The State Dispatch

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—By—

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Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1913.

The Political Situation

The following is a revision of an editorial from the New York Press:

What We are saying on this political subject is wholly a suggeestion, nothing more We are throwing out the thought for what it is worth, throwing it out for consideration by those of the Republican and Progressive parties to whom an efficient and powerful ccasolidated organization would mean more than party prejudice, or prejudice in favor of an empty party name.

Wilson was elected President in November by a total vote of 6,303,063. The combined vote of Roosevelt and Taft was 7,603,096, or a plurality over Wilson of 1,305,033. A combination of the Republican and Progressive parties if it could be brought about, would make the consolidat- organization the dominant political force in the country.

As independent parties, each is in a hopeless minority as compared with the Democratic party. To continue as distinct entities means to continue for an indefinite time in the minority trenches perhaps for a very long time. We say "perhaps." because in politics nothing is certain. The drift of individuals from one to the other of the minority parties or from the majority party to one or to both of the minority parties, may before the expiration of the incoming administration change of the relative position of all. It is not probable, however, that the enormous lead of the Democratic party over either the Republican or the Progressive party will disappear. The margin of really two or one is far too great.

A quick, sure way of overcoming the Democratic supremacy would be through an alliance of the Republican and the Progressive parties. Indeed, this is the only apparent way it is likely to happen in the immediutes or near futuure. But is it possible to bring about such a union?

We don't believe it is a question of either party going over to the other. It is a practical certainty that the Progressives, with their numerical strength, as shown in the recent election by a popular majority over the Republicans of 819,818, will not go over to the Republican party. It looks to be about equally probable that the Republican party will not as a body come over to the Progressives. Neither party has any love for the other. Indeed, the Republicans are bitter against the Progressives for splitting the party and relegating it to third place in the popular vote of the country. The Progressives are equally bitter against the Republicans.

We claim, and with every evidence to sustain our claim, that if Mr. Roosevelt had been placed in nomination at Chicago, he would now be President-elect of the United States, instead of Mr. Wilson. With this conviction deep in the hearts, of the Progressives it is not unnatural that they should feel as they do toward the party that defrauded them of this victory.

But all this is history, it is water over the dam. It cannot turn a wheel to-day. We must face what is, and not square ourselves to what might have been or should have been. As a result of the political unwisdom of the Republican leaders, the Democratic party has swept into power with a plurality bigger than that ever received by any party in the history of the country.

So strongly entrenched, as in a fortress of Gibraltar, the dislodgment of the Democratic party looks to be a long way off, except through a union of the Republican and the Progressive forces. There is one way that this union might be effected. Here it is:

Form a new party, a holding party, to take over the Republican and the Progressive parties, as a holding company in the business world takes over and consolidated competing concerns. The Republican and the Progressive parties, politically speaking, are emphatically competing concerns, and in competition with the big Democratic party they are powerless.

The scheme of a holding party as a means of getting the two parties together makes an easy way of approach, and one from which the sting of prejudice on either side is removed. Neither party would go over to the other. Both would meet on neutral ground.

Of course, this does not presuppose that the holding party would continue merely as a holding party, with the Republican and Progressive parties still maintained as constituent organizations. With the merging of the latter into the holding party, it would become a concrete, closely amalamated political organization, quite as much so as either party is to-day. As independent entities, the Republican and Progressive parties would disappear.

The scheme of the holding party could be worked out in some such way as this:

Let the voters of each party in the several States call a conference, a Statewide conference, to discuss the plan and to appoint delegates to a national confrences. These State gatherings would not be joint conferences. Each party would hold its own conference made up of its own men. The national conference, on the other hand, would consist of an equal number of delegates from the two parties.

The work of the national conference would be to get together on principles and policies, and to select a name for the new holding party. Such a conference would have a very important and very far-reaching piece of work on its hands. It should have sufficient time for such an undertaking—weeks, or months, if need be. It would not only embrace the problem of harmonizing but would have to work out policies and principles that would be representative of the best thought of the day.

This conference might well take on the scope of a constitutional convention, such, for example, as the recent constitutional convention of the State of Ohio. A thorough study by the conference of the problems of government, both State and national, would be a businesslike way of arriving at a sound basis for amalamation and for fixing upon the policies and principles of the new party.

The old way of writing a political platform amid the stress storm and farmoil of a national convention, when all is excitement, and interest is almost wholly centered on the nominations, is ridiculous. There isn't a serious note in it; there isn't a bit of common sense in it.

Too much time cannot be given to a piece of work that means so much to a hundred millions of people and that means so much to a party. Three months should be given to the work, instead of a fractional part of three days, as has been the custom.

It is a very big and tremendously serious undertaking to write with intelligence and broad knowledge the platform of a big, nation-wide political party. It is an instrument of statesmanship, business, humanity and uplift to the whole nation.

The platforms of the Republican and the Progressive parties are in many respects much the same. On economic politics they substantially agree. The Progressive platform is freer from the slavery of tradition, and goes further in the direction of social justice and industrial evolution. Moreover, it urges many good policies not covered by the Republican platform. But the difference between the two would not seem to be insperably great if the representatives of each, meeting on neutral ground, should try earnestly and honestly to harmonize them.

Two-thirds of the voters of the Republican party are as advanced in heart and idea as the more serious and substantial men of the Progressive party. These men officially in different parties, see things in the same way. Forming a decided majority, as they do, of each party, they should, in the interest of efficient legislation for the common good, get together under one banner. Divided, as they are, into two organizations, they have no political power or government influence.

"The Liberal party" would be a very comprehensive and appropriate name for the new holding party. It would be quite in harmony with the spirit of the day. It is a well-known name for a political party. It signifies an attitude that is popular, a purpose to treat people and policies with liberal consideration.

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$14 00 and $15 00 Suits and Overcoats now at $10 00
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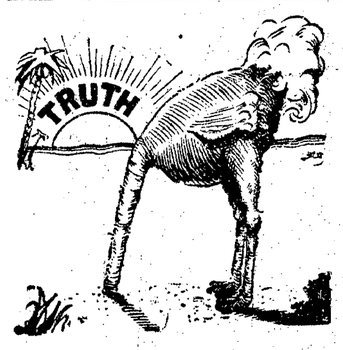

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We invite you to look over this unusual offering of the highest grade Muslin Underwear manufactured

Every garment on sale is made of new stock, no jobs nor old time garments. Its a quality sale as well. Take advantage of this sale.

It's worth while buying NOW, even if only to keep for next season.

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It will pay you to come in.

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