

SENATOR LA FOLLETTE HITS THE OLD GUARD

Declares Republican Platform Registered Party's Surrender To Privilege.

EVERY STATE'S RAILROAD COMMISSION ENDANGERED

Reactionaries Did The Work For Their Masters.—Says the People Will Resent.

"It is not a pleasant task to criticize the political action of the party to which one belongs," wrote Senator R. M. LaFollette in LaFollette's Magazine. But Mr. LaFollette did criticize his party's action. He wrote frankly his opinion of the platform adopted at Chicago. He said he was compelled to do so by his convictions. "The platform adopted by the Republican Convention at Chicago," said the Senator, "cannot fail to be a disappointment to the great majority of the party." He continued:

"The reactionary element of the party were in control of the convention. Supplied with unlimited funds, the National Committee can perpetuate its control when it represents but a small minority of the voters.

"More than four million progressive Republican voters left the party in 1912. They were earnest, patriotic men who had faith in Roosevelt as a leader. Hundreds of thousands of progressive Republicans who had no confidence in the political integrity of Roosevelt refused to abandon the party and follow him at that time. Together with those who joined the Third Party, they constitute an overwhelming majority of the total membership of the Republican party. The great mass of these voters are men of deep convictions. They are Republicans. They are for public interest and against privilege and monopoly control of government.

"It would have been the part of wisdom for those in control of the Chicago convention to have remembered this recent history.

The Senator said that it was upon the subject of railroad regulation that the framers of the platform gave the country its greatest surprise.

"Like a bolt out of a blue sky come the platform declaration for the abolition of every State railroad commission in the country," declared Mr. LaFollette. "The people of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon, California, and every other State, are to have the regulation of the rates and services of the railroads within each State taken out of the hands of their own Commission, subject to their own control, and turned over to the Federal Government. They are to have their State governments taken away from them to this extent. We believe the people of every State will fight this proposition to the last ditch."

WONDERFUL WAGE INCREASE

When Samuel Gompers recently said that there never was a time when more laborers in this country were being rewarded with increased pay he had all the figures behind him necessary to prove his case.

The Secretary of Labor has been making an interesting study of the labor conditions of today with special reference to the increase of pay. In nearly every case where more pay has been asked it has been granted. In many cases where it was not asked it has been graciously awarded by the employers who feel the benefits of a nation-wide prosperity. Plenty of cases there are in which the workman has been taken in as a profit sharer of the increased net earnings. It was ascertained by the Secretary of Labor that in 493 cases out of 1,486 of wage increase between July 1, 1915, and May 15, 1916, there was a total raising of pay of 1,901,322 laborers. The total of 1,486 settlements in which wages were increased, on a similar basis, would indicate that more than 5,000,000 men were affected.

If the average individual income were \$600 and the rate of increase were only ten per cent., the total volume of wage increases represented by these newspaper reports would be \$300,000,000. Large as this seems, it represents only a return from a minor part of the entire army of American labor. In manufactures alone, the preliminary estimate for the 1915 census indicates approximately 7,900,000 wage earners last year whose wages aggregated \$4,400,000,000.

We know that 1916 will show a marked increase both in number of wage earners and in rate of wages over 1915. If the number employed has increased for 1916 only ten per cent. and the rate of pay increased only 10 per cent., we get a wage volume of 21 per cent larger for 1916 than for 1915. This produces a wage total of \$5,324,000,000, which is \$900,000,000 larger than the 1915 wage total, and \$1,800,000,000 greater than the total volume of wages paid under Republican laws and administration

in 1909 as reported in the census of 1910.

There is nothing in our economic program today which speaks in stronger and more convincing terms of the prosperity which the American people now enjoy under "the New Freedom" of Democracy, than the pay envelope of the average workman. The \$1,800,000,000 increase in the pay envelope which American labor realizes in 1916 as compared with 1909, moreover, is the mightiest lever for the uplift of American civilization, that is listed in our statistical inventory.

EX-GOVERNOR OF KANSAS.

Though Not a Democrat, Declares Wilson Will Sweep Country.

From the Olathe (Kans.) Register (Democrat.)

