

An Open Letter

Lincoln, Neb., March 25, 1912—Hon. E. H. Moore, Columbus, O. My Dear Moore: The press dispatches published extracts from an open letter which you gave out before starting for Nebraska. Assuming that the gist of your letter is included in the quotations made from it by the papers, I venture to answer before receiving the letter itself. You demand proof that "Mr. Harmon is a reactionary and a tool of Wall street." I have not charged him with being a tool of Wall street but I have charged that he is a reactionary and the CHOICE of Wall street. That he is a reactionary will not be questioned by any fair-minded man—the proof is sufficient for any one open to conviction.

Governor Harmon refused to support the democratic ticket in 1896. He was a commissioned officer in the democratic army—a member of the president's cabinet—and he carried the standard of our party over to the enemy. He supported the ticket in 1900 but the next year he was a leader in the movement organized in Ohio and throughout the country to turn the party back to Wall street control. In 1904 he was active in aiding the Belmont-Ryan crowd in putting Wall street in control of the democratic organization. His conduct since 1900 shows that his support of the ticket in 1900 was not due to belief in the progressive policies of the party. Early in 1908 he hoped to secure the presidential nomination through the aid of Wall street influences. Since 1908 his political influence has been thrown on the side of the reactionaries—notably when he appeared before the constitutional convention in the state of Ohio and advised the members of that convention to reject the initiative and referendum and in spite of the further fact that a majority of the members of the constitutional convention were pledged before the election to the initiative and referendum. He thus showed himself not only a reactionary but a repudiator of platform pledges and an advisor of reptidiation.

This is enough evidence on this point for one letter. You surely can not believe that a democratic candidate with such a record can prove a popular leader at this time when nine-tenths of the democrats are progressives and nearly if not quite half of the republicans are aroused to the importance of taking the government out of control of the predatory interests.

You demand proof that Wall street is back of Governor Harmon? You know enough about politics to know that Wall street acts in secret and that it is difficult to furnish written proof of the movements and indorsements of those who control the financial affairs in our business centers. Circumstantial evidence is good enough to furnish a ground for a conviction even for the crime of murder, and it ought to be sufficient to guide public opinion in the nomination of presidential candidates.

You are the manager of Governor Harmon's campaign in Ohio. Are you not aware of the fact that he has been attorney for corporations in which Mr. Morgan was interested? Do you not know that the fees collected for such legal services amount to considerable? Do you not know that Mr. Morgan is favorable to the nomination of Mr. Harmon? And do you believe that at such a time as this the democratic party can afford to let its presidential candidate be selected by Mr. Morgan when the public attention is focused upon the fact that Mr. Morgan collected sixty-nine million dollars as his compensation for organizing the steel trust conspiracy against ninety millions of people? Do you think that Mr. Morgan is the proper person to pick out a candidate at this time when the democratic party is championing the cause of little children who have been mistreated by protected employers—mistreated even to the extent of being charged five cents a week for the water they drank while at work?

Do you deny that Mr. Hill—who organized the merger that was declared unlawful and yet was not destroyed—favors the nomination of Mr. Harmon? Do you think that he is a good man to advise the democratic party in regard to nominations when he has been conspicuous in opposing our party on every progressive measure? Do you not know that the predatory corporations are deeply interested in the selection of a president who will honor their recommendations for men aspiring to the United States judgeships? Do you not know that almost without exception the members of the plunderbund favor Mr. Harmon as against any progressive who can be named? Are these men mistaken in their man? Do you not know that

the Wall street controlled papers are almost without exception presenting Mr. Harmon and urging his nomination as against any progressive? Are these men mistaken in their man? May we not judge a man by his supporters when we find him supported by those who want to convert the government into a private asset. Can the people take the chance involved in putting such a man in supreme control of the party and the administration of the government when men can be found equally competent and who have the merit of being opposed by Wall street?

You assert that another candidate whom you mention is spending more money than Mr. Harmon. I am not interested in any one progressive against other progressives—I am for that progressive in each state, whatever his name may be—who can make the strongest fight against any reactionary candidate, whatever may be the name of the reactionary, and I am urging—and have been for some time—the passage of a law requiring the publication of contributions made to the funds that are used to secure presidential nominations. I believe that the people should know the sources from which these contributions come. Are you and Governor Harmon trying to secure the passage of such a law? So far as I have been able to judge, a great deal more money has been spent in behalf of your candidate than in behalf of any other. If you deny this, you have a chance to find out. Publish a list of the contributors to the Harmon fund and challenge the other candidates to do likewise. You can thus smoke them out, or if they refuse, you will then be in a position to use their silence against them. Until you do this, why should people give weight to your words when you make charges against other candidates? If Wall street has any other candidate, Governor Harmon has a right to complain and the people have a right to know.

In conclusion allow me to say that I am glad that you are coming to Nebraska. You will find no more real Harmon sentiment in Nebraska than there was in Oklahoma and Kansas. Do you know of any reason why there should be? You will find that Governor Harmon's support in this state is confined, first, to reactionaries, and, second, to those who favor him not because they believe he is a progressive, but because I incurred their hostility by opposing them in 1910 on a local issue. You will find that the supporters of Governor Harmon do not expect to secure a majority of the democratic votes even with the support that auxiliary organizations are giving him on local grounds. The most that Governor Harmon's supporters here hope for is to defeat the progressive forces—divided between two candidates—and thus enable a minority to triumph over a majority.

