

# CHAMP CLARK'S LETTER

Judge Parker as Presidential  
Timber—Chances of Demo-  
cratic Victory

(Special Washington Letter.)

**H**ON. REED SMOOT of Utah, apostle and prophet of the Mormons, is giving Republicans in general and President Roosevelt in particular a bad turn. Reed aspires to be a senator of the United States and with senators to stand. He has heard of the cushioned curule chairs, the morocco covered lounges, the Persian rugs, the lemonade, the free barbers and the other gimcracks in which the members of the house of the ancients luxuriate, and Reed hankers after them even as the fleshpots of the Israelites yearned for the fleas of Egypt. What's more, Reed is going to possess them. He will on March 4, at high noon, become a United States senator—a Republican at that. The president may gnash his teeth and rage like a caged lion—Reed defies him, goes on counting his majority and is arranging to take up his residence in Washington for six years. And Reed is right in claiming his pound of flesh. He and his brother apostles and prophets carried out their part of the contract with the Republican national leaders to turn the state over to the Republicans on condition that the Mormons should have things their own way and not be disturbed. Reed has them on the hip, and he knows it; consequently he pays about as much attention to the messages of President Roosevelt and other high and mighty functionaries remonstrating against his election as a full feathered duck would to a gentle April shower.

It will be delightful to see the Republican hypocrites in the senate squirm when Brother Smoot walks down the big aisle on the arm of Marcus A. Hanna to be sworn in as a conscript father. Those bogus propagandists of purity and sweetness have been exploiting their own virtues for, lo, these many years, standing on the street corners, snuffing their breasts, rolling their eyes to heaven and thanking God fervently and vociferously that they are not as other men. Now they must fraternize openly with Apostle Reed Smoot, for Reed controls two senatorships, one representative in congress and three presidential electors. He knows his power. They have him on their hands. He is not to be sneezed at. Publicly they must lionize Smoot. They can cuss him under their breath.

### A la Banquo's Ghost.

At this stage of the quadrennial period between presidential elections it is inevitable that there should be more or less presidential gossip and discussion of possible or probable candidates. The signs of the times indicate that President Roosevelt is the strongest Republican. If the convention were held today, he would be nominated most likely, but there is many a slip 'twixt cup and lip in presidential nominations, as in all things else. A thousand accidents may happen any one of which would be fatal to the Roosevelt boom. Indeed it may be safely assumed that several able-bodied Republican statesmen are waiting for, hoping for, praying for those same accidents to fall upon the strenuous young man now occupying the White House.

More and more in Democratic circles is the name of Judge Alton B. Parker of New York discussed and with increasing favor. In fact, the four eastern names which are most frequently heard in that connection are those of William Randolph Hearst, editor of three great Democratic dailies; Arthur Pue Gorman, ex-senator and senator elect from Maryland; Richard Olney, ex-attorney general and ex-secretary of state, and Judge Parker, chief justice of the New York court of appeals.

The proponents of the Parker proposition declare with constantly increasing vigor that the fact that he has been on the bench for many years and thereby removed from active participation in politics will add to his strength as a candidate when taken in connection with his high character, great talents and straight record as a Democrat. In other words, his lack of a record will make him available. There is some force in the contention, for the Parker stock seems to be rising. His name, like Banquo's ghost, will not down. The fact that nobody has yet been able to trump up any charge against him helps his boom amazingly. Clearly he is a growing man, perhaps the coming man.

### A Sketch of Judge Parker.

As Judge Alton B. Parker is clearly in the list of possible presidents in 1904, the principal events of his life are here set forth for future reference by the readers of these letters. He comes of Revolutionary stock. He was born in Cortland county, N. Y., fifty-one years ago and is therefore in the very prime of life. It will be of interest to the vast army of teachers in the United States to know that Judge Parker once wielded the birch and ferule himself, and thereby hangs a tale pleasant to all who have healthy hearts in their bosoms, for while engaged in that delectable business he found, wood and won his wife, who may be the next mistress of the White House. She was Miss Schoonmaker of the county of Ulster. He seems to have had a penchant for politics from the beginning. Having held various minor offices, he achieved his first important promotion and recognition when he was elected surrogate, being the only successful Democrat on the ticket. He was re-elected surrogate. In 1885 he was chairman of the Democratic state executive committee