"I never was a Democrat, but I think Woodrow Wilson will sweep the country for re-election this fall," said ex-Governor St. John to a reporter for the Register the other day.

"I am basing the assertion on the attitude of the people in Western Kansas," continued Mr. St. John. "While I was in that part of the State during my recent ninety days' tour, I took occasion to sound out my different audiences on the candidate then looming most largely in the public eye. Successive references to Hughes, Roosevelt, and Wilson always brought the most applause for Wilson. Wilson's Mexican policy, for which he has been so bitterly attacked, is, in my opinion, an element of strength. I am not capable of criticizing the government's policy. The old plan of tying two fighting tomcats' tails together, throwing them over a clothes line and letting them fight it out, seems to apply forcibly to the situation in Mexico. But Mexico is no scrub as it was in 1847. It has fourteen millions of people and an advanced civilization in many respects. To whip Mexico into line, as some demand, would be a job, necessitating at least two years' time, the expenditure of billions of dollars and probably the lives of 200,000 men. In addition, as an item of expense, would be the formation of a great pension roll.

"What would we gain by such a war? We don't want that territory. The whole proposition is absurd. Taking it as a whole, we never have had a president more level-headed than Woodrow Wilson."

WILSON'S GREAT RECORD.

Domestic Policies Alone Furnish Basis for Re-Election.

L. Ames Brown, in the Review of Reviews.

What would be Mr. Wilson's status as a candidate did not this vital matter of international relations overshadow all else? How would he stand and what would be his prospects were it possible for him to be judged solely in the light of his record as administrator of the domestic affairs of the Government? Could he win if he had no claim to the suffrage of the nation other than that based on the extent to which his administration has promoted the happiness and welfare of the people?

Consider this: The chief legislative measures for which the President stands personally responsible are the Underwood Tariff Act, the Federal Reserve Act, the Trade Commission Act, the Rural Credits Act, and the Tariff Commission Act. There is an imposing number of business, labor, and public welfare enactments besides, which I have no space to discuss here. It is the greatest legislative achievement of any American President of modern times. All of the measures named, with the exception of the tariff act, have received or are certain to receive the support of substantial bodies of Republicans in Congress. The Republican platform criticizes the Rural Credits Act, but a majority of Republican members of Congress voted for the measure. The Republican platform declared for a Tariff Commission, and its authors refused to consider any declaration in criticism of the Currency Act, knowing too well the heartiness of the country's appreciation of that measure.

T. R. VOTES FOR WILSON.

Young Men's Democratic League Enrolls 391 Original Moose.

The Bull Moose committee of the Young Men's Democratic League has enrolled in the league 391 young men, who say they cast their first vote for Roosevelt in 1912. This announcement was made last week by Francis D. Gallatin, chairman of the committee. The League, which has received the approval of President Wilson, has been organized in seventeen States, according to Frank D. Shelley, its President.

Many a man's credit is limited to borrowing trouble.

THE "DOUBTFUL" STATES WORRY THE REPUBLICANS

Interesting Estimates Made By Careful Experts Show Drift to Wilson.

MICHIGAN A BATTLE-GROUND FOR DEMOCRACY THIS YEAR

Campaigners in Maine Say Democrats Will Get More Than Half Progressive Vote.

Michigan this year gives every promise of being a genuine fighting ground for Democracy. Reports from the different cities are fast accumulating to prove this.

The presence of Woodrow Wilson at Detroit, the insurrection of the Progressives against the Perkins-Roosevelt delivery, and the great prosperity everywhere throughout Michigan are leaning strongly in favor of Democracy.

Mechanics who were getting two and three dollars three years ago are now receiving from four to six dollars, and they are content with present conditions.

The mobilization of the troops towards the Mexican border has sent a message home that no other single act could so impress the people of Michigan with the full benefit to the Nation of the Woodrow Wilson peace policy.

It looks very clearly from all of these reasons as if Michigan with its former 75,000 Republican plurality would be converted into a good working plurality for Democracy and Woodrow Wilson.

A close observer of the conditions in Ohio is even more emphatic in the declaration that Ohio will be a positive asset to the Woodrow Wilson election this year. Some of the most conservative business men of Cleveland, Toledo, and other important cities are making the open declaration that Ohio will be Democratic this year.

