

DIXIE IS WAITING.

Statesmen Hope the Presidential Bolt Will Strike.

Many Think His Advice to Politicians of North Carolina May Have Been Adroitly Given to Head Off Hearst—Rising Tide of New Yorker's Popularity Alarms Conservative Wing of Democracy—Some of the Available Timber.

All Dixieland is glistening with lightning rods since Judge Alton B. Parker declared that the South ought to assert its dominance in the affairs of the Democracy and name a Southern man for President in 1908.

The party's latest defeated candidate has, of course, not only taken himself out of the next race, but he has barred every other Northern Democrat from the sweepstakes event which he, as the probable spokesman for powerful financial interests, is endeavoring to arrange for the next Presidential campaign.

The favorite son game in Presidential politics is an old one, and one at which the South can play as adroitly as the best of them. Hence if there is anything more than the mere expression of personal wish or opinion back of Judge Parker's North Carolina speech, it is not at all improbable that far-reaching efforts will be made to send to the next Democratic national convention delegations from a half dozen or more Southern States instructed respectively for favorite sons.

In the sort of scramble that this condition would produce the ultra conservative forces could more easily control, perhaps, than they could should the candidacies of Mr. Hearst and Mr. Bryan have been the controlling factors in various State campaigns for delegates. In point of fact, it is strongly suspected that Judge Parker's real motive in urging the nomination of a Southerner is to complicate the situation for both the Nebraskan and the New Yorker-Californian. Undoubtedly his main purpose is to appeal to what is generally regarded by his type of politician as the conservatism of the South against the rising tide of radicalism that seems to be sweeping swiftly toward Mr. Hearst, with Mr. Bryan as the almost certain compromise in the event of Mr. Hearst's failure to win the prize for which he strove in 1904.

HEARST AND BRYAN SEEM RIVALS.

In this connection it seems pertinent to state that there does not appear to be any sort of understanding between Messrs. Hearst and Bryan bearing on the leadership of their party in 1908. On the contrary, the signs are multiplying that they are rivals for the glittering trophy. This of itself constitutes a factor of great interest in the Presidential equation, not only as it affects Presidential politics in general, for it goes without saying that if Mr. Hearst shall develop dangerous strength the conservative forces, irrespective of nominal party affiliations, would be compelled to conjure with Bryan's name and popularity as the last desperate device for heading off Hearst. Stranger things have happened to our politics than William Jennings Bryan being turned to by the "sane and sound" elements for rescue from what they regard as an actual menace.

There does not any longer seem to be the least doubt that Mr. Hearst will contest the field for the governorship next fall. Indeed, his candidacy for that nomination already is well advanced. It is remembered with what scornful remarks his acceptance of the Municipal Ownership party's nomination for mayor of Greater New York was greeted by the old-line politicians all over the country last October. It is also remembered with what a shudder the "sane and sound" elements of the metropolis viewed his chances of election two weeks before the close of that memorable campaign, to say nothing of their dread when on the night of election it appeared for several hours that he had triumphed at the polls.

HEARST'S POPULARITY GREAT.

If anything has happened since then to diminish Hearst's strength, with the masses in New York City or State or elsewhere, it is now of record. Wherefore, suppose William Randolph Hearst is elected governor of the Empire State next November, how, then, will go Presidential politics for the succeeding two years? There are, of course,

numerous statesmen of both parties on Capitol Hill who shut their eyes and refuse to "suppose" any such thing, but they did this for a considerable period after Hearst entered the race for mayor of Greater New York, and some even refused to open their eyes until the completed returns from Brooklyn showed that Hearst had swept that ancient stronghold of "conservatism."

MANY STATESMEN WILLING.

Aside from the flattering notion that a host of statesmen at the South have taken to their souls that Judge Parker's suggestion points to each of them as the most available material, it cannot be claimed that his North Carolina speech has had much effect. It has, of course, started among the Democrats in Congress what the Hon. Champ Clark would call in his choicest Missouri lingo, "a mighty jowling," but, curiously enough, it has not been taken very seriously yet.

