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WOODROW WILSON

Last week the News gave a brief statement of what it believes to be the peculiar qualifications of the three leading candidates for President. The statement was made from as nonpartisan a standpoint as possible. So far as the News is concerned, having followed the campaign thus far with an open mind, it believes that Woodrow Wilson is the best qualified and safest candidate of the three.

The News is an independent Republican paper, but so far as the national issues are concerned it has hesitated about accepting either of the extremes offered by Taft and Roosevelt and now believes that, leaving party prejudices out of the question, the independent voter who is neither an extreme radical nor an extreme conservative can find in Woodrow Wilson the man in whom those qualities are combined in a measure which promises the sanest possible administration.

With thousands of others, the News has cherished a profound admiration for President Taft as a man and a statesman. But from the beginning of the present campaign, and especially since the Chicago convention, we have perforce looked with regret and suspicion upon those whom Taft has selected, either willingly or unwillingly, as his lieutenants. However sincere President Taft may be in his promises to serve the people's interests first, it is palpable that in such a course he would be seriously handicapped by obligations incurred to the politicians, representatives of selfish political interests, with whom he has allied himself.

So far as Roosevelt is representative of the progressive policies he is deserving of support, but whether he is the man best fitted to put these policies into effect in a judicious and effective manner is, we believe, open to doubt. In the opinion of many Roosevelt has shown a loss of mental poise and an exaggeration of his personal eccentricities which would make him an unsafe man to perform the duties of chief executive, and indeed a man from whose actions in that position the real Progressive cause might suffer more than it would gain.

The American people like an independent President, one who does not have to pay debts to his political henchmen first and perform his duty to the people afterwards. Mr. Wilson has made it plain ever since he was first mentioned as a candidate for the nomination that he would not permit himself to be placed under obligations to Tammany or any other of the predatory interests. In taking this stand he has shown, we believe, a greater moral courage than Taft. His more recent rejection of Tammany and of Governor Dix, its creature, has confirmed the first favorable impression which he made. Wilson has made a strong appeal to the independent voter because they know that his hands are clean and that he has kept himself square with the people.

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TAFT-SHERMAN CLUB IS ORGANIZED HERE

At a meeting held at the court house Saturday afternoon a Taft-Sherman Club for Hood River county was organized and it is planned to make an active campaign here in behalf of Mr. Taft's re-election.

J. L. Carter opened the meeting and called for the election of a permanent chairman. E. L. Smith was unanimously chosen for this position. In accepting the position Mr. Smith declared that after having been a Republican for 51 years he was not going to decline to help the party during the present campaign in any way possible.

W. E. Hanson was chosen secretary.

An executive committee of five was appointed by Mr. Smith as follows: J. P. Lucas, W. L. Clarke, J. M. Schmeitler, J. F. Watt, and W. H. Walton.

Before the meeting adjourned Mr. Smith made a few stirring remarks, demanding to know what cause there was for wishing a change of administration and recounting some of Mr. Taft's accomplishments and his characteristics, which, he declared, made him the best president since Lincoln.

"I am at a loss to understand why there should be any demand for a change of administration," declared Mr. Smith, "business conditions are good, people are prosperous, money is easy and mills are running full blast. Under these conditions why should there be a demand for change?"

"Although Mr. Wilson might be a good man for the position, we do not know what his policies would be. Were he elected the result would be that manufacturers would be uncertain as to what course he would pursue. Consequently they would curtail their output and turn only what was absolutely necessary. Business conditions would be upset and the present era of prosperity would be threatened. The nation cannot do better than to re-elect to office that sterling citizen and great statesman, William Howard Taft."

Mr. Smith's speech was greeted with applause.

During the course of the meeting Newton Clarke was called upon to read an article by Charles Hiles, manager of the Taft campaign committee, in which Taft was declared to be deserving of reelection on account of the record he has made.

It was decided to secure a roll of all Taft Republicans in the county.

Progressive Party Rally

Notice is hereby given that Hon. Alfred E. Clark, nominee of the Progressive Party for United States Senator, will address the voters of Hood River county at the Commercial Club rooms in Hood River Saturday evening, Oct 5th, at 8 o'clock.

