

Neither Of Old Parties Is Going Nominate Ford

And If He Should Run on Third Party Ticket His Candidacy Would Hurt Republicans More Than Democrats in Opinion of Washington Correspondent

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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This is the fourth of a series of nine articles by David Lawrence on presidential possibilities and impossibilities, giving an appraisal of the political assets and liabilities of the candidates for the Republican and Democratic nominations. Mr. Lawrence has just finished a tour of the Western part of the United States with President Harding and is now enroute to Europe to make a detailed survey of reconstruction problems there. At the conclusion of this tour, Mr. Lawrence's cables from Europe will be an exclusive in The Advance.

He has dealers in every city and town in America. He makes a commodity that almost everybody uses—men, women and children. He is known from one end of the country to the other.

You might assume from this description that Henry Ford is the man. He is. But these three statements fit equally well and apply to Bill Wrigley, the chewing gum king. Yet neither he nor Gillette, the safety razor man, is being boomed for the presidency.

People who are unfamiliar with the inside workings of American political parties have jumped to the conclusion that all that is necessary for an American President is that the man should be widely known and that he should have some semblance of an organization throughout the country. Nothing could be further from the truth. The history of American politics reveals that at no time has any political personality sprung to the front in a presidential contest without some conspicuous public service behind him. Even William Jennings Bryan has served a term in Congress before his famous "cross of gold" speech in 1896. Woodrow Wilson did not come direct from Princeton University to the White House, but served a term as Governor of the state of New Jersey. William McKinley, William Howard Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, Warren Harding, Grover Cleveland, Judge Alton B. Parker—all the men who have been nominated for the presidency in the present generation—have either been selected to public office or previously had been appointed to some position of importance.

There is much similarity between the boom for Henry Ford and the movement that swept the country in 1920 for Herbert Hoover, but even Mr. Hoover had served in a public capacity as United States food administrator and while he had no connection with either of the political parties there was no doubt of his administrative ability when entrusted with a public office.

Henry Ford has never been elected to any office of public trust in America. He has several assets politically speaking, but he also has many liabilities. Here are his strong points:

He is a self-made man.
He has had a romantic career in business and has done almost the impossible in the financing of his own business.

The farmers of the country are aching for some Moses to lead them out of their wilderness and the name of Ford catches their imagination.

Here are Henry Ford's political liabilities:

The American Legion would probably never support a man for the presidency whose son had been accused of draft evasion in the World War. If Henry Ford should become a candidate for the presidency, it is almost certain that one or the other of his opponents of the political world opposing him would revive the controversy over Edsel Ford.

Henry Ford's boasts of his bigotry on religion. His campaign against Jews is in conformity with one of the principles of the Ku Klux Klan. And whether the Klan endorsed him or not, it seems almost certain that he would be given the label of the Klan by political opponents. Under such circumstances large numbers of Catholics would be antagonized and would be inclined to oppose any man who was even slightly favored by the Klan.

There would naturally be a good deal of ridicule in a Ford campaign, when, for example, in the libel suit he conducted against the Chicago Tribune, an attorney asked Mr. Ford who Benedict Arnold was he replied "an English novelist." Opposing

publican party itself. In 1920, the people wanted Hoover, but the politicians in both parties did not listen. There is as yet no method by which the national political organizations can be made to recognize an outsider if they do not wish to do so.

If Henry Ford should be nominated by a third party convention, he would draw most of his strength from agricultural states. This would hurt the Republican party more than it would the Democratic party. In fact, in a three-cornered contest almost anything might happen but it is inconceivable that one or the other of the two old parties would not poll the largest number of electoral votes. The Ford party might finish second, but never first.

The danger recognized by all practical politicians however is that if Henry Ford should be nominated on a third party ticket and make an active campaign he might carry enough states to prevent the other two candidates from getting a majority in the electoral college. This would throw the election of a President and Vice President into the House of Representatives—a situation that is always attended by great excitement and confusion. The election would then be by state delegations in Congress and a Republican or Democrat would be elected—not a third party man.

Henry Ford can never be elected president of the United States because he cannot poll enough electoral votes, but he possesses the power and the money to make trouble for the two old political parties—and they are beginning to recognize it. Charles D. Hillis, Republican national committeeman from New York

Senators or if he had run for governor of Michigan and demonstrated his ability to conduct a public office as well as he can manage a private business.

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