and managed David Bennett Hill's canvass for governor. The same year President Cleveland offered him the position of first assistant postmaster general, which he declined, having set his heart on a judicial career. Governor Hill wanted him to accept the office of lieutenant governor, which he also declined. There was soon a vacancy on the supreme bench, and, as it appeared to be the almost universal desire of New York Democrats that Judge Parker should have the place, Governor Hill appointed him, and he has been on the bench ever since. In 1897 he was triumphantly elected, though all of the other men on the Democratic ticket met with defeat, thus proving his great popularity.

The fact that Judge Parker is a practical farmer will have a tendency to increase his popularity. He owns and lives upon a farm of 140 acres on the banks of the Hudson. His place is called Rosemont, and there he spends all the time which he can snatch from his judicial labors and is neither ashamed nor afraid to work with his own hands, as did that other great New York Democrat, Silas Wright.

While not enthusiastic as to the Democratic platforms of 1896 and 1900, Judge Parker supported Bryan manfully and in good faith in both those campaigns.

Those who are acquainted with him declare him to be genial and lovable, yet possessing the reserve and dignity becoming in one holding high judicial position.

### Declines.

King Solomon said, "There is nothing new under the sun," but this new thing has happened nevertheless: A Republican statesman declines a good fat office. Hon. William H. Taft, governor general of the Philippines, declines to succeed Mr. Justice Shiras on the supreme bench because of a sense of duty to finish his work in the orient. The place has been tendered Hon. William R. Day, now a United States circuit judge in Ohio, who succeeded John Sherman as secretary of state and who helped negotiate the treaty of Paris, which has given us lots of trouble and which is perhaps destined to give us more than any other document created since the world began. Judge Day is a man of fair capacity and high character. He was a special friend and pet of President McKinley and will do as well for supreme judge as most Republicans.

### Democratic Chances.

If no more states are admitted, there will in 1904 be 476 votes in the electoral college. Two hundred and thirty-nine will be required to elect a president and vice president. In 1902 the Democrats carried Alabama with 11 electoral votes, Arkansas with 9, Florida with 5, Georgia with 13, Kentucky with 13, Louisiana with 9, Mississippi with 10, Missouri with 18, Nevada with 3, North Carolina with 12, Rhode Island with 4, South Carolina with 9, Tennessee with 12, Texas with 18 and Virginia with 12, aggregating 158.

Therefore in order to elect a president and vice president in 1904 the Democrats must hold the states they have and in addition thereto carry enough states to give them 81 more electoral votes.

Can they do it? The chances are fairly good for them to do so. Most assuredly we are not without hope in the world.

In what states have we the best prospects of securing the 81 extra electors?

From 1900 to 1902 the Republican majorities shrank in the following states by more than one-half (anything approaching a like shrinkage in 1904 will land every one of them in the Democratic column): In Wisconsin from 106,581 to 47,599, in New York from 143,606 to 8,803, in New Jersey from 58,899 to 17,133, in California from 39,770 to 1,550, in Pennsylvania from 288,433 to 156,410, in Michigan from 104,584 to 37,184, in Massachusetts from 81,869 to 37,120, in New Hampshire from 19,314 to 8,271.

These states have 142 electoral votes, 61 more than we need. No man in his senses expects Pennsylvania to go Democratic; hence the 34 votes of the Keystone State ought to be subtracted from the 61, which leaves 27 more than we need.

But in discussing the possibilities and the probabilities of 1904 the 7 votes of Connecticut and the 5 votes of Maryland ought to be added to the 27, making 42 more than we need, for while their Republican majorities did not fall off 50 per cent or more, Connecticut's fell from 23,570 to 18,107 and Maryland's from 13,941 to 8,508—the latter figures being the net majority on congressmen in 1902, there being no state ticket. In calculating the chances it must also be remembered that both Connecticut and Maryland are normally Democratic states and go Republican only in moments of temporary aberration.

