The Commoner

Thomas A. Edison for Wilson

[From the New York Times]

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Thomas A. Edison, although a life-long republican and a supporter of Colonel Roosevelt for the republican presidential nomination, announced yesterday through the democratic national campaign committee that he intends to vote and work for the re-election of President Wilson. Mr. Edison said:

"Not since 1860 has any campaign made such a direct call on simonpure Americanism. The times are too serious to talk or think in terms of republicanism or democracy. Real Americans must drop parties and get down to big fundamental principles.

"More than any other President in my memory Wilson has been faced by a succession of tremendous problems, any one of which, decided the wrong way, would have had disastrous consequences. Wilson's decisions so far have not got us into any serious trouble, nor are they likely to.

"He has given us peace with honor. This talk about the United States being des, ised is nonsense. Neutrality is a mighty trying policy, but back of it are international law, the rights of humanity, and the future of civilization.

"With reference to Mexico, I think the President has acted wisely, justly, and courageously. It was right that the United States should not have recognized such a murderous personality as Huerta. I do not believe that we should have intervened, nor do I believe that we should intervene now. Mexico is a troublesome neighbor just now, but war and



conquest are not going to make her a better one. Both against England and against human slavery the United States worked out its salvation through revolution, and it was a pretty slow, trying process.

"It has been said that Wilson at first was against preparedness. Perhaps he was, but when convinced that intelligent public opinion was overwhelmingly in favor of it, he changed. That is the proper thing for our presidents to do. A president defiant of public opinion would be a dangerous man in our system of government.

"His attitude on the tariff shows an equal openness of mind. A tariff commission will take the whole problem out of politics. It is my hope that experts will be named, and that the body will be continuing and vested almost with the dignity of the supreme court.

"They say he has blundered. Perhaps he has. But I notice that he usually blunders forward. You can't get 100 per cent efficiency in a democracy. I don't know that we ought to want it. We would be machines, and we would have to sacrifice too much of freedom.

"As I said at the start, it has been just one big thing after another with Wilson. I have never known so many dangerous questions brought up for decision to any one president. Now he has the general strike of the skilled railway men, which, if carried out, will throw the whole country into confusion, and prove a calamity that, in certain eventualities, will have results bound to extend over a long period of time. He is acting with his usual courage and sanity.

"In my opinion, Mr. Hughes, if president, would find it difficult to decide on the best course for the government to take in this strike. His capacity for hindsight, as we learn from his speeches, is highly developed, but as to his foresight, we re not equally well informed. "Mr. Wilson has now had about four years of experience, and he has earned faith and trust. I do not think it a logical or sensible thing to change to an unexperienced and untried man just for the sake of change, or without much better reasons being given for the change than I have noticed. "Roosevelt was my choice. He has had experience, and is one of the best of Americans, but the machinecontrolled republican party would not have him. Therefore I am for Woodrow Wilson."

Roosevelt and Mr. Justice Hughes after which the republican candidate said the two were in accord. Mr. Reed's speech in part follows:

Cites Big Money Banquet

"On Dec. 19, 1915, there was held in the city of New York a most remarkable dinner, which has since been commonly known as the modern Belshazzar's feast. It was attended by seventeen great capitalists who possessed or directly controlled properties worth one hundred and twenty billion dollars, or one-tenth of the aggregate value of the property of one hundred million people of the United States; a partial list of those attending, together with the amount of money by them represented, is interested.

"Vanderlip, representing two billion dollars, head of the Morgan bank, the fiscal agent of the allies. "Guggenheim, representing one

and one-half billion dollars, largely interested in war supplies.

"Vanderbilt, representing one and one-half billion dollars.

"Hepburn, representing one and one-half billion dollars.

"Quisenbury, general counsel for the steel trust.

"Cortelyou, representing the great Standard Oil interests, and others.

"It is safe to say that every man present was at that time and has ever since been making enormous profits from war supplies furnished the allies.

"Conspicuous at this dinner was George W. Perkins, organizer of the harvester trust, subsidiary of the Morgan interests and owning vast plants in both France and Russia. By his side, the guest of honor and the center of attraction, the politician who was to be converted into a war asset, sat the redoubtable Theodore Roosevelt."

