

"DEMOCRATS WILL NOT SUPPORT A REACTIONARY"

The following editorial appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer: The democratic party upon many occasions in the past has demonstrated its devotion to its principles by refusing to impair them, though temporary success should be the reward for so doing.

Instance after instance could be cited in which with a faith that was sublime the party accepted inevitable defeat rather than forsake the ideas that carried with them the everlasting truths and eternal rights of humanity.

The party has witnessed the fall of the federalists, the decay and death of the whigs, the arrival and departure of the know-nothings, the fading away of the populists and the conversions of the republicans, who are now undergoing baptism from the font of democracy and publicly proclaiming their apostasy from the errors of their old faith and practice.

The democratic party in 1912 can proudly stand by its record of the past and without deviating from a single one of its cardinal principles can be successful throughout the nation, and only successful because it has not diverged or conceded on vital points.

In this moment when the triumph of our party and its principles seems to be assured if we make no mistakes is it not the supreme act of effrontery, the acme of folly, for some democrats to urge upon the party as a candidate for president one who voted against the party in 1896, and who lifted neither hand nor voice for it in 1900?

Even while he bore the official commission of a high and mighty office, which he held by virtue of a democratic victory at the polls, he voted against the candidates and worked against the principles approved by 6,000,000 democrats of the union.

If he was right then those 6,000,000 democrats were wrong, but the faithful men of 1896 and 1900 believe he was wrong then and they have no faith that he is right now upon the living issues of the times and of this generation.

He is a tariff reformer who by his opposition to democracy in 1896 helped to give the country to the republican party and by so doing was an aid and assistant to the passage of the Dingley bill. Tariff reform was as a feather in political weight in 1896 in his estimation.

The trusts were all on one side, and he was with them.

The corporations were a unit against the democratic party, and his voice and his vote were also against the party.

The platform at Chicago that year cut the line of definition between the combines and the people clear and distinct, and he was on the combines' side of the line.

Tariff reform was a barren idealism in 1896 in his thought, for he lined up with the princes of protection and aided them to defeat the democratic party and to place in their hands the power to pass the Dingley bill.

As attorney general his objection to democracy should have been no barrier to the enforcement of the anti-trust law.

The hated and despised platform of 1896 was no obstacle to the prosecution of the trusts, the combines, the corporations, who hated and despised that platform equally with himself.

The candidacy of Mr. Bryan and the declaration for silver were no reasons for staying the hand of the attorney general of the United States in the courts as against violators of the statutes of the United States.

"He who comes from the kitchen smells of its smoke," and those who serve the corporations, combines and trusts most faithfully do not possess the confidence of the voters of the United States.

The political record made in 1896 and 1900 bars the way to his preferment to the highest office in the land, especially when it is taken in connection with a lifetime record in favor of corporate power in his professional career.

To win the democratic party must select a candidate for president who holds a record as a progressive, not as a reactionary or supporter of the trusts and the combines.

ROOSEVELT AND THE MONEY TRUST

An Oyster Bay dispatch to the New York World says: Col. Theodore Roosevelt upon his return here commented at some length upon the statement of A. P. Moore of Pittsburgh that certain banks are bringing pressure to bear upon men selected as delegates to district, county and state conventions to prevent their voting for Roosevelt.

"Mr. Moore did tell me that there is appar-

ently a Money trust at work to attempt to frighten men from expressing any preference for a presidential candidate other than Mr. Taft," said the colonel.

"I was given some extraordinary data in which definite cases were cited, and all of this is being carefully preserved. I am unwilling at present to discuss the details of this report, but Mr. Moore assured me that he knew just what he was talking about when he said that the Money trust was working for President Taft. The details are most interesting."

SIX OHIO REASONS

Following is a special dispatch to the Columbus (Ohio) Citizen: Kenton, O., Feb. 2.—The attack of organized anti-Harmon men of Ohio against the presidential boom of Governor Judson Harmon was renewed today by the announcement of "six reasons" by William W. Durbin, chief organizer of the Ohio Democratic Progressive league, as to "why Harmon should not be nominated and why he could not be elected president," according to the wording of the statement.

Durbin, who is a Kenton manufacturer and well known in the state as a politician, is secretary of the Progressive league, was former chairman of the state central committee, and four years ago was a candidate for state auditor.

"First," said Durbin in his statement, "the democratic party, to be successful, must nominate a progressive, and Governor Harmon's whole life has been that of a reactionary. His claim to be a progressive has been made only under the whip and spur of political ambition.

"Second: His service under J. Pierpont Morgan and the fact that Wall street interests are championing his cause is enough to drive any progressive away from him. The democratic party is in no mood to follow any suspect of the present or deserter in the past, nor do they want one who pleads the cause of the common people on the hustings while representing the privileged interests in the courts.

"Third: The fact that Governor Harmon bolted the nomination of Bryan and stabbed him in the back in 1896; betrayed him in Ohio in 1908 in his own home county, and since his election as governor has appointed to office practically all the leaders of the gold democrat movement, shows where his sympathies are now and foreshadows what will happen should he be elected president.

