

The Roosevelt Program

Following is special Washington correspondence of the Kansas City Star:

Washington, March 28. — Convinced that it is his first duty to his country, as he now sees it, to use all his influence in the coming campaign to encompass the defeat of President Wilson and the present administration—which he believes has not reflected the true spirit of the American people and has suffered humiliation and loss of national honor, both at home and abroad, Theodore Roosevelt will permit no factional fights to be made in his behalf for delegates or give encouragement to any strife in the opposition to the democratic administration.

In taking this stand, Colonel Roosevelt assumes that the republican party, at Chicago, will not adopt any "tweedle-dum tweedle-dee" platform, but will adopt resolutions covering the question of foreign relations that will appeal to the true American spirit.

Expects Progressive Planks

He also assumes that the platform will take a progressive and essentially forward looking stand on national economic conditions, such as he believes will point to greater national efficiency—that will meet modern and new conditions brought about by the world war in a modern spirit of progressivism and Americanism.

He also assumes that the candidate chosen at Chicago will truly reflect the platform and spirit of its declaration. He will not permit, directly or indirectly, any fight to be made in his behalf for delegates. If the nomination is tendered him by the convention, that will be a matter to pass upon then—not before.

He Won't Stand for Machine Work

Colonel Roosevelt will not countenance for a minute any juggling or political manipulation, such as brought the 1912 convention at Chicago upon the rocks of discord and ruin. If an attempt is made to straddle the vital issues before the country on a "milk and water" platform in a delusive hope of catching votes—all bets will be off. The "big stick" will be out and there will be a fight every bit as warm as in 1912.

This outline of the position of Colonel Roosevelt has been accepted here without qualification by republicans representing both the conservative and radical wings of the party. It is an understanding reached, it was stated today, as a result of conferences, supplemented by letters, telegrams and long distance telephone conversations that have been going on since the return of the colonel to this country last week. Participating in these conferences, directly as well as indirectly, were representatives of the "Old Guard" element in the republican party, that fought Roosevelt to the last ditch in 1912, as well as progressive republicans who stood with Roosevelt four years ago. As a result of these conferences much progress has been made in straightening out the tangled republican situation.

A Jolt for Favorite Sons

Colonel Roosevelt's views may have been misunderstood by the republican leaders here, who have been in touch with him. Such a construction on his position may have been circulated here by republicans more interested in bringing about harmony at Chicago than in correctly stating the position of the Oyster Bay statesman. But this much is absolutely certain—that view of the colonel's position is, as stated, accepted

without qualification by both stand-patters and progressive republicans alike. It has put a finishing touch to the flattening-out process which the "favorite son" boomlets have been going through the last three weeks since the "revival" of the Hughes movement again became so active.

This feeling has been further heightened by the knowledge here that Colonel Roosevelt in his conference with Charles Bird of Massachusetts and other delegates who were running as out-and-out Roosevelt delegates, set his foot down emphatically upon any factional fight being made, directly or indirectly for him here in Massachusetts or any other state.

He's Friendly to Hughes

Developments in the situation since Colonel Roosevelt's return, as stated by a progressive republican and friend of Colonel Roosevelt and as a standpat republican leader agreed correctly represented the situation are:

1. The movement on behalf of Justice Charles E. Hughes for the republican nomination will be pushed. It is stated Roosevelt is not opposed, but friendly to it.

2. Agreement among certain republican leaders that only "death or unequivocal statement from Justice Hughes he will not accept the nomination if tendered him," is to stop the Hughes campaign. That was determined even before Colonel Roosevelt's homecoming. All restraint to be taken from Hughes' campaign with the further understanding that Hughes, if it becomes necessary, will be accepted on faith, thereby getting around any requirement of an advance public statement from Hughes as to his position on international questions.

3. Should Justice Hughes definitely eliminate himself from the equation by a statement of the kind above outlined, the Hughes support would go to Roosevelt. Under the circumstances, if party leaders here correctly reflect the sentiment of the rank and file, Roosevelt would fall heir to 90 per cent of the Hughes strength, more than enough, it is estimated, to give him the nomination.

4. The progressive party convention, to be held coincident with the republican, will be a "club" on the republican convention if there is any "political juggling attempted."

5. Agreement on all sides that the general campaign will be fought out almost entirely on the question of foreign relations and preparedness—preparedness for peace as well as for war.

Two men, and only two men, can disarrange these well laid plans of the republican leaders. They are Hughes and Roosevelt themselves, and it is admitted that Roosevelt is the biggest factor in the situation.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Carlyle and the War. By Marshall Kelly. Open Court Pub. Co., Chicago, Ill. Price \$1.00.