While it is admitted that the field is large and the material abundant for giving force to Judge Parker's contention, still it is not acknowledged that the time is ripe for the nomination of a Southerner by either party. Careful students of American politics are inclined to the belief that in the course of time and development of politics the Republicans are more likely to choose a Southerner as their standard bearer than are the Democrats. It is undeniable that the genuine article of protectionism is growing in the South while it is waning in the North. Therefore, if protectionism is ingrained in Republicanism, it would seem that the strength of that fiscal doctrine eventually will be transferred from the North to the South, and with it will go, of course, the Republican cause.

To be sure, the negro will be there to distract political thought, but the fact that, generally speaking, the Southern Republican, even of Northern birth, is quite as indifferent to what the sentimentalism of far New England insists hysterically is the negro's "rights" shows that the negro question is, after all, racial and not sectional in the larger sense, and that after a while the black man will have to look out for himself without being any sort of an "issue" in national politics. He is scarcely that now, so swift has been the change in national thought and opinion.

SURVEY OF SOUTHERN FIELD.

However, since Judge Parker has provided a fresh topic for Presidential slate-makers to figure on, a survey is being made of the Southern field for available material. The two men in Congress most generally discussed in this relation are the Senators from Texas, Mr. Culberson and Mr. Bailey. All that is against either of them, from this view-point, is geography. They represent in their personality the character, capacity, and achievements of the New South. Their State typifies more exactly than any other part of the country the ability of the sons of the Old South to develop the latest wealth in natural resources and generally to keep step with the march of post-bellum progress; for Texas is to the Old South just what Iowa, Kansas, and that tier of States is to Old New England, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

Senator Culberson has had a more varied experience in public affairs than has his distinguished colleague, having been in turn a lawyer of large practice, attorney general of his State twice, and governor twice. He has a hold upon the great body of the voters of his State which Senator Bailey has not, and should a contest be brought on between them for the Texas delegation—which the friends of neither think at all probable—Mr. Culberson doubtless would win.

More serious attention is given to Missouri material than to that of any other of the States that are popularly classified as Southern. There is a young governor out there who has done some things that fit in with the prevailing drift of affairs political, and which might so appeal to the public imagination as to give great strength to his candidacy.

A PRODUCT OF TENNESSEE.

Then, too, Governor Folk is a Tennessee rather than a Missouri product, having lived in the lat-

ter State only a few years before he smashed the machine and rode in triumph from boodle prosecutions in St. Louis to the gubernatorial mansion at Jefferson City.

It is too early yet to say how Folk's candidacy would suit the purposes or the peace of mind of the Hon. William Joel Stone, the most potent personal factor in the Missouri Democracy, but it is not inconceivable that the Senator could be induced to view with restraining composure a movement to give the Missouri delegation to the governor, provided the Senate was not the real objective either of Folk or some factional friend of Folk.

Then, too, there is former Governor David Rowland Francis, who possibly may have to be consulted by any President makers who go out to Missouri looking for material. Francis is a Kentuckyian by birth, and was transplanted to Missouri at an early age. He has been a man of large affairs for almost a generation, knows the art of securing popularity, is a past master in the trade of money-making, stands high with the conservative elements in all parts of the country, and is popular with the masses. Should he grapple with Governor Folk for the delegation, it is not improbable that the adroit Senator Stone would step in about the time they were both worn out with the struggle and calmly walk away with the prize in such shape that he could make suitable disposition of it in the national convention.

CHAMP CLARK IN RUNNING.

The Hon. Champ Clark has given it out in his characteristic way that he is willing to take the nomination if it comes down to its being forced upon him. Thus the prospects favor quite a merry mix-up in Missouri if the Parker suggestion is to cut any considerable figure in Democratic national politics.

