the Daily Forum always prefers an Ohio man to a resident of any other state. For that reason we have given a loyal support to the candidacy of Governor Harmon, while at the same time conceding the excellence of the other gentlemen prominently mentioned for the nomination.

Developments have been such that we have been compelled to revise our opinion, and we believe the time has come when this should be admitted, in all kindness of personal feeling toward the distinguished gentleman whose fortunes we can no longer follow in the line of presidential ambition, but frankly and with an eye single to the interests of the nation and the party.

We have been reluctantly forced to the conviction that the governor is not an available candidate, and that his nomination is out of the question, and also that he would be defeated if nominated. The reports of his backing by the Wall street interests is one of the reasons for this change of views. We do not assert that these reports are true, but they have the appearance of being well founded, and democracy can not go into the campaign with any possible hope of success, with such a suspicion hanging about the candidate. A secret alliance with the forces openly antagonized would be fatal. The campaign upon a state record is another objection which we think would cost the party all chance of success. It is not necessary to go into details. Our readers well know the things which we have in mind, of which we will mention only one, that being the claim of having lifted the burdens of the small home owner in the payment of taxes. We have pointed out the futility of this claim, so far as our own county is concerned. The rate of taxation as compared with that of last year is no criterion. It is the amount that must be laid down in dollars and cents at the county treasurer's office that tells the story, and the claim of saving to the small home owner will not wash when judged upon this basis. Without discussing the matter exhaustively, we will mention but one more factor in the chain of events which has led us to our present conviction. That is the attitude of Mr. Bryan toward Governor Harmon. We do not permit Mr. Bryan to control our opinions nor recognize him as a master, political or otherwise. Nevertheless, his predominant influence in the party must be acknowledged by all. The democratic party has had one Parker campaign. It has no use or need for another. Such a situation would spell defeat, no matter whom we nominate. Mr. Bryan is the greatest leader in the party today, and his influence is potent without the fictitious advantage of place or official power.

OHIO PROGRESSIVES ARE ACTIVE

Special dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer: St. Clairsville, Ohio, January 2.—Harmonious, but without the Harmon spirit which the promoters expected when they called it, a conference of the leading democrats was held at Steubenville this afternoon. It had been expected by former candidate for congress, A. N. McCombs, now inspector of high explosives, and appointed by Harmon, that the delegates would be unanimous in the matter of selecting Harmon instructed delegates in the Sixteenth district for the national convention.

In fact, it was claimed that this meeting was got up by those who had been under the tree when Harmon shook down the plums in order to offset the progressive meeting of democrats held in Columbus Friday afternoon. Not only did this fail, but it turned out that the meeting was largely in sympathy with the one in Columbus. To such an extent was this true that a number of prominent "progressives," who were scheduled to take active part in the Columbus conference, forsook that meeting for the one in the district.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. McCombs, who stated that the purpose of the meeting was to get the consensus as to those who would make the most satisfactory delegates to the national convention.

This evidently did not meet with the approval of the would-be Harmon boosters. A motion was then made by a state employe, also a Harmon appointee, that the meeting express itself as to the men who should represent the district at the national convention. This was to be in the nature of a straw vote, and was not to be binding on either the conferees or on the district. After some little debate the question was put and promptly voted down.

An effort was then made to sound the delegates as to their favorite for the presidential nomination, and it developed that there were but two men present who were for Harmon first, last and all the time. Following this, a motion was made that the meeting take no action at this time and this was carried. The Harmon supporters saw in this method the only way of getting out of the meeting without precipitating an attack upon the candidacy of the governor.

A conferee, professedly anti-Harmon, then made the motion that the meeting adjourn until February 29. It developed at the meeting that it was the purpose of many of those present to have delegates selected who would be for Harmon on the first or possibly the first few ballots only.

That they do not believe he can secure the nomination was seen when a party to the conference stated that, while it might be well to let Harmon go into the convention with a solid delegation, yet the delegates to have been selected today were to be instructed to throw their votes to William J. Bryan after the party ballots.

Here appeared the hand of Editor H. H. McFadden, of the Steubenville Gazette, who some time ago came out for the peerless one for the nomination. Of the twenty delegates all but two are said to have been in favor of this action in instructing the delegates. Editor McFadden, who was counted upon as giving aid to the progressive meeting in Columbus, remained at home and was prominent in the meeting.

Another prominent anti-Harmon man who was present was John T. Flynn, of Bellaire. Flynn led the Tom L. Johnson movement in the 1908 national convention at Denver to prevent the selection of Harvey C. Garber as national committeeman. His presence at today's meeting was of itself sufficient to indicate a change of complexion in the personnel of a supposed Harmon meeting.

The meeting was harmonious throughout, and when Mr. McCombs saw that the meeting had failed of its purpose he is said to have expressed no displeasure. It is evident that he hopes to overcome the adverse sentiment toward Harmon before the meeting in February.

In speaking of the meeting this evening a conferee characterized it as a meeting of "progressive democrats along the lines laid down by William J. Bryan." The Bryan spirit seemed to be the only thing that kept the meeting from getting into a tangle. With this as a sort of objective point of many of the delegates, they were kept out of any dissensions that might have arisen had the conferees gone into the matter of expressing their favorites for delegates.

