

La Follette on Taft and Roosevelt

Following is a United Press dispatch: Mandan, N. D., March 15.—“I am not going to make a personal attack on any man, neither on Mr. Roosevelt nor President Taft, but this is a time to judge them by their records,” declared Senator Robert M. La Follette in his address early today at Jamestown, N. D., in his campaign to secure indorsement of the republican voters at the first state presidential preference primary to be held in this country. Then the progressive leader fired away as follows:

“If I had been president when these great trusts were forming, when McKinley and Roosevelt were national executives, I should have called the United States district attorneys of the whole country to Washington and I should have handed each one a copy of the Sherman anti-trust law, and I would have said: ‘Go home and commit that to memory and come back here at this same hour tomorrow.’ Then when they came back, I would have said to them: ‘Now you know what this law means, go out and do your duty as prosecutors. If you don’t I will put you out and will put in men who will.’”

“One slight touch of the firm hand of government when these great combinations were forming would have

restrained them. Now the problem is more serious and more complicated, but we’ve got to meet it and solve it or hand it down to our children. We can solve it with the ballot, perhaps they could not.”

With two speeches at Jamestown today and another here this afternoon, La Follette threw his hat into the North Dakota ring and followed it with both feet. The Roosevelt leaders have redoubled their efforts and the bitter campaign which has raged for months has become intensified. It is to be a finish fight, with no quarter asked or given and will be settled only when the people have cast their ballots Tuesday.

La Follette will make another speech tonight at Bismarck and will wind up his campaign tomorrow at Fargo and Grand Forks. La Follette declines to make any statement regarding the message alleged to have been sent to him by Roosevelt containing assurances that the former president would not be a candidate, but would support La Follette.

In all his speeches so far La Follette has held President Taft responsible for failure to enforce and strengthen the anti-trust laws and attributed most of the political ills of today to this and to the failure of the Roosevelt and Taft administrations to make effective efforts to revise the tariff downward.

In each speech La Follette preached the progressive doctrines of the people’s power—direct primaries, initiative, referendum and recall.

While the efforts of the La Follette supporters are centered about the tour of their leader, the Roosevelt leaders are holding meetings in all parts of the state. Congressman L. B. Hanna is in charge of the Roosevelt headquarters at Fargo and is directing the campaign from there. Assisting him are John F. Bass, brother of the New Hampshire governor; Frank N. Talcott, chairman of the state central committee; Alec McKenzie, of Bismarck, and John M. Kennedy, of Fargo, all former friends of the administration.

James R. Garfield and Gifford Pinchot, who stumped the state for Roosevelt, have left. La Follette leaves tomorrow night and the local orators will then fight it out alone until Tuesday.

The public is interested as it has never been interested in a national fight before and both sides are confident of victory.

Besides the honor of carrying the first statewide presidential preference primary ever held, the prize at stake includes the ten delegates to the national convention, the national committeeman, the nomination for governor and the control of the state machinery. While no active political organization is in operation in behalf of President Taft, the business interests of the state are conducting a quiet campaign. The leaders in this movement are hopeful that the break between the La Follette and Roosevelt factions in the state will be so great as to result in the choice of the president for the party’s candidate at the primary.

La Follette was greeted by enthusiastic groups of people at the stations through which his train passed. Despite the blizzard, a crowd of 500 with a band met at the station in Valley City. He talked to an audience of 1,300 at the auditorium of the state normal school and to 1,500 at the armory.

CANDID

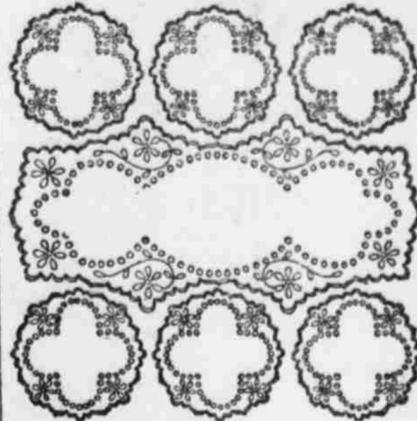
“I am very sorry, Captain Snob, that circumstances over which I have no control compel me to say no.”

“May I ask what the circumstances are?”

“Yours.”—Lippincott’s.

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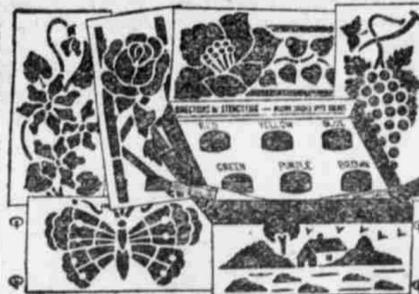
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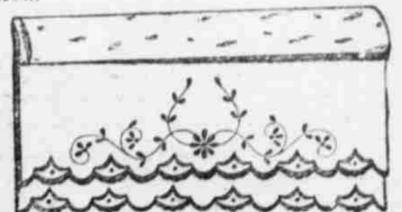
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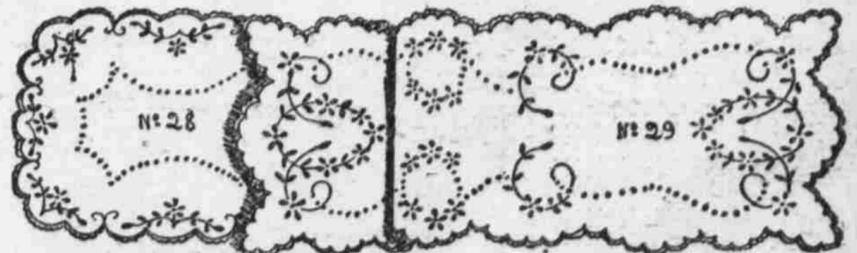
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