Mr. Clark is said to be an orator of ability and he will discuss the issues of the present campaign fairly and in an able manner. All the Progressives of the valley are earnestly requested to be present, and all those who anticipate voting for any of the other candidates are earnestly invited to be present. The election of a United States Senator is possibly, of more vital importance to the citizens of Oregon than the election of a President of the United States.

HOOD RIVER COUNTY PROGRESSIVE COMMITTEE, A. J. Brunquist, Sec.

PORTLAND MAN CHOSEN TO SUCCEED MCARTHUR

At a meeting of the directors of the Hood River Gas & Electric Co. held in Portland Wednesday, September 25, L. P. Hewitt, who has been serving the company as vice-president, was elected to the office of president to succeed C. N. McArthur, resigned, and H. R. Schroyer was elected to the office of vice-president. Both Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Schroyer are well known Portland business men.



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THINKS ORCHARDING A PRAYERFUL ART

Hon. E. L. Smith, Hood River's "grand old man," is the subject of a biographical sketch in the October number of Sunset and Pacific Monthly magazine, just published. Some of Mr. Smith's ideas on the influence of fruit growing on character are included in the write-up, which is given in part herewith:

Here where Nature runs riot, the Honorable E. L. Smith may well claim that the environment of the horticulturist is one that accentuates the noblest qualities of man. He follows up with the assertion that the very planting of a tree is a prayerful act, as the horticulturist beds it in the ground and watches it as the mother her baby tuckles in the cradle. The roots, dry and thirsty, take up the food and drink provided in the soil; in the air and sunshine the tree develops trunk, branches, buds, blossoms, culminating in the fruit. You see the whole operation at once as the lecturer warms to his subject.

He includes health, contentment, and the upbuilding of character among the uncounted values of horticulture. He says it develops some of the innermost sweetnesses in life, and that he who approaches tree-planting in the right spirit partakes of the blessedness of those purchased who see God in His works.

"Miles on miles of trees prayerfully planted, tended and pruned, bear fruit that, prayerfully gathered, boxed and shipped, brings prices from which praters at the high cost of living may prayerfully ask to be delivered. The Hood River apples are world-famous prize winners; nor need the strawberries for which the district is locally famous blush for any lack of lusciousness through having been raised in a prayerful atmosphere.

Though the Honorable E. L. Smith has spent thirty-five years in the Hood River Valley and is there called the Father of Horticulture, he is more than a local institution. Known the length of the Pacific coast, he does not resemble even the adopted westerner. A vague consciousness of some previous acquaintance with him crystallizes into a certainty that, though you may have known the type only between book covers, he is a perfect personification of the old-fashioned New England squire. Ezra Leonard Smith comes logically by this appearance, being a descendant from that Richard Smith who came to Massachusetts in 1630, and himself born in Vermont in 1857. His education, begun in his native state, was completed at Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois.

On the 4th of March, 1861, that marked Lincoln's first inauguration, Ezra Leonard Smith married Miss Georgiana Slocum at Woodstock, Illinois, and started to California on a honeymoon which outlived the golden wedding anniversary. This young couple, sailing from New York March 11, 1861—the day before the firing on Fort Sumpter—found the docks at San Francisco blank with people anxious to know if the ship brought news of a declaration of war. What more pointed illustration could there be of the swiftness of mechanical progress in the past half century?

For six years Mr. Smith was interested in mining in El Dorado county, and in 1865-66 took active part as a member of the legislature in restraining California from secession. In 1867, upon recommendation of Wm. H. Seward, he was appointed by President Johnson secretary of Washington territory, and acted as governor during the long illness of Governor Marshall Moore. During this time Mr. Smith went into the banking business at Olympia, where he resided for nine years. In 1875, on account of falling health, he removed to Hood River. Here he has since belonged, except for a term as register of the United States Land Office at The Dalles, in 1888 Mr. Smith was elected to the Oregon Legislature and became speaker of its house of representatives. He was the first president of the Oregon State Development League; three times presided over the Columbia River Waterway Association; was for seven years president of the State Horticultural Society; has served several years as president of the State Board of Horticulture and was special commissioner representing Oregon at the Jamestown Exposition.

The "Honorable E. L. Smith,"—a cognomen which distinguishes him from the rest of the race of Smiths, past, present and to come—is one of Oregon's most respected citizens, and useful to the land.

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