

Is This New Light on Harvey-Wilson Controversy

The Washington correspondent for the New York World throws what he calls new light on the Harvey-Wilson incident in this way: Before the Kentucky editor got into the limelight the New York World, in a dispatch from Washington, revealed the fact that Col. Harvey had been spending week-end down on the old Virginia farm of Thomas F. Ryan, and that that fact had brought about the meeting in New York.

STORY OF THE CONFERENCE

While Col. Watterson will not confirm or deny, here is what is known to have happened at the conference in the Manhattan club: Col. Watterson and Col. Harvey were present when Governor Wilson entered. In the early course of the conversation, it was suggested by Mr. Watterson, not by Mr. Harvey (but entirely with Mr. Harvey's knowledge, consent and, in fact, at his instigation)—well, anyhow it was suggested by Col. Watterson that the Princeton alumni, while undoubtedly a fine lot of men, could not be expected to finance a campaign for the presidency. That being admitted, Mr. Watterson (still with the knowledge and well-wishes of Col. Harvey) suggested a meeting with Thomas F. Ryan.

At this point Governor Wilson buttoned his coat, preparatory to a frigid departure. It was at this point, also that Col. Harvey, noting the symptoms of denial, rose to his feet and asked:

"And, Governor, do you also think that our (Harper's Weekly) support is hurting you?"

The governor said that he thought just that. Col. Watterson, in his account of the affair, omitted the Ryan incident.

In conversations with friends of the south—editors and statesmen, however, Col. Watterson has been most frank. Three incidents came before the climax:

First—Col. Harvey went to Ryan's farm, in Nelson county, Virginia, and there talked over the candidacy of Governor Wilson. Ryan expressed a desire to take part in the coming democratic campaign, and a preference for Wilson because of the fact that he is a native of the Old Dominion. Col. Harvey talked eloquently of Governor Wilson. Mr. Ryan, becoming enthusiastic, declared that he would announce himself for Wilson, pull off his coat, roll up his sleeves, open his purse and work for him. The enthusiasm of Mr. Ryan, coupled with the statement that he would announce himself for Mr. Wilson, frightened Col. Harvey, who threw up his hands and exclaimed:

"Don't you do it. If you were to announce for Wilson you would kill him politically." Mr. Ryan agreed to curb his feelings and remain quiet.

Second—Five days before the memorable meeting of Wilson, Harvey and Watterson in New York, Col. Harvey visited Washington and talked to a number of congressmen of Wilson's prospects. To several representatives of the house he said he had been in Virginia and had a visit with Thomas F. Ryan, who, he said, was for Woodrow Wilson for the presidency. These congressmen marvelled at the Harvey story about Ryan. They wondered if Mr. Wilson's booster had lost his mind.

Third—This was followed by the meeting in New York where the break came. Messrs. Watterson and Harvey invited Mr. Wilson over to the office of Thomas F. Ryan, who, it was explained, was desirous of financing the Wilson campaign. This suggestion Mr. Wilson resented. He said that he would not go to see Ryan or have anything to do with him. He told Messrs. Watterson and Harvey that the support of Ryan would hurt him. Whereupon Mr. Harvey asked if he (Mr. Wilson) thought the support of Harper's Weekly was hurting him and Mr. Wilson answered in the affirmative.

NOW IT IS BETWEEN SENATOR TILLMAN AND MR. WATTERSON

The following Associated Press dispatches are self-explanatory: Washington, Jan. 26.—Interest in the controversy between Woodrow Wilson, Colonel George Harvey and Colonel Henry Watterson over Mr. Wilson's aspirations for the presidential nomination was revived to-night when Colonel Watterson gave out correspondence that had passed between himself and Senator B. R. Tillman of South Carolina yes-

terday and today. The correspondence, in which the name of Thomas F. Ryan of New York figures, is as follows:

"Washington, D. C., Jan. 25, 1912.—My Dear Sir: Referring to the go-called 'Harvey-Watterson incident,' I find you quoted by the newspapers of this morning to the following effect: 'I had given Henry Watterson credit for more sense than to try to foist off a story like this, with the material facts concealed.' The man who makes a public statement with the 'material facts concealed' is little other than a scoundrel. I have the right, therefore, to demand of you upon what warrant of authority you make this serious accusation of me and to ask a reply through my friend, the Hon. Swagar Sherley of Kentucky. With great respect,

"HENRY WATTERSON."

RESPONSE OF TILLMAN

Washington, January 26, 1912.—My Dear Sir: In your note of January 25, handed me by the Hon. Swagar Sherley, you call my attention to an interview which I had given out in reference to the Harvey-Watterson-Wilson incident, in which I say: 'I had given Henry Watterson credit for more sense than to try to foist off a story like this with the material facts concealed.'

"You demand to know 'upon what warrant of authority you make this serious accusation against me.'

"In your statement to the press you described in detail the rupture between Governor Wilson and Colonel Harvey, but said nothing as to what caused it. All the leading papers of the country seem to know why Governor Wilson severed relations with Colonel Harvey, and you, as a leading newspaper man and self-confessed expert groomer of presidential candidates, must have known at the time your statement was published. I very properly concluded that you knew the reasons for the rupture, and when you made public the manner in which it occurred, without giving the causes, you were unquestionably concealing the material facts. Very respectfully yours,

B. R. TILLMAN."

WATTERSON'S SECOND LETTER

"Washington, D. C., Jan. 26, 1912.—My Dear Sir: I have never pretended to be a groomer of presidential candidates, expert or otherwise, but I desire your good opinion and wrote with that, as well as the truth of this matter, in mind.

