

SENATOR JONES. He Talks About President Arthur and Stalwartism. Cabinet Speculations. With Side Notes on Conkling and Sargent.

San Francisco, Nov. 27. A Cal reporter who called upon Senator Jones at the Palace last evening, found the senator in his usual affable mood, and disposed to talk freely upon national politics and matters of public interest generally.

"Well," answered the senator, "I cannot speak authoritatively concerning the subject, but from my conversations with General Arthur I am led to believe that no changes are contemplated in the offices upon this coast. Certain it is that the delegation from this coast have not been apprised of any intended changes, and they are, it is fair to suppose, as friendly to the present incumbent as at any time during the late president's incumbency."

"The reported revenue changes," "Then there is no truth in the report that certain officials in the revenue department have made themselves obnoxious to the administration, and are in danger of being removed?" "I do not know of anything of the kind. Mr. Arthur is much too broad a man to allow personal likes and dislikes to stand in the way of public policy, even should he entertain such feelings, which I do not think he does."

"Well, to go further away from home, if it is not too abrupt, what chance is there of the president announcing his cabinet before the meeting of congress?" "Oh," replied the senator, "there is not the least likelihood that any nominations will be made before congress meets, which is on the 5th of December, the first Monday, you know."

"It has been generally understood that the present advisors of the president were more than anxious to be relieved from official cares, notably Blaine and Mayne." "That is about right. McVeigh, however, the president strongly urged to retain office until after the start route was had disposed of."

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"What are President Arthur's ideas on the two-term question? The Sun, I believe, makes a sarcastic allusion to 1884, and uses Arthur's name in that connection." "Arthur has not got along far enough in his term to begin to think seriously of that, I apprehend. I do not think he has ever made a public avowal on that subject. He would not, I take it, disregard the wishes of the people in that particular, and has never committed himself. I have never spoken to him on the subject."

"Now, if it is a fair question to ask a strong administration man, senator, may I ask what influence stalwartism will have upon the policy of the administration and upon the selection of the president's advisors? Or, in other words, will Arthur be controlled by Conkling, Grant and their colleagues, rather than by a broad national policy?" "Well," gasped the senator, as he absorbed the above opaque interrogatory, "Well, I can't say that I quite grasp your idea. I don't like those words 'stalwart' and 'half-breed.' If you mean by stalwarts that branch of the republican party that goes before the people at the primaries, and takes in close friendship with the Grant and Conkling and other loyal leaders of the republican party, Arthur is intensely republican, but will not allow sectional or petty partisanship to sway him. When Garfield recognized the Blaine wing of the republican party, and selected him as secretary of state, neither Mr. Arthur nor Mr. Conkling objected. Indeed, the other wing recognized it as eminently proper. That the wishes of the representatives of the people in any section should be consulted is the very principle that Conkling and Pratt contended for, and that Arthur endorsed."

"The last words of the senator were: 'See here, you newspaper fellows always get my words mixed up in your interviews. I don't suppose you mean to do it. It is a pretty hard thing to talk on politics so that another person may take just your shade of meaning.'"

"Now, you are asking me something about which I am in total ignorance," was the reply. "For really, I never had a conversation with General Arthur upon that subject, and it is pretty hard to adequately compress, but I can say this, Mr. Arthur is intensely 'American' in his views. I do not mean, however, in a know-nothing sense, for the president is one of the most liberal men with whom it has been my fortune to come in contact. But as to his views upon the canal scheme, I am in the dark, and it is pretty hard to call out his views on that subject."

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