"Fourth: Harmon was elected by the liquor interests in 1908 and in 1910 also received their support. He promised to modify the Rose county local option law, but then threw his pledges to the winds by defeating the Dean bill to amend the law, with the result that the German-American alliance of over 100,000 liberal voters denounced his duplicity and hypocrisy and swore vengeance. Thereupon the governor had a liberal measure named the Fulton bill introduced to appease the liquor people, and this resulted in the temperance people's getting busy and defeating it. By playing both ends against the middle he lost the respect of both elements. This is no time to inject a wet and dry fight into a presidential campaign, but Harmon's nomination would make this an issue in every precinct in the country.

"Fifth: Governor Harmon is opposed to the initiative and referendum, also the recall, two things in which progressive democracy believe and his specific stand in this matter counts one reason in itself.

"Sixth: The trust question will be an issue, probably a paramount issue, in the next campaign. President Taft will attempt to lay claim for enforcing the Sherman anti-trust law. Harmon, when attorney general, not only failed to prosecute the trusts, but gave it as his opinion that the anti-trust law was a piece of worthless legislation."

The statement ends with the following: "If Harmon should be nominated, the party would lose more states, districts, counties, townships and precincts than it has ever lost in its history, not excepting 1904. We want no more Wall street candidates such as we had in 1904.

"It is a well known fact that Francis Lynde Stetson, who drew J. Pierpont Morgan's contract with the government in the infamous bond deal in 1894, when Morgan got \$10,000,000 over night off of this government, is one of the most ardent supporters of the Harmon boom throughout the east. The democratic party can not afford to have J. Pierpont Morgan as one of the issues in the campaign against them. If Mr. Morgan is to be the issue, why not make him the candidate?

"Mr. Harmon's tongue, pen, ability and energy have given the interests long and devoted ser-

vice, and that is why Morgan and Wall street are for him.

"Personally, I feel like the Irishman who was driving a mule hitched to a buggy, and who, when the mule kicked over the dashboard and stuck his hoof alongside the Irishman's head, exclaimed: 'Be jabbers! If you are a-going to get in I am going to get out.'"

"BROTHERS"

Visalia, Cal., Jan. 29, 1912.—Editor Commoner: In The Commoner of Dec. 22nd, I find the following: "A California reader of The Commoner asks for the author of the poem describing a scene in the civil war where one soldier thrust his bayonet through a soldier of the opposing line and when he stooped to draw it out found that he had killed his own brother."

This brings to mind something that was reported to us immediately after our taking up a position along the breastworks which protected the city of Vicksburg, May 18, 1863.

The day previous, after a hard battle to protect the bridge over Big Black river, we were forced to cross to the Vicksburg side and immediately occupied the banks of the river as a temporary defense. The enemy's skirmishers advanced to within a reasonable distance on the other side and both lines began operations.

It was during this desultory fighting that what is written below was in substance reported to have occurred:

A federal officer galloped through their skirmish line and, after reaching the bank of the river opposite to us, deliberately dismounted, took out his field glasses and began to examine the position of the confederate commands. His daring excited the admiration of the southern soldiers and for a short time they beheld the spectacle almost in amazement. Then, an occasional shot was fired but without apparent effect. Finally, a southern officer, whose name was mentioned at the time this occurrence was reported, and who was a noted pistol shot, said, "Boys, hold on a minute and I'll show you a fancy shot." At the first fire the union officer staggered and fell. The confederate was rowed across the river in a small boat and at the first sight of the dead body threw up his hands in horror and cried, "My God! I've killed my own brother."

A long time after the war some one, illustrating the fratricidal nature of the struggle mention this incident and added that the officer who killed his brother was utterly reckless in battle during the remainder of the war, and, when this civil strife was ended, became a "wanderer upon the face of the earth," terminating what he considered a wasted life in dissipation in the City of Sodom. D. S. LIPSCOMB.

First Missouri Brigade, C. S. A.

HOKE SMITH FOR WILSON

Following is a special dispatch to the St. Louis Republic: Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Although he served with Judson Harmon in President Cleveland's cabinet, Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia is of the opinion that Governor Woodrow Wilson is by far the strongest candidate the democrats can nominate for the presidency.

In expressing himself in behalf of the nomination of the New Jersey executive, Senator Smith said today:

"I favor Governor Wilson for no personal reason, but because I believe his nomination and election will best serve the people of the entire country. He stands for sane progress, for a square deal, for justice to all, and at the same time for a government of law under the constitution.

"He is the most profound student in America of the history of our country and of the great economic problems now to be solved. A southern boy by birth he went to a northern state and through his splendid character and exceptional ability rose to the presidency of a great university.

"With the information gathered by a life of study, fitting him peculiarly for public service, he was called to the governorship of New Jersey. There he demonstrated unsurpassed capacity to handle the practical affairs of government."

"ASK STUBBS"

When it was reported to Mr. Roosevelt that Representative McKinley, Mr. Taft's political manager, claimed 780 votes for Mr. Taft on the first ballot, Mr. Roosevelt said, "Ask Governor Stubbs of Kansas," and Governor Stubbs of Kansas declared that it would be a walk-away for Roosevelt.

At all events it will certainly be an interesting contest.