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THE YELLOW JACKET, Moravian Falls, N. C.

Eli Tucker's Letter

Huckleberry Knob, N. C.,
April 26, 1912.

Editor Yellow Jacket.

My Dear Sir:—Since tossing my hat in the ring I have been besieged with requests to make a few speeches in order that the people might get a better idea of what I stand for and what I don't stand for, as I am a rannin'. But Patsy says she don't see how she can ever get along without me handy-by this spring. Soap making time is here, the garden fence needs repairing, the caterpillars must be wiped out of the orchard; old Pide as a calf that takes two to three mds to manage it at milking time; cut-worms are destroying Patsy's lowers; she has one hundred and fifty young chickens hatched out and the hawks are making goo-goo eyes at them and they must be watched, and the potato bugs are sitting on the clouds in my potato patch waiting for the first young sprouts to lift their heads above the dirt, and she declares that it will be worse than infidelity for me to sally out into the campaign to speech-making with all these things demanding my attention at home. So I have decided to prepare a few short lectures on certain subjects and have them printed in The Yellow Jacket. I send you herewith my first installment which I have hurriedly prepared, but which I think touches the spot.

WHAT THE BLOOMIN' BLAZES DOES IT MEAN?

What does it mean?
Have sober, sensible men stopped to ponder?
Is this campaign to be the red light of danger thrown across the path of national progress?
Have you looked for the handwriting on the wall—and are you big enough to understand?
These are a few questions worth while. These are a few questions that must be answered, and divine the prophet who can answer. Look a minute—stop and search the field ahead.

The Yellow Jacket has expressed a personal desire for the nomination of Roosevelt, because it believes him to be the representative of the people at this time. But there have been many times when a dozen men would fill the bill, and the platform which the Chicago convention will give the people will doubtless be satisfactory to all of us; we can't all get on that platform and, by union, ride to safety in November. But the platform must be a new alignment. The real old issues will not go in this progressive age. If Taft is elected he must throw away his idea of reciprocity; he must insist on lower tariffs; he must heed the demands of the people against special privileges—and his record shows that he has tried to do many things along lines of party demands. Roosevelt is out the champion of the plain people; the common people—and he is receiving ovations and votes every time the people have a chance to vote.

LaFollette is stirring up the animals; he claims to be the real and only progressive—and Wisconsin and Dakota gave him an enormous majority. In Illinois the people went wild over Clark—he received more votes than Taft and Roosevelt combined—and it shows a strange mixture. Why should Clark, a conservative compared to Wilson, snow Wilson under, and why should Roosevelt, an ultra progressive, snow Taft under to a tune solemn and doleful? Why should there be such a divergent opinion—why should things be so mixed and muddled? They say that in Illinois Hearst and his machine did all this for Clark—and if so, Hearst has a machine in New York and New England—and it has been charged at Hearst's door that he inspired the anarchist to shoot to death the beloved McKinley.

But what of the times? Suppose the Republican party would attempt to get together by eliminating Roosevelt and Taft—agree that there is such diversity of opinion that a new man must be lined up to smooth-out the wrinkles. And suppose, for argument's sake, Hughes of New York is nominated, as is now suggested by men who want to see harmony—but not Harmon. What does it mean?
It means that Hughes could not rally to his support the people who have repudiated Taft and endorsed Roosevelt. It means that LaFollette could not advise men who have voted for his policies to vote for a man as conservative as Hughes—and where would that leave us? Could Hughes stand on a LaFollette or Roosevelt platform? We say no. Suppose that Wilson is the nominee of Democracy—or, suppose it is Clark. Then what? Why, if Roosevelt is nominated it is good bye Democracy—because the Republicans will vote for Roosevelt or will not vote. There have been times when Democrats voted the Republican ticket—but never yet has there been a time when Republicans voted the Democratic ticket—and there never will be.

