

PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES

(Continued from Page 1) CHARLES G. DAWES

famous nap, or perhaps even because of it; he is also a soldier, a banker, a one-time Comptroller of the Currency, a friend of Mark Hanna, an expert rifleman, and an author of books.

Dawes went to Marietta College and then to Cincinnati Law School, from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-one. He worked his way through college by serving as chief engineer for a small Ohio railroad.

Dawes Came to Lincoln

In 1887, when he was twenty-two Dawes went to Lincoln, Nebraska, to practice law. That is an interesting fact, because Lincoln was the home of William Jennings Bryan and John J. Pershing. Dawes knew them both. All three used to eat at Don Cameron's lunch counter.

Dawes moved from Nebraska to Wisconsin, took up his residence in the city of La Crosse and became president of the La Crosse Gas Light Company. He stayed for a year or so; then moved to Evanston, Illinois, and another gaslight presidency.

Dawes at this time had reached the age of thirty—rather young for a gaslight presidency, but rather old for a first dip in politics. He took that dip the following year—when Bryan, his senior by five years, burst suddenly upon the Democratic convention of 1896 with his free silver and

his cross of gold, and was nominated for the Presidency.

Dawes spent that year doing his best to defeat Bryan by stumping his home State. Having been successfully an engineer, a lawyer, and a public-utility president, but never having been a banker, Dawes now chose to become a banker, and informed McKinley that he would like to be appointed Comptroller of the Currency. McKinley agreed. A Senate three decades later approved his nomination. Dawes came to Washington as Comptroller of the Currency in 1897, at the age of thirty-two.

Ran for Senator

This post interested him and held his attention for four years. He resigned in 1901, after acquiring fame as one of McKinley's few close friends and member of his euche parties, and announced his candidacy for the Senate.

Happily or unhappily for the peace of mind of the Senate, he did not win. He did not receive the nomination. But what the Senate lost, the bankers gained. Dawes returned to Chicago in 1902, organized the Central Union Trust Company of Illinois, and was elected its first president. He had now reached the age of thirty-seven.

His bank has prospered greatly. He has won a reputation as a successful financier. The war brought him an opportunity for new honors when he rejoined Pershing, this time in circumstances very different from those surrounding Don Cameron's lunch counter in Lincoln, and became chief purchasing agent of the American Army in France. After the war came his appointment by Harding as Director of the Budget and the frequent duels with Congress which fixed the nation's eye, perhaps for the first time in some years, upon its national finances.

Went to Europe

This was 1921. In 1923 came Dawes' return to Europe with a committee of American bankers, the writing of the Dawes Plan, and a new lease on fame. The general impression is that Dawes did not write this plan, that he may have had very little to do with the creation of its formulas, but that the driving power of his personality helped materially in putting it through.

In 1924 came the Vice Presidency and a new fight with Congress. This time the driving force of the Dawes personality was turned loose on Rule 22.

It is a very fiery Dawes, a very enthusiastic Dawes, and a very helter-skelter Dawes whom the modern publicity machine has created for an admiring public.

Yet when this much is said, and when due credit has been paid to Dawes as a fire eater, it is plain that the whole story is not told nor the full measure of the man revealed. For Dawes is by no means merely the swashbuckling rough-and-tumble fighter which his own somewhat beligerent career plus the efforts of the cartoonists would lead his public to believe.

Any man who can convince both the Corn Belt and the bankers, that he is a good man to be trusted with their contradictory and conflicting interests, at this moment, is a man of considerable versatility and a wide

range on the keyboard.

AL SMITH

entire legislative session of 1925 fighting for a twenty-five per cent reduction. He won it from a Republican majority which opposed it for no very clear reason except that Smith was for it. No further reduction has been possible since 1925.

2. Water power. Smith would break sharply with Mr. Coolidge, the Republican party, any conceivable nominee of the Republican party, and three fourths of his own docile party in Congress on this issue. Water power is one of Smith's major interests and major issues. As surely as anything can be predicted of him as President, he would demand government operation of the power plants at Muscle Shoals and, if they are built, at Boulder Dam.

3. National defense. For all Presidents the Army is a fairly static institution. There is nothing in Smith's record to indicate what he thinks about the Navy.

4. The tariff. Smith is a Democrat; but in these days of scrambled politics it does not follow that a Democrat—especially a Democrat from an industrial State—is necessarily a free trader. How far Smith would go in the matter of tariff reduction is an open question.

5. Industrial relations. Smith has made a large part of his reputation on his championship of such measures as minimum-wage laws, workmen's compensation, maternity insurance, and the eight-hour day.

Smith and Prohibition

6. Prohibition. It is the theory of the New York Times, which is strong for Smith, that if he were elected "he would enforce the Volstead Act more effectively than the present administration"—apparently on the theory that, as an honest man, he would lean over backward to enforce what he does not believe in. On the other hand, it is the theory of the Ku Klux Klan that Smith would open a bar at every corner. Possibly a more realistic theory than either of these predictions is that the Volstead Act, for Congress, has ceased to be a cause and has now become a routine, with an annual appropriation bill which never varies, and a game of political appointments played by Congress, the President being more or less a mere bystander.

In addition, there is the question of Presidential appointments to the Supreme Court. In the history of this country more than one contentions law has been thoroughly reinterpreted by a new court which has changed in membership. Should Smith, by any chance, have the opportunity to appoint five members of the Supreme Court the Anti-Saloon League would have good cause for worry.