THE REACTION IN FAVOR OF WILSON

[From the Jackson, Mich., Patriot, Oct. 5.]

The tide has turned. The visible

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cience can not be denied, whose success as a business man is one of the most remarkable this country has ever witnessed, while denounced as an "anarchist" by a leading supporter and champion of the Rooseveltian policy, sees plainly the path of duty, and is outspoken in supporting President Wilson. Mr. Ford is a man of peace-is a practical upholder of the principles of the Prince of Peace, without whose teachings and example there would be no Christianity on earth-and he avoids self-stultification by advocating the re-election of President Wilson, although he has always been a republican.

He does not cry out, gnashing his teeth—"Wilson craven—oust him" —but openly and manfully supports him, because he sees and knows that the best interests of the people of the United States will be promoted by his re-election.

MURDOCK PRAISES WILSON'S ATTITUDE IN RAILROAD CRISIS

A New York dispatch, dated Sept. 21, says: Victor Murdock, editor of the Wichita (Kan.) Eagle and a pioneer of the progressive movement in the west, has declared unqualifiedly in favor of President Wilson's course in averting a nation-wide railroad strike. Referring to Candidate Hughes' opposition to the eight-hour bill and his insistence that arbitration should have been compelled, Mr. Murdock's newspaper says, in part:

"But, Mr. Hughes, like the republican newspapers, failed to point out how this could have been done. The railroad men took the position that the eight-hour day was not arbitrable. They refused flatly to arbitrate. Under the circumstances, then, unless the eight-hour day was granted, a strike would have been inevitable.

"Would Mr. Hughes have preferred a strike, with its inevitable burnings and disorder, its bloodshed and prostration of industry, its stirring of class hatreds and suffering of millions of people, to the settlement that Mr. Wilson effected? For the strike of 1894 gives a faint idea of what might have been expected in 1916 if the President, following Mr. Cleveland's precedent, had attempted to settle it by force. "The great mass of people will undoubtedly feel that Mr. Wilson was wiser in his generation than Mr. Cleveland, or than Mr. Hughes. The Adamson bill does not effect a permanent settlement. Further measures are necessary, and should be adopted, as the President has recommended. "As to the surrender of the President on the demand for an eighthour day, progressives demanded that measure of social justice four years ago, and it certainly ill becomes any, one who supported that platform to rail at the President for helping to obtain for the railroad men a measure so manifestly just to labor."

HUGHES AND WAR: WILSON AND PEACE

A St. Louis, Mo., dispatch, dated Oct. 11, says: With American citizens of German ancestors as hosts, Senator James A. Reed of Missouri, at the Tower Grove Turnverein, tonight carried the message of "War with Germany, or Peace," into the very center of the German-born population of this city.

Senator Reed quoted Roosevelt as the "war lord" who will take the sword against Germany and then quoted a telegram sent the former president by Mr. Justice Hughes, the republican candidate for president, congratulating Roosevelt upon his Maine speech in which he said in effect the United States should have gone to war with Germany over the invasion of Belgium.

Senator Reed pointed to the capitalists' banquet in New York city on December 19, 1915, which Roosevelt attended, then to the luncheon of

turning point was Theodore Roosevelt's speech in Battle Creek. One sentence of that speech revealed its animus, "Wilson Craven, Oust Him," shouted Roosevelt.

This seemed to suit the Roosevelt organs, and in big black letters it was placed on the first page of the foremost newspaper supporter of the republican candidate for president.

The country is brought face to face with the proposition that republican success in November means an administration dominated by the greatest belligerent in America, Theodore Roosevelt, and with war as an almost inevitable result.

Mr. Roosevelt has done the country great service in causing a reaction of public sentiment that insures the reelection of President Wilson and guarantees four more years of peace and prosperity.

The Patriot does not advocate the re-election of Mr. Wilson because he is a democrat, but because he is the safest man in the great emergency that confronts this nation, growing out of the world war that is devasting Europe.

President Wilson has a firmer grasp and a wiser comprehension of the perils of the situation than any new and untried man can have, and it is better to trust him to be steersman of the ship of state over the stormy seas than it is to place the helm in charge of any man who simply cpposes everything that has been done in the past three years, although the course pursued has brought unparalleled prosperity to this country.

Henry Ford, whose "business pres-



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