

SECTION OF
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OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD FOR PRESIDENT
MATCHLESS LEADER OF A UNITED DEMOCRACY—WORTHY OF A UNITED SUPPORT

THE PROGRESS OF
A SANE YOUNG MAN

By SAMUEL G. BLYTHE.

(Saturday Evening Post, December 30, 1911.)

It was hot in Washington on Wednesday, the second of August last—so hot you could fry an egg on the pavement at Ninth and F if so be your taste ran to fried egg & asphalt; and it was even hotter than on that torrid corner in the glass-ceilinged chamber of the House of Representatives.

Underwood Center of a Dramatic Scene.

He had a newspaper in his hand; and as he rose the gasping patriots on both sides took notice and shoved up their temperatures a degree or so by clapping vigorously.

Underwood's High Political Courage.

"The statements contained in that article are absolutely false!" he said. Instantly the entire Democratic side broke into a roar of applause.

Underwood a Presidential Possibility.

That one thing is this: When Underwood finished that statement and sat down, amid the applause of the House, the State of Alabama had a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President.

Of course the Bryanophobes seized upon the circumstance to laud Underwood, and equally of course the Bryanites would have seized on the circumstance to laud him had he praised Bryan.

Underwood's Long Legislative Experience of Great Value.

A great many men wise in public affairs have held that the Fathers who made the Constitution would have builded even better than they did if they had included in that document a provision that no man is eligible to the presidency in this country unless he has served a certain length of time in the legislative branch of the Government.

extraordinarily well qualified for the presidency because of his long experience in Governmental matters. Granting that Mr. Taft had long experience in the executive end of the Government, he was woefully deficient in knowledge of the legislative end; and this has been apparent all through his term.



HON. O. W. UNDERWOOD.

Underwood's Varied Public Service.

Now, when you talk of a man as a receptive or an aggressive candidate for a presidential nomination you top up his qualifications; and, no matter whether Underwood's name ever gets before the convention or not, no matter if it receives no votes save those of Alabama, the fact is he is highly qualified so far as the mechanics of the Government is concerned.

Underwood's Methods Like McKinley's.

Somebody asked me once if I didn't think Underwood is a good deal like McKinley in many ways. Laying aside whatever criticisms there may be of McKinley, the fact is as I have said—he was a most expert and effective President because he knew how to do things.

Underwood's Leadership Baset With Tremendous Difficulties.

Underwood's position when the Sixty-second Congress was called into special session by President Taft last April, for the purpose of passing reciprocity legislation, was a position of tremendous difficulties.



MRS. UNDERWOOD.

PLAIN WORDS ON BIG QUESTIONS

(Extracts from interview of Oscar W. Underwood, reported in Staff Correspondence of the New York World, Editorial Section, December 3, 1911.)

"There has been no attempt on the part of the manufacturers to give labor its share of the benefits derived from the tariff! They have kept all the profits."

"To protect profits is to protect inefficiency and to strangle rather than to develop industry."

"I prefer to lower the tariff wall by taking bricks off the top of the wall rather than by dynamiting the structure at the bottom."

"The people have lost faith in the Republican party because it has not kept faith with them."

"If it (the Sherman Act) is enforced as a criminal statute it is an efficient instrument for preventing and punishing monopoly and restraint of trade."

HIS WIFE A REAL HELPER

Mr. Underwood has been helped and assisted by his wife. She is proud of him and has faith in his future. She takes the utmost interest in his work and his ambitions.

THE UNDERWOOD BOOM

Uncle Joe Cannon is quoted as saying that "Congressman Underwood of Alabama has grown more in public sentiment recently than any other man in the United States."

DUTY HIGHER THAN AMBITION

Underwood Not Self-Seeking

"My Friends Must Do The Work," says Underwood.

Congressman Oscar W. Underwood, when asked if he would be a candidate for the Presidency, said: "I think my friends are going to pay me the compliment of inducting me and that they will present my name to the convention."

UNDERWOOD'S BOLD PROGRAM

Good Politics and Policy

The Underwood program contemplates sane reductions, not revolutionary, but framed so as to lighten the burden of the tariff without giving the violent a shock to important national interests.

It is good political strategy and sound economics. Moreover, it is practical.

If such a program should be passed and vetoed by the President, Mr. Taft and the Republican party will have to face an angry nation with a third betrayal charged against them.

If Taft should approve it, his previous attitude and previous vetoes will leave all the credit for tariff reform to the Democratic party, and will enable him to recover none of the advantage he has lost.

reciprocity legislation, to which the Democrats were favorable, the House was Democratic mainly because of the dissatisfaction of the people with the Payne-Aldrich tariff law, the election that made the House Democratic being the first opportunity the people had to express that dissatisfaction tangibly.

The Democrats had a majority of nearly seventy. They had not had possession of the House for sixteen years. They were politically hungry and politically thirsty. They needed sustenance. They thought they had a chance to elect a president in 1912 and get full swing at all the perquisites and prerogatives of the Government; and each man of the two hundred and twenty-eight Democrats was full of schemes for making this chance a certainty.

His task is not yet completed. The President vetoed the tariff bills that were formulated in the House under Underwood's direction and intrinsically his, though changed in many particulars in the Senate and in conference.

Underwood and the Democratic Party.

Underwood was made leader of these men. His task was to hold them in line, to keep them together, to get them at work intelligently and cohesively—to get results. He knew that the Democratic party, if it was to have any response from the people in the election of a Democratic president in 1912, must show the people it is trustworthy and fit for confidence.

He knew of the varying opinions as to what should be done with the tariff; knew of the enthusiasm and lack of judgment, the partisanship, and even the fanaticism of some of his followers; knew they had been so long outside that the attainment of the inside position might lead to excesses in legislation.

Judging the future by the past, he will do it. It is a situation charged with dynamite. Many of his Democratic colleagues are anxious for radical action in many ways. The Congress will not adjourn until just before the first national convention is held.

Underwood Opposes Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

He is an advanced conservative in his views of other legislation. For example, he does not favor the wide extension of the initiative, referendum and recall. His contention is that these measures have worked out satisfactorily in local matters where the people clearly understood the issues; but that in larger matters of national importance the Congress is better able to protect the interests of the people.

"The people suffer far more from the failure to enforce existing laws than they do from the lack of proper legislation," he says. "The people should drive from the places of power and responsibility the unfaithful servants and elect those who will be faithful to the trust imposed upon them. The masses of people are far better judges of men than they are of measures, and are far more likely to select an honest man than an honest measure."

Underwood's Characteristics.

Underwood was born in Kentucky in 1862, was educated at the Rugby School in Louisville, and the University of Virginia, and was admitted to the bar in 1884. He went at once to Birmingham, Alabama, where he has since practiced law. He was first elected to Congress in 1894 and has been returned regularly since.

He is not a showy man, but a studious. His greatest speech was in opposition to the Payne-Aldrich bill when that measure was reported to the House of Representatives by the Republican Ways and Means Committee in 1909. He made several important speeches in advocacy of his own measures during the extra session of the House last summer, but none was so important or so exhaustive as that speech against the Payne bill.

Underwood does not write his speeches. He says he cannot memorize easily, and never attempts to make a set speech or a speech where he follows copy exactly. His method is to collect all the available information bearing on his subject and arrange it in skeleton form. He sets it out by divisions, subdivisions, and topics. He goes over these, rearranges, classifies, divides and subdivides. Then he may write portions of the speech, or he may not. At any rate, when he comes to talk he has nothing before him but a sheet of paper with his topics on it, and he talks without reference to notes or to authorities.