Owing to the secrecy with which the invitations were sent by Mr. McCombs, it was to have been expected that only those persons would have been invited who would be expected to be favorable to the governor. If the invitations were sent with this in view it is evident that some one was badly mistaken or else greatly surprised.

The Belmont county delegation took advantage of the meeting to get in some very good work for State Treasurer Creamer for the nomination for governor, and one of them stated tonight that the Sixteenth district would send a solid delegation to the state convention for Creamer.

OHIO PROGRESSIVES

The permanent officers of the Ohio democratic progressive league are as follows: President, John J. Lentz, Columbus; secretary, W. W. Durban, Kenton; treasurer, J. H. Blacker, Chillicothe; first vice president, Bert Bartlow, Hamilton; second vice president, J. W. Johnson,

Waverly; third vice president, Benton Childers, Worthington.

The following executive committee was named: Charles E. Mason, Hamilton; Fred Sites, Tiffin; J. L. Patterson, Defiance; Adam Bridge, Franklin City; Henry Kampfe, Piqua; E. B. Bloom, Bowling Green; L. P. Stevenson, Jackson; John Monahan, Logan; M. L. Boyd, Columbus; M. G. Thraves, Norwalk; John Flynn, Bellaire; L. C. Koplin, Akron; F. E. Preiffer, Cleveland; B. F. McDonald, Newark; J. J. Whitacre, Canton.

It was decided to effect an organization in every congressional district, with a view to selecting delegates to the state and national conventions who would be in accord with the purposes of the conference as laid down in the resolutions. This work will be under the direction of Secretary Durbin, whose ability as an organizer has been repeatedly demonstrated.

EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE HEEDED

The following editorial appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer December 25th:

Coleridge wrote that "Human experiences, like the stern lights of a ship at sea, illumines only the path which we have passed over," but the dreaming author of "Kubla Kahn" did not realize that practical men use the light of experience as a searchlight to disclose dangers to be avoided in the future course.

In that use lies its value, and the experience the Ohio democrats had in 1904 certainly gave them enough light upon "the ways that are dark" of the interests combined against them.

The illuminating influences of that campaign were so great they should last them as a searchlight for the next century, disclosing to them similar "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" prepared and ready for their undoing.

The democratic party bore that year the terrible burden of being charged as controlled by allied corporate influences, and then in the closing weeks of the canvas was swamped by the campaign funds furnished the republican party by those same interests.

The party lost the support of hundreds of thousands of sincere voters at the start and by that, in itself, the contest was determined against it.

The interests that flushed the sluices with the cash in the later days of the campaign but added to the majorities of the republican party.

Experience discloses the same dangers looming up in Ohio today.

Efforts, systematic efforts, are being made to nominate a candidate for president who has been allied with the interests all his life, and whose tongue, pen, ability and energy have given them long and devoted service.

The nomination of any man associated as advocate, protector, ally, agent, counsellor, attorney or representative of these interests means certain defeat to the democratic party.

If any democrat wishes to forecast the result of the nomination of such a candidate, let him turn the searchlight of experience upon the election results in the following named counties of Ohio in the year 1896, when the party fought against the interests, and the year 1904 when charged with being bound to them.

Counties	1896	1904
Allen	Dem. plu. 1,401	Rep. plu. 1,111
Auglaize	Dem. plu. 2,019	Dem. plu. 570
Belmont	Rep. plu. 1,308	Rep. plu. 3,269
Butler	Dem. plu. 2,749	Dem. plu. 349
Brown	Dem. plu. 1,299	Dem. plu. 860
Clermont	Dem. plu. 384	Rep. plu. 868
Crawford	Dem. plu. 2,738	Dem. plu. 1,179
Darke	Dem. plu. 1,734	Rep. plu. 173
Defiance	Dem. plu. 1,771	Dem. plu. 184
Fairfield	Dem. plu. 1,806	Dem. plu. 549
Hardin	Rep. plu. 38	Rep. plu. 1,640
Lorain	Rep. plu. 1,684	Rep. plu. 6,301
Mahoning	Rep. plu. 1,684	Rep. plu. 5,968
Miami	Rep. plu. 707	Rep. plu. 3,147
Ottawa	Dem. plu. 1,171	Dem. plu. 268
Perry	Dem. plu. 108	Rep. plu. 2,087
Putnam	Dem. plu. 2,543	Dem. plu. 1,288
Tuscarawas	Dem. plu. 632	Rep. plu. 2,224
Wayne	Dem. plu. 1,199	Rep. plu. 583

Why prolong this list? Every democrat knows its sad record, and every democrat knows the reason of our losses.

Victory was impossible under the belief of the democratic voters that the party was in control of allied interests.

Thousands of staunch and true democratic candidates for office were defeated then through the malign influences of such belief.

Why sacrifice other thousands of loyal democrats next year? Why ordain their defeat by placing upon the party the same load of 1904?

Let us nominate a candidate who will enter the contest free and untrammelled, bound to no clientele either by failure to execute anti-trust laws, or by active service in the courts to advance trust interests. Let the democratic party