

# MR. KURFEES WRITES ON POLITICAL SITUATION

"Corpse Of the Progressive Party Has Arisen and Is Now Disturbing the Peace of Every Stand-patter From Mr. Taft Down"—Candidates Narrow Down To Roosevelt and Hughes.

Editor Reporter:

The 1916 Presidential campaign is destined to be a warm one. In fact from present indications the one in 1912 was mild by comparison.

Some fun is in store for the on-looker. It has been amusing for some time to read of the maneuvers of our Republican friends; how they have thrown sop after sop to the Progressives to get them back into their fold, on the one hand; and how they have boasted that they were already back, on the other. In one paper you will read that "about all the Progressives have returned," and in another you will read where a move is on foot to "get together." The average reader, of course, wonders why the latter is necessary if the former is true.

In one breath all manner of fun is made of the Progressives and progressive principles, and in the next the very same fellow is trying to convince the people how progressive he is. In fact to be plain about the matter there is not a politician between Maine and Texas who would dare claim to be anything but a

progressive. If he is a Democrat he is a Progressive Democrat; if he is a Republican, he is a Progressive Republican; and if he is a Progressive of course he is a Progressive. Some six months ago we heard the Progressive party was dead, and in estimation of quite a few the funeral and burial was held at the last November election. But behold the corpse has arisen and is now stalking about in the land, disturbing the so-called peaceful slumbers of every standpatter from Mr. Taft down. Oh, yes, we heard that the G. O. P. had a host of formidable candidates from which to select the champion who would lead the mighty re-united party to victory on a platform of "high tariff" in 1916, in total disregard, it seems, of many other vital questions directly affecting the people of this country. It was to be a veritable walk-over. But lo—when the elimination process began it hardly stopped till the last man was wiped from the slate,—what did I say the last man? Beg pardon—all but Mr. Hughes. Lest some one should think I am exaggerating I'll quote what the

brainiest Republican in North Carolina said to me sitting in the Yarboro Hotel at Raleigh one evening this week. (And he doesn't live in Raleigh either). I asked him what he thought of the situation? He replied by saying—"It seems that the Republican nomination has about narrowed down to Roosevelt or Hughes." There you have it—just as I said—all their candidates eliminated but Hughes, and he has eliminated himself. Why, the above facts have become so patent that Mr. Taft has boiled over and recently delivered himself of a tirade against Progressives and progressive principles in a Cincinnati paper. If I had trodden under foot the will of the people as he and his henchmen did in 1912 to get a nomination, and afterwards received the rebuke they did at the polls, I would certainly keep hands off in 1916 and allow the people to do their own choosing. But he is on record as being opposed to a majority rule. He knows, of course, that there is no chance for him, and now that he sees a veritable landslide coming both from Republicans, as well as Progressives, to nominate Col. Roosevelt, he makes bold to say that neither he nor Roosevelt must be nominated. He no doubt is reflecting the sentiment of the average stand-patter, but he is by no means reflecting the sentiment of the rank and file of his party. The stand-pat element boasts that the Progressives have come back. Suppose, for arguments sake, that every one of them have gone back. (There are four million of them and they are just as progressive as ever). Who should be entitled to control a convention—four million who voted for Roosevelt or two million who voted for Taft? Of course according to Mr. Taft, the two million should control, or worse still a little hand full of that two million, and the four million must eat of their hand. But not so, Mr. Taft. You had as well take your medicine like men. If there is any getting together done, the dictating of terms will be by a majority of the whole, which is nothing but right under a true democratic form of government.

We Progressives here in North Carolina, as well as elsewhere, appreciate to the full the nice invitations we have had to return to the "fold," as it is termed; but it must be remembered we are in the great majority in this matter, not especially in name, but in principle. All of the Progressives, and at least two-thirds of all the Republicans in the United States, still believe in the righteous and humanitarian principles set forth by the Progressive party in 1912. Does any one think for a moment that these principles have been forsaken by either our great leaders or the rank and file? If they do they have another think coming. I care nothing for the name, provided the name implies what it should. The name Republican sounds all-right to me so long as it is backed by the right kind of men who stand for the right kind of principles. Yea, and even the name Democrat sounds as good to me as any if the true meaning of that word is implied. Calling a tool a spade does not make it a spade, but if it is a spade, calling it a pitch fork a

thousand times will not change it. When I left the Republican party in 1912, it was not the name I was leaving, but the principles practiced by that party at Chicago, and for the past four years prior to that time. I am never going to return to these principles, and I speak the sentiments of at least four million other former Republicans. No men who adhere to such a pro-

gram will ever occupy the Presidential chair again. In conclusion, let me admonish my G. O. P. friends—you have been saying "let us get together." Your plea has been "anti-Democracy." I am with you on that, and so are all my Progressive brethren, but please remember it is no farther from you to us than it is from us to you, and not as far by some

two million votes, so if it is really anti-Democracy you are after, come right in—the water is fine—we have the principles and the candidate, on which if you will join us we will sweep Democracy and plant in its stead an administration, really and truly, of and for the people.  
JNO. W. KURFEES.  
Germantown, Jan. 10, 1916.

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