Therefore it looks to us, at this time, that there must be a new alignment in the affairs of the Nation's politics. There must be a new party. Democracy is divided. Republicans are like chaff in a whirlwind—they can never again get together like they once got together. No more will it be shoulder to shoulder with either party. The new party must be born. It must stand for broad gauge policies; it must adopt part of the LaFollette dope; part of the Roosevelt dope; part of the Bryan dope; and part of the Taft dope.

The Yellow Jacket is Republican to the core—it advises all to pull together, but right now it sees a breach too wide to bridge. It may be gotten over this time—but there are Democrats and Republicans ready to join hands; there are men in the Socialist party who want to get out and who are looking for a roof to shelter them—and if we mistake not this November will see the levees break; will see disruption and confusion—in both parties—and a new party will be born. Out of the fragments of the three parties now in the field there will come together planks for the new party—no other thing is in sight.

If Bryan fights Harmen and Underwood, if Roosevelt fights Taft, and LaFollette fights Roosevelt—and all these men national characters with strong following—what must be the result? A house divided against itself cannot stand, and surely the houses of Democracy and Republicanism are

Progressive Policies Laid Down By Colonel Roosevelt.

Our aim is to secure the real and not the nominal rule of the people.

We propose to do away with whatever in our government tends to secure privilege.

We believe in securing for the people the direct election of United States Senators.

We believe in securing for the people the right of nominating candidates for office, from the President down, by direct primaries.

We believe in securing for the people the exercise of a real and not merely a nominal control over their representatives in office.

Our object is to give the people control and to have the people exercise this control in the spirit of the broadest sympathy and broadest desire to secure social and industrial justice for every man and woman.

We stand for the adequate control of all big business and especially of all monopolistic big business where it proves unwise or impossible to break down the monopoly.

Prosperity can only permanently come to this country on a basis of honesty and of fair treatment for all.

The keynote of the progressive campaign in 1912 was sounded by Col. Roosevelt in his Louisville, Ky., speech on April 3. At that time Col. Roosevelt made plain the issues which the voters of the country are called upon to decide at the polls; made plain that there can be no middle ground between the rule of the people; the rights of the many against special privilege; right against wrong and honesty against dishonesty.

At the outset Col. Roosevelt shattered the claims of Mr. Taft to be called a progressive, showing that Mr. Taft has failed to carry out the policies to which he pledged himself before he entered the White House; that he has been won over to the side of "special privilege," and allowed the reactionaries who fought him three years ago to dominate his administration.

In one of Col. Roosevelt's own sentences may be summed up his stand in the present fight. He said:

"We who stand for the cause of progress, for the cause of the uplift of humanity and for the betterment of mankind, are pledged to eternal war against tyranny and ring, by the few or many, by a plutocracy or by a mob."

Col. Roosevelt stated that the Nation is facing one of the greatest crises in its history. He declared that a victory for the progressives means the placing of human life above the dollar, the government control of "big business," the conservation of natural resources, and the restoration of power to the people themselves. Victory for the reactionaries, headed by Mr. Taft, however, he stated, means the control of the government and the courts in the interest of "big business" and a return to that condition when commercial corruption in league with political allies, seized the most valuable of the country's properties.

While severely arraigning Mr. Taft for his dilatory tactics, Col. Roosevelt was sufficiently charitable not to charge him with anything more than timidity and lack of comprehension.

"Every man who, directly or indirectly, upholds privilege and favors the special interests, whether he acts from evil motives or merely because he is puzzle-headed or dull of mental vision, or lacking in social sympathy, or whether he simply lacks interest in the subject, is a reactionary."

"The man is a reactionary, whatever may be his professions, and no matter how excellent his intentions, who opposes these movements, or who if in a high place, takes no interest in them and does not earnestly help them forward."

"We are in a period of change; we are fronting a great period of further change. Never was the need more imperative of men of vision who are also men of action. Disaster is ahead of us if we trust to the leadership of the men whose hearts have withered and whose eyes are blinded, who believe that we can find safety in dull timidity and dull inaction."