Other Southerners who are being talked about are John Sharpe Williams, of Mississippi; Senators Bacon and Clay and Messrs. Hoke Smith and Clark Howell, of Georgia; Senator Rayner, of Maryland; Senator Carmack, of Tennessee; (provided he is re-elected to the Senate); Senators Overman and Simmons of North Carolina; Governor Beckham, of Kentucky; President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton, a Virginian; and President Alderman, of the University of Virginia, who stirred up the bile of the Hon. Joseph W. Bailey last summer by declaring that the South was no longer sending great men to Congress.

Meantime, the eye of every President-maker, Democrat as well as Republican, Judge Parker and all the rest, protrudes toward the White House whenever the leadership of either party for 1908 is discussed. What is in the head of the occupant of that gray old mansion? That is the question the President-makers ask in bated breath whenever they talk earnestly to one another. Some of them want Mr. Roosevelt to please oblige by re-issuing the statement he gave out the night of November 8th, 1904.—Dickinson, in Washington Post.

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Walzer Tells a Story on Himself.

"Having an appointment the other day in the press gallery of the House of Representatives with a newspaper man from my State, I sauntered to the big building on the hill and proceeded to that section of the House-sacred to the reporters," said former Attorney General Zeb Vance Walzer, of North Carolina, at the Raleigh.

"It occurred to me as I crossed the portals that the gallery wore a strangely deserted look. It was the first time I had ever been there, and I felt somewhat like an interloper, but I remembered that Tom Pence, my reportorial friend, had told me to cast aside my Tar Heel bashfulness and boldly enter. So, although I failed to note the presence of a single human being, I kept right on, and marching down to the reporters' seats, took a chair, thinking somebody would come along presently who would enlighten me as to Pence.

"The floor of the House was almost a deserted as where I sat, and taking it for granted that the solons had adjourned, I lighted a perfecto and began to ruminate over incidents that had occurred in that historic chamber. Only four or five persons were visible from my perch.

"Between puffs of smoke, I kept wondering what in the thunder kept Pence, and just as I was on the point of vamoosing, a blue-coated individual took me firmly by the shoulder and asked me if I didn't know it was against the rules to be smoking up there. He was polite but positive, I told him I didn't want to break any rules, but I didn't know it was wrong to smoke when the House was not in session.

"Thunder and lightning!" said the blue-coat; "don't you see that a member is making a speech. Would he be doing that if the House had adjourned?" This was a revelation, and, begging pardon, I hurried out of the gallery. I wondered afterward what the statesman could have been discussing, and when I learned he was advocating the cutting down of Southern representation in Congress I thought his subject might have had something to do with the slimmness of his audience." —Washington Post.

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March 16, 1906.

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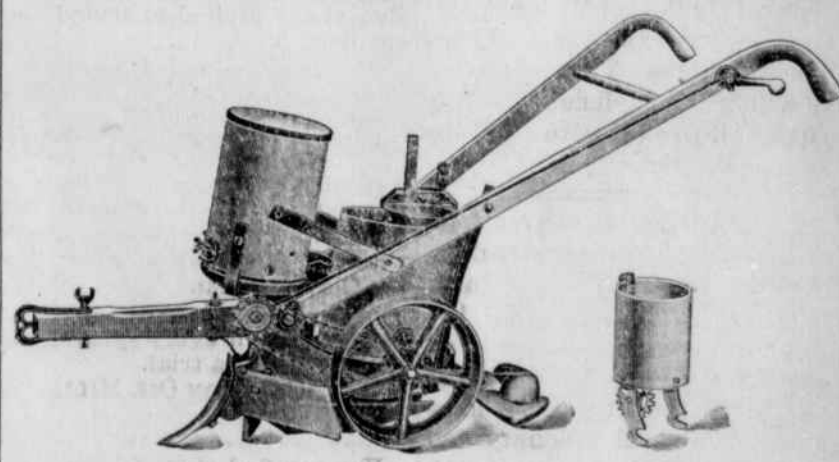
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