Kindly report to Governor Harmon what you find in Nebraska and see whether he is proud of his Nebraska campaign. Yours truly,

W. J. BRYAN.

AND MR. MOORE SWITCHED

From the Piqua (Ohio) Daily Leader: Ed. Moore, Ohio manager of Harmon's presidential campaign first and Ohio insurance commissioner second, was opposed to the statewide presidential primary except under one condition, namely, that the state convention be held before the national convention.

Ed. poses as a progressive. He does not undertake to explain how a real progressive can consistently be opposed to the separation of state from national politics. Nor does he take the people into his confidence and tell them that he wanted the state convention to precede the national convention for the sole purpose of adopting the unit rule, if the Harmon forces are in the majority, and thereby tie the hands of the minority.

But Ed. is a progressive—he can progress out of one political camp into another more quickly than any person in the state. Ed. has not always been in the Harmon camp. Oh, no. Even up to ten days prior to the last gubernatorial election Ed. was sulking in his tent, refusing to support Harmon because, as he claimed, the governor was a rank reactionary.

Suddenly Ed. was converted, Harmon was re-elected and Ed. was made insurance commissioner. At the old salary of \$4,000? That's an insult. Ed. was making nearly that much practicing law. Then new duties had been added to the office of insurance commissioner—that of Ohio manager of the Harmon presidential boom. He wanted \$6,000 per—\$4,000 for performing the old duties of the insurance office and \$2,000 for the new duties of managing a presidential campaign. Did he get the increase? Examine the laws passed by the last legislature and see how nicely our economical governor put

this one over on the dear people. Of course there are some cruel persons who say that Ed. receives the extra \$2,000 not as a presidential manager, but as a professional; that he would have been willing to jump upon a band wagon at \$4,000 per, but he regards the Harmon vehicle as a hearse and believes that any good live professional mourner is entitled to \$2,000 extra for following a "dead one." Then Ed. is so gentle and unselfish. He says every anti-Harmon democrat is a disappointed office-seeker.

What does Ed. care for an office or consistency, or political principle, or other little things like these if he gets \$6,000 a year from the state and devotes all his time to boosting Harmon?

TO STOP COERCION

Congressman Pepper of the Second Iowa district has introduced a splendid bill which will be found below. It ought to pass; it would be a great protection to employes. The bill is as follows:

"A bill prohibiting threats, expressed or implied, by employers of labor intended or calculated to influence the political opinions or actions of workmen or employees in presidential elections.

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That in all elections at which electors for president or vice president are to be chosen no person, being an employer of labor, or acting for or on behalf of an employer of labor, shall give, distribute, or cause to be given or distributed, to any of his employees any printed or written matter containing any threat, notice, or information that in case any particular ticket of a particular party or organization or candidate shall be elected, or any measure referred to a vote of the people shall be adopted, work in his place or establishment shall cease, in whole or in part, or his place or establishment be closed or the salary or wages of his workmen or employees be reduced, or other threats, expressed or implied, intended or calculated to influence the political opinions or actions of his workmen or employees in said elections.

Section 2. That every person willfully violating the foregoing provisions of this act shall upon conviction be fined not more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned not more than one year, or both."

WALL STREET HAS SOME PLANS

An article reproduced in the Charlotte (S. C.) Observer from the Lincoln County (S. C.) News says: The News man had a very pleasant chat with Mr. S. B. Tanner, of the Henrietta mills, on a train a few days ago and during the conversation Mr. Tanner was asked what he thought of the presidential situation. "Well," said Mr. Tanner, "I have just returned from New York, where I spent ten days on Wall street, and to my surprise found a very strong sentiment among the moneyed men for Oscar W. Underwood. And this among a great many staunch republicans, too." Being asked how he accounted for this strange state of affairs Mr. Tanner said, "I found that the men of money, and of big affairs, are very weary of this constant agitation and have made up their minds to sidetrack both Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt, ignore completely Mr. Bryan and support a conservative democrat for the presidency this time. They feel that the hour has struck for a change in the administration of the affairs of the nation." Mr. Tanner stated that he firmly believes Mr. Underwood will get the nomination and be elected.

DEMOCRATIC DATES

Democratic primaries or conventions will be held as follows:

- April 9—Primaries for Illinois.
- April 12—New York democratic state convention.
- April 13—Primaries for Pennsylvania.
- April 17—Illinois congressional district conventions.
- April 19—Primaries for Nebraska.
- April 19—Primaries for Oregon.
- April 27—Primaries for Tennessee.
- April 29—Colorado democratic state convention.
- April 30—Primaries for Florida.
- May 1—Connecticut state convention.
- May 9—Iowa state convention.
- May 14—California primaries.
- May 21—Ohio primaries.
- May 28—Primaries for New Jersey.
- June 4—Primaries for South Dakota.