"I am with you, senator, in wishing a democratic and not a pseudo-republican for our presidential nominee. It was no less from a sense of party justice than of justice between man and man that I made the statement to which—upon a total misapprehension of the facts—you take exception.

"I have been aware for nearly a week that recognized spokesmen for Governor Wilson were industriously circulating the story that the real reason why Governor Wilson broke with Col. Harvey was that Col. Harvey tried to bring Mr. Thomas F. Ryan to the governor's campaign. But until you gave credence to the story it could not be invested with any responsible authority. Its origin was mysterious, its circulation surreptitious. Consequently there has been up to this time nothing either to deny or to recognize.

"Now, senator, I know, of my own knowledge, that story is a lie made out of the whole cloth. If any person ventures to question this assertion, I have in my possession proof conclusive which I hold myself ready to place before your honest and truth-seeking mind.

I do not accuse Governor Wilson of originating or circulating this invention, manufactured to make a hero of him at the expense of the friend who has most effectually served him. I do not assume that he is aware of the dastardly work being done by his alleged agents, but the fact remains that Governor Wilson knows as well as I do that the story is false. He may or not feel that he owes an obligation to Colonel Harvey. That is a matter of which he must be the judge. But I do insist that he owes it to his own honor to repudiate that story and to disavow those who are striving to inject the calumny into the human mind.

"At Governor Wilson's instance I had undertaken to assist his accredited managers in raising the considerable sums of money needful to

the prosecution of his campaign, and in this my efforts were not wholly unfruitful. As the business proceeded the name of Thomas F. Ryan, not unnaturally, came into my mind. He is a democrat. He is a Virginian. He is my friend: Knowing him to be a disinterested man, having no axe to grind, I hoped that I might induce him to help out what I believed to be a worthy cause. Governor Wilson's managers were delighted with the suggestion. Colonel Harvey had nothing whatever to do with it, and as far as I am aware, knew nothing whatever about it.

"Throughout this unhappy affair I have been an unwilling witness in its consequences—some-what of an innocent bystander—having been, up to the hour of the Harvey incident, a sincere believer in Governor Wilson. He is a man of ability. In some ways he might prove a candidate of availability, but I fear that if he became our president we might discover all too late that he possesses personal peculiarities which would prove disastrous. We want in the White house a man of broad mind, as well as polished intellect, of heart grateful and kind, no less than daring. I remain with great respect, your obedient servant,

"Hon. B. R. Tillman."

DENIAL FROM WILSON

New York, Jan. 26.—Governor Woodrow Wilson, on his departure for Boston on the midnight express tonight, made the following statement in reference to the Watterson-Tillman correspondence, given out in Washington.

"So far as I am concerned, the statement that Colonel Watterson was requested to assist in raising money in my behalf, it is absolutely without foundation. Neither I, nor anyone authorized to represent me ever made any such request of him."

New York, Jan. 26.—Colonel George Harvey declined to comment tonight on the correspondence made public by Col. Henry Watterson in regard to the former's rupture with Governor Wilson.

MR. McCOMB'S STATEMENT

New York, Jan. 27.—Suggestions by Colonel Watterson that he solicited a contribution to the Woodrow Wilson campaign fund from Thomas F. Ryan was met with declarations by William McCombs, Governor Wilson's campaign manager, that Mr. Ryan's money could not be accepted, as "such contributions were not within the spirit of the Woodrow Wilson campaign." Mr. McCombs declared in a statement made public here tonight. His statement follows:

"I have read the correspondence interchanged between Colonel Watterson and Senator Tillman which appeared in this morning's papers. I had thought that Colonel Watterson's statement of several days ago itself entirely disposed of the incident. I so stated in an interview a day or so afterwards. I have made no statements with reference to it since that time. Since beginning the campaign for Governor Wilson, which I have managed, I have received all of the contributions made to it. I assume responsibility for them and I know all their sources. They have uniformly been made by people who had no interest except the consummation of the ideas which he represents. Not one of them expects any other return. Any communication which has been had between myself and Colonel Watterson regarding campaign funds has taken place in personal interviews between him and myself. There have been two interviews, only.

"I intensely dislike to make a public statement of a private conversation and regret very much that Colonel Watterson has forced me to do so. In October of last year I had a general conversation on presidential politics with Col. Watterson at the Waldorf, where he was stopping. In the course of that conversation he gave it as his opinion that a large amount of money would be needed, and volunteered the suggestion that he would go and see his friend, Thomas F. Ryan, and that he was sure he could induce him to make a very large contribution to the campaign.

"I said to him that we could not take Mr. Ryan's money and that such contributions were not within the spirit of the Woodrow Wilson campaign. His reply was:

"I have been in politics fifty years, and I know that money and not patriotism counts in a presidential campaign."

"I repeated to Colonel Watterson that we could not take the money. Early in December I met him again and he renewed the discussion of a Ryan contribution. I made the same answer to him that I made before.

"I heard nothing further from Col. Watterson on the subject and thought no more of the