The Conquest. By Sidney L. Nyburg. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. Price \$1.25 net.

Railroad Valuation Rates. By Mark Wymond & Clark, 909 Randolph Bldg., Chicago, Publishers. Price \$1.50.

Tides of Commerce, School and College Verse. By Wm. Cary Sanger, Jr. Country Life Press, New York.

The Victorious Attitude. By Orison Swett Marden. Thomas Y.

Crowell Co., Publishers, New York. Price \$1.00 net.

Self-Helps for the Citizen-Soldier. Being a Popular Explanation of Things Military. By Capt. James A. Moss and Capt. Merch B. Stewart, United States Army. George Banta Publishing Co., Menasha, Wis.

The King of the Money Kings. By Lincoln Truax. The Money Kings Pub. Co., Chicago, Ill. Price, 25c net.

Onesimus The Slave. A Romance of the Days of Nero. By Laurel M. Hoyt. Sherman, French & Company, Boston.

The Science of Revelation. In Modern English. By Henry A. Bruns, 1662 East 86th St., Cleveland, O.

The Golden Book of Favorite Songs. A Treasury of the Best Songs of Our People. Compiled and edited by N. H. Aitch. Published jointly by Hall & McCreary, Chicago, Ill., and F. A. Owen Pub. Co., Dansville, N. Y. Prices: Single copies 15c postpaid; two or more at the rate of \$1.50 a dozen, postpaid, or \$10.00 a hundred, not postpaid.

Vois. I & II of History of the German People from the first authentic annals to the present time. Based on Translations from original sources. Edited by Edward S. Ellis, A.M., and Augustus R. Keller. Illustrated. Published by The International Historical Society, inc., 171 Madison Ave., New York. Price, cloth, \$2.25 per volume.

THE "WORLD'S" CRITICISM OF WILSON AND BRYAN

Though it speaks in polished phraseology and in a manifest spirit of kindness and courtesy, the New York World makes a serious criticism of President Wilson that we believed it intended, when it charges him with being "a too reticent President." Too much reticence amounts to pretty nearly the same thing as weakness. President Wilson is not a weak, but a strong character, not a weak, but a strong statesman.

The World should remember the difference between the position of a great newspaper like itself and that of the President, with the executive responsibilities of the government on his shoulders. The World's responsibilities are those which it owes to its great constituency of readers. In the official sense it has no responsibilities. But the official responsibilities of the President of the United States are the most immense that are possible for any American. So there is and must be a vast and vital difference between the attitude toward the public, of a newspaper like the World, and that of the President of

the United States. Much that the World can say, the President can not, with propriety say.

The World agrees with the President on preparedness. The Times likewise is a firm believer in the preparedness program. But when the World calls Mr. Bryan a demagogue because he does not believe in the preparedness program, the World is guilty of the gravest kind of an injustice.

If the Times did not believe in the administration's plan for increase in the army and navy, the Times would have a perfect right to say so. Mr. Bryan has an entire right frankly to express his opinion on what he believes means an unnecessary increase of taxation in paying for the proposed army and navy establishment. Many citizens feel as Mr. Bryan does about that and because the Times believes that the army and navy proposition of the administration is abundantly justified by the circumstances is no reason why the Times should seek to muzzle the candid expression of an opposite opinion by others and the Times would never do so. Neither should the World.

Open canvassing of big questions is an essential of American institutions and American freedom of speech. Unless public opinion tells what it thinks, how is the President, or any other man in office to know what public opinion is?

The World's charge of too much reticence—that is, weakness—against the President, must fall to the ground. So must its accusation of demagoguery against Mr. Bryan. Both these eminent democrats and statesmen, the President in insisting on the preparedness program—Mr. Bryan in debating it from the opposite standpoint—are wholly within their rights.—Buffalo Times.

WHO WILL PAY?

Who will pay the 1,000 million dollars a year tax burden the military fanatics and the war plunderbund would fasten on the country? Who will have to dig up the billion-a-year assessment the powerful armament lobby is trying to levy on the nation? Who, if it is successful in putting this across will not scruple to bring about war itself to keep this tribute flowing into its coffers? Who then will be expected, or ordered, to march by thousands to certain slaughter to defend a country deliberately led into war? These questions are going to be answered, either for you or by you, in a few days or weeks or years at Washington. Which do you prefer?—Oklahoma Farmer.

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