### Here is Food For Thought.

There is another group of states upon which the gentleman from Ohio should fix his eagle eye when he next assays the role of seer. The small Republican majorities which they gave last year will furnish him much food for thought when he takes out his pen-

cil and his pad to record his prognostications for 1904. In 1902 the Republicans carried Delaware by 4,153, Montana by 10,481, Nebraska by 5,355, Utah by 4,781, West Virginia by 12,773, Idaho by 5,853, Colorado by 7,295, Wyoming by 4,408.

Any or all of those states may go Democratic. The chances are about even that they will. Every intelligent man can recall instances where even one congressional district has changed its vote more in two years than any of the eight states last named would have to do to swing into the Democratic column next year. Those eight states have 35 electoral votes, which, added to the heretofore enumerated, make a total of 77 more than we need.

If I were disposed to be extravagant in my remarks, I might claim—and on the surface the claim would not appear unreasonable—that Oregon, with her 4 electoral votes, is a doubtful state by reason of the facts that in 1900 McKinley carried the state by 13,141 and in 1902 a Democratic governor was elected by 276, but I do not believe that Oregon is any more likely to go Democratic than is Vermont. The result in 1902 was determined by local causes or the personality of the candidates.

If I were disposed to be unfair, I might claim that we have prospects worth considering in Minnesota because her Republican majority of 77,500 in 1900 was reduced to 56,186 in 1902, but I regret to say that Minnesota appears to be joined to her idols.

### Factors to Consider.

In striving to forecast results several factors must be considered, such as the present trend of forces, the political antecedents of the states involved, the desire for a change, reasonable or unreasonable; the periodical swinging of the political pendulum, and the element of chance or accident.

New York is more likely to go Democratic than not. If she goes Democratic, so will Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland most probably, for those five states usually vote together, and those five states have 69 of the 81 additional electors which the Democrats must secure.

West Virginia has gone Democratic more often than Republican. Nobody who notes events carefully would be surprised to see her 7 electoral votes cast for the Democratic candidates in 1904, which would leave the Democrats short only 5 votes.

California is evidently traveling rapidly toward the Democratic camp, which she will probably reach next year, with her 10 electoral votes, giving us 5 more votes than we need.

Counting the 7 votes of West Virginia for the Republicans and the 13 votes of Wisconsin for the Democrats, we would have a vote to spare.

The only state carried by the Democrats in 1902 which the Republicans have a ghost of a show of carrying in 1904 is Rhode Island, with 4 electoral votes.

To sum it all up, there appear to be 154 electoral votes certain for the Democrats—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia; certain for the Republicans, 174—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont and Washington; doubtful, 148—California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

### The Republican Row.

When Republicans fall out, honest men may get their dues—is a very slight modification of a well known saw. The time has come for the falling out of the Republicans. They have already begun to wool each other to the queen's taste. Senator George Graham Vest of Missouri, the Prince Rupert of Democrats, recently introduced a resolution to take the tariff off anthracite coal, which resolution stirred up the animals in the Republican menagerie at a great rate. Aldrich of Rhode Island jumped Vest, which was natural, as Aldrich thinks himself the heaven appointed guardian of the Chinese wall tariff advocates and theories; but, to his utter amazement, Dolliver of Iowa, a brilliant young Republican, jumped the Rhode Islander in most vigorous fashion. The bone of contention, or the apple of discord, at present among the Republicans is a purported declaration of the late Governor Nelson Dingley, father of the Dingley tariff bill, that certain schedule rates were purposely placed too high in that bill in order to give us an advantage in negotiating reciprocity treaties with other nations. By placing the rates too high in the bill, so the theory is, it would enable us to cut them to a reasonable basis in reciprocity negotiations. Some say that Dingley did say it and some say he didn't, and the battle rages furiously all along the line among the Republican freebooters. More power to their arms! The more they wool each other the better off the country will be. Senator Vest undoubtedly did a good thing in precipitating the row and no doubt he enjoys it hugely.

*Champ Clark*

And Held It Long.  
Mrs. Fortey—He was pleased to say I held my age very well.  
Mrs. Snapp—Why shouldn't you? Think of the years of practice you've had!—Philadelphia Press.

Mixed.  
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