The appointment of the Secretary of War and the recent appointment of the Supreme Court Justice, both of whom are held in high esteem by the people of Ohio, will give an added incentive for the Ohioans to join the ranks of the new Democracy of Woodrow Wilson.

Ohio Democrats Active.

The activities of the Democracy in Ohio are very manifest at the present time. Perhaps one of the most unique inscriptions that has been put forth in the present campaign is that emanating from Ohio. The cartoon represents a cake of ice, and above it is "Just Ice Hughes" with a splendid assemblage about it.

There is an interest and enthusiasm that Democracy has rarely seen. While there may be some question about Ohio electing its Democratic senator this year, the personality of the President and the prosperity of Ohio, all point very strongly towards Woodrow Wilson's success in Ohio.

The Golden State, too, has all the ear marks of being added to the Democratic ranks. On account of the great disaffection caused by the Progressive Convention, California is sorely nettled to a degree that it has never been in recent years. Most of the leading Progressives, including ex-Governor Hiram Johnson, and a great number of other big guns have started booming for Wilson and any one acquainted with them can readily understand that their boom, when once started, will not be hushed under any condition. Joe Scott, of Los Angeles, is jubilant over the outlook for Wilson. Through northern California, in Keene and Kern counties and into Frisco itself there is a pervading spirit that Wilson will win in California.

Massachusetts, the old Bay State, the home of Cabot Lodge and former Senator Murray Crane, is also tearing over with dissatisfaction towards the standpatters.

Matthew Hale, one of the most conspicuous of the Progressives, has openly come forth against any Progressive-Hughes combination. The feeling there in Boston, Lowell, Lynn, Fall River, Springfield, and Holyoke,

where many Progressives abide, is very strong in its resentment against the apparent bargain and sale of the Progressives at the Chicago Convention.

Many of those men sincerely believe that the Progressive Party was destined to be an instrument to compel both of the other parties to put forward their best ideals and aspirations. Many of those men believed in Theodore Roosevelt as their Moses to lead them out of the wilderness. Their disappointment is keen.

Some Figures from Maine.

An announcement made by William R. Pattangall, Democratic campaign manager in Maine, respecting the probable division of the Progressive vote in that State during the coming election, abounds in sound reasoning which will carry satisfaction to all Democrats.

It is the first responsible declaration by an active political leader in the hot campaign which has been started in that hitherto pivotal State. Mr. Pattangall's statement will carry little comfort to the Republicans at home or abroad. They had fondly hoped to fairly snatch Maine from the Democrats while they were not looking and run away with it.

Mr. Pattangall's statement is that one half of the men who voted for Gardner two years ago, and there were 18,000 of them, will align themselves with the Democratic party this year. It will not be necessary for the Democrats to share equally with the Republicans in a division of the Progressive vote to carry the State this year.

Figuring on the basis of the 1911 campaign, considerably less than one-half of the Progressive vote will be sufficient to carry Governor Curtis through, and this being a national campaign year, it is fair to assume that the vote will be heavier than in 1914.

That the Republicans saw the handwriting on the wall when the Progressives failed to put out a State ticket in Maine is clearly manifest by their sending a small army of orators from Congress to stir the waters in that State.

IS INCOME TAX A "FAILURE?"

From Boston Post (Ind. Dem.)

Mr. Hughes has stated that he accepts and approves the Republican platform in its entirety. He will doubtless elaborate on that statement in his formal speech accepting the nomination.

But the Republican platform denounces the Underwood tariff act, as "a complete failure in every respect." The income tax legislation is a part of that act—Sec. 2.

Does Mr. Hughes believe that the income tax is "a complete failure?" He once opposed this most just icing of the taxation burden upon idle wealth on the ground of supposed legal defects. Would the people be pleased if he were now to demand that it be repealed?

A KICKING BULL MOOSE.

From the Rochester Herald.

We suspect that about the beginning of October the Bull Moose will start kicking the daylight out of the G. O. P. elephant.

Colonel in a Strange, New Role.

From Detroit Free Press (Rep.)

It's going to be worth while, too, to see and hear T. R. talking for somebody else.

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