7. Farm legislation. Smith has given no indication of his stand. Farm relief is a problem with which he has had little personal experience. He is not at home in the Corn Belt.

8. Reorganization of the Government. This is Smith's one supreme and abiding interest. Smith has succeeded, as single-handed as any man ever achieves results in politics, in taking the topsy-turvy Government of New York and remaking one hundred and sixty miscellaneous bureaus into twenty-one permanent departments. The business of reorganizing governments has so passionate an interest for him that it has tempted him into one of his few direct sallies into a discussion of national affairs.

9. Finally, we come to the question of foreign policy. Here it is known (a) that on one occasion Smith persuaded the Democratic State convention in New York to adopt a World Court plank, though this was some years back, and (b) that in his reply to the Marshall letter he said, regarding Mexico, "I recognize the right of no church to ask armed intervention by this country in the affairs of another country, merely for the defense of the rights of a church."

This is definite. But it is not much out of which to build a picture of a foreign policy. The Ku-Klux Klan is sure that Smith's foreign policy would be to deliver the United States into the hands of Rome. There are other observers who cite Smith's refusal to be swept off his feet in the post-war Bolshevik hysteria as proof that if he were elected President he would show foresight, liberality, and cool-headedness in his foreign policy. It is a quite possible third alternative that Smith would not be very much interested in his foreign policy, that he would leave this department of the Government largely in the hands of his advisers. For it is apparently true, on the basis of Smith's record, that he is chiefly interested in those things with which he has had first-hand contact. And as the old adage runs in the New York newspaper offices, China is a long way from the Bowery.

Smith Picks Good Men Smith has a way of picking men who know their jobs. It is quite possible that his Cabinet would include one Republican chosen on the theory

that he knows his business. And if this sounds quixotic, consider the fact that Smith's present cabinet, as Governor of New York—on his home ground, in his fourth term, when and where he could give Tammany everything it asked, if he so chose—does actually include no less than six Republicans at this moment, in a total of fourteen members. Tammany, with Smith as President, could have all it wanted in the line of local patronage—just as it could have all it wanted, locally, from any other Democratic President. But Smith's Cabinet would be his own.

What would also be his own would be his diction and his manners. Ain't he still be ain't, and seven Ambassadors from Great Britain would not change it. Et would still be et, for dinner. Smith would be the first representative of the new immigration and the big-city streets to take the oath as President.

A man of experience, wit, city manners and sophistication, who typifies the challenge of a restless urban civilization to the long-continued domination of a thousand Main Streets: this is the man who now bids for the nomination of a party whose strength, ironically enough, lies chiefly in the old aristocracy of the Solid South.

The answer to Smith, in the Democratic party, is a coalition which has not yet found its leader.

VIC DONAHEY

printing and Ohio that leads to politics. Harding and Cox were both printers first, then governors, then candidates for President.

Donahey made his first successful bid for recognition at a constitutional convention in Ohio. He had been prominent enough to be rewarded by his party with a nomination for State auditor. This was 1912. And thanks to Wilson's carrying Ohio in the great schism of that year, Donahey was elected to his first State office.

Donahey proceeded to transform a minor post into a series of good news stories. His fame in Ohio dates from 1912 and is due primarily to the fact that as auditor he audited. Stories of items rudely lopped from a startled budget began to make their appearance in the Ohio papers. Nobody dislikes economy in public office. And on the strength of a few noisy tussles with the politicians during his first term, Donahey was reelected to his office in 1914—though Cox fell by the wayside, losing to Frank B. Willis. He was reelected for a second time in 1916, when Cox came back as governor. He was reelected for a third time in 1918.

Two years later, when Cox was

nominated for the Presidency, Donahey stepped into Cox's shoes as Democratic candidate for governor. Apparently few of the Democratic bosses in Ohio politics really wanted him. But he had been in office for eight years, he had acquired a reputation with that very considerable portion of the electorate which likes to see a dollar saved, and, as usually happens in eight years of politics, he had managed to build up a very respectable organization of his own. This was enough to give him his opportunity.

He could not make the most of it on his first try; for this was the year of the Harding landslide. Donahey went down with Cox, though he ran 140,000 votes ahead of him in Ohio. He came back for his second try in 1922, and won.

Ohio Goes Donahey

Since then no one has been able to shake him from his office. What ever happens to Ohio in a national election, locally the State goes Donahey. In the year that Coolidge carried Ohio for the Republicans by 698,000 votes, Donahey carried it for the Democrats by 176,000. To run three quarters of a million votes ahead of a national ticket in Ohio, as Donahey did, is a considerable achievement.

Donahey has never set his State on fire. He has never sent the imagination of his constituency soaring to new bounds. But enough people to elect him governor of Ohio three times running apparently regard him as a reasonably enlightened, economical public servant who sizes up most things in an unpretentious, homespun manner.

Donahey Is Available

So runs the story of the printer from Cadwallader township who became a governor, and, thanks to a situation which may possibly develop in the next Democratic convention,

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available candidate for the Presidency of the United States is less a measure of the man himself than a comment on the American system of self-government.

Donahey will go to the Democratic convention as a dark horse whose friends will hope that they can push him to the front if enough of the party still stands pat to block the first hard drive of Smith.

QUARANTINE RAISED AT WASHINGTON AG SCHOOL

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