

THE GRASTY DINNER AT BALTIMORE

(Continued from Page 7.)

then—the real question before this government was a government by the people and for the people; not a government by the few, for the few

and against the many. (Applause.) And many who were against the real question would have been with us had they understood that issue. It is plain that they did not understand it. The time was not ripe.

"I can not complain that they did

not understand me, for why should they have understood me? I think my nomination lent itself to misunderstanding. Many people thought that I was nominated because I was an emotional orator, that I had swept the convention off its feet and was nominated before it could regain its senses.

"That was the idea which predominated. They did not give weight to what I said. They did not stop to think of the reasons I had for saying what I said. They could not believe that one from the west could be building upon a solid rock, and during that campaign there were many good men who actually thought that my election would be a disaster to the country. They honestly thought so.

"I remember a man in Nebraska told me of his father. Out in Nebraska he had caught the spirit of that country and had joined with us, but his father did not understand the subject as we did, and so when I was defeated his father knelt down and thanked God that the country had been saved from the dangerous man. You need not tell me that a man who thanks God that the country is delivered from me is not an honest man. You need not tell me that he is not living up to the life he should. And that was the condition of men.

"I rejoice that I have lived to see a change take place. (Applause.) And I speak of that change without boasting, for I have not been responsible for it. It may be pleasant to have enthusiastic friends exaggerate my part, but they do not deceive me. No one man, no few men, claim credit for what has been done. No one man, no group of men, could stir a nation as this nation has been stirred. And even if we had anyone in our midst who was so superior to all the rest of us that he could claim to be the author and the cause of this marvelous transformation, he could not explain how in other nations the same spirit has prevailed.

"This is no local movement; it is no reform springing up in the west; it is not even an American reform. It is a world-wide movement and we are but part of it.

"I owe my office to the generosity of the president of the United States. He led us in our last fight, and if anyone thinks that I was disappointed because the leadership fell to another, let him disabuse his mind of that thought. I rejoiced that there was one who could win where I lost. And I was so much more interested in the cause than in any title that could come with it that I am sure that the president himself was no happier than I was. (Long continued applause.)

"I think it was easier for the people to vote for him than it would have been for them to reconcile themselves to voting for me. For when they voted for him they did not have to censure themselves for not having done so before. (Laughter.)

"They did not have to have a war within themselves. It was a new man and it did not bring up old memories. And I think he may be able to do things that I could not have done, and I know I can help him as much as he could ever help me. (Applause.)

"He has won a place in history and I am sure from what he has done that we shall not be disappointed in the doing of that which he has yet before him. And yet the president, like myself, is not a creator, for he is a creature. We are creatures all this time. We are the product of this age, and it matters little who may have the leadership of the impulse that now sweeps us along, and nobody who is worthy to be counted a leader will stop to criticize those who have been backward in making a start. (Applause.)

"The whole world is moving along

three lines. It is increasing in intelligence; there is no doubt about it. It is growing toward a spirit of brotherhood—you can not doubt that. And it is understanding government as our forefathers understood it, and our ideas of government are triumphing the world around.

"And the income tax! I suppose I have been criticised for favoring the income tax more than for any one thing I have ever favored. I have had them tell me that I was trying to array the poor against the rich. I had them tell me that I was stirring up the passion of the mob and of the multitude. I believed then, as I do now, that it is the most just tax that there is, and the day when I have an income that will be taxed I myself will be as much in favor of it as when I had an income that could not be taxed. (Applause.)

"But it is not strange that one should not change. The strange thing is that men who oppose the income tax because they do not want to bear that share of the burden of the government are men who well could bear it, while those not so well situated welcome it as a thing that is just and are willing to pay their share. Isn't it worth while to wait for such a victory as this? (Applause.)

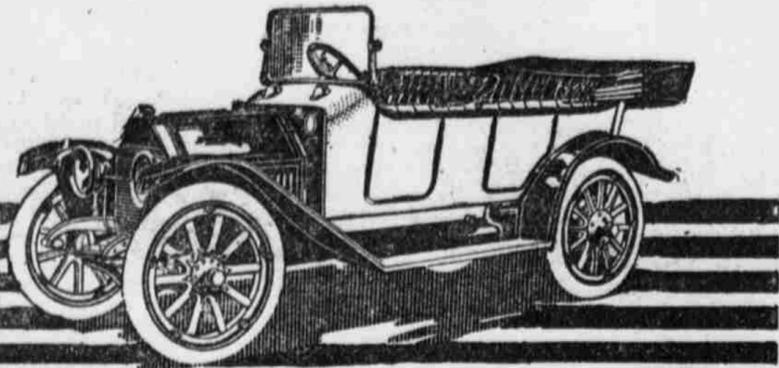
"I think one of the glories of our civil war was that those who fought for the union held those within the union who would have separated from it—held them until they were glad that the union was not dissolved. There was no such other war in history. Races have fought races, people have fought people, and centuries of anger and animosity followed the wars. But here was a great struggle over a root of discord that has been removed, and now the people who fought it themselves are rivals in the effort to see who can best prove that patriotism is the most loyal attribute of life, of those who wore the gray and those who wore the blue. (Applause.)

"And so the glory of our struggle is that we have not conquered an enemy. We have all come together as friends to understand what we did not then understand. Let me give you some illustrations. It is now 23 years since a fight began in the house of representatives for the direct election of a United States senator. I can remember how some honest men looked upon it as a destructive thing. I can understand how patriotic men said that if we attempted to change the constitution in this respect we would lower the dignity of the senate and that we might even menace our institutions.

"Yet I have seen that reform make progress step by step, until now we have seen it submitted by a two-thirds vote of the two houses. We have seen it indorsed by 36 states and I am waiting for just one more state to send its notice to Washington, when I shall proudly attach my signature to a statement that announces that this epoch-making reform has at last arrived. (Applause.)

"And if you look over the country today you will find that nine-tenths of the people of all parties now believe that this is not only wise but necessary. And this senate that they were afraid would degenerate if the people controlled it will prove that the nearer you bring the government to the people not only the stronger it is but the better it is in its qualities. The United States senate instead of losing power will increase its power, and it will become, because a people's body, the highest legislative body in the world. (Applause.)

"We will find that, instead of having the senate filled up with representatives of predatory wealth who use their power to oppose the things



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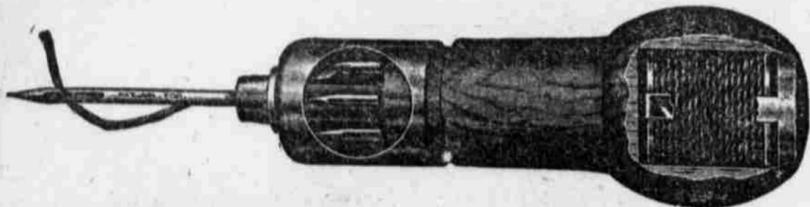
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