Col. Roosevelt's proof of the inability of Mr. Taft to successfully guide the ship of state, and at the same time his verdict on the subject of Mr. Taft's claims to being a progressive, are contained in the following sentences:

"Four years ago the progressives supported Mr. Taft for President and he was opposed by such representatives of special privilege as Mr. Penrose of Pennsylvania, Mr. Aldrich of Rhode Island, Mr. Gallinger of New Hampshire, and Messrs. Lorimer, Cannon and McKinley of Illinois, and he was opposed by practically all the men of the stamp of Messrs. Guggenheim and Evans of Colorado, and Mr. Patrick Calhoun of San Francisco.

These men were not progressives then, and they do not pretend to be progressives now.

"But unlike the president, they know who is a progressive, and who is not. Their judgment in the matter is good, but after three and a half years of association with and knowledge of the President, these and their fellows are now the President's chief supporters; and they, and the men who feel and act as they do in business and in politics, give him the great bulk of his strength."

"The President says he is a progressive; these men know him well and have studied his actions for three years, and they regard him as being precisely the kind of progressive whom they approve. Now the progressiveness that meets and merits the cordial approval of these gentlemen is not the kind of progressiveness which we on our side champion."

"However good the President's intentions, I believe that his actions have shown that he is entitled to the support of precisely these men."

The attitude of the administration with regard to the railroad rate bill was brought under the fire of Col. Roosevelt. He characterized the bill, as submitted by the administration as a "thoroughly mischievous measure which would have undone the good work that has been accomplished in the control of the great railroads during the last twenty years." That the measure did not get on the statute books in the manner in which it was sent to Congress, it was stated, was due to the fight made upon it by the progressive members of the Senate. "They made it a good bill by striking out the chief features of the bill as the reactionaries presented it," said the Colonel.

Col. Roosevelt further prodded the administration of Mr. Taft for the dilatory tactics used in dealing with conservation problems. He stated that the administration had for two years "done everything in its power," to undo the most valuable work done in conservation, and especially in securing to people the right to regulate water power franchises in the public interest. Col. Roosevelt also dealt with the abandonment by Mr. Taft of the fight started by the Colonel, and which the President pledged himself to continue, to secure social justice in industrial matters, more particularly child-labor laws. This legislation was dalled with for three years before any action was taken. Commenting on this, Col. Roosevelt said:

"Alike in its action and in its inaction the conduct of the administration during the last three years has been such as to merit the support and the approval of Messrs. Aldrich, Gallinger, Penrose, Lorimer, Guggenheim, and the other gentlemen I have mentioned. I do not wonder that they support it, but I do not regard an administration which has merited and which receives such support as being entitled to call itself progressive, no matter with what elasticity the word may be stretched."

"No men have been closer or more interested students of the career of President Taft, than these men; no men better understand its real significance, no men better appreciate what the effect of the continuance of this administration for another four years would mean; I believe that their judgment upon the administration and upon its continuance would mean to the people can be accepted; and I think their judgement as shown by the extreme recklessness of their actions in trying to secure the President's nomination, gives us an accurate gauge as to what the administration merits from the people and what the action of the people should be." Col. Roosevelt made a stirring appeal for fair play for those to whom fortune has not been kind.

"We fight," he said, "to make this country a better place to live in for those who have been harshly treated by fate, and, if we succeed, it will also be a better place to live in for those who have much."

"None of us can really prosper permanently if masses of our fellows are debased and degraded, if masses of men and women are ground down and forced to lead starved and sordid lives, so that their souls are crippled like their bodies and the fine edge of their very feeling blunted."

Continuing, the Colonel made the following eloquent plea:

"I ask that those of us to whom providence has been kind shall remember that each must be his brother's keeper and that all must feel their obligation to the less fortunate who work beside us in the strain and press of our eager, modern life."

"I ask justice for the weak, for their sake, and I ask it for the sake of our children and our children's children who are to come after us. This country will not be a good."