

CANNON FIGHTING FOR POLITICAL LIFE

Speaker's Predicament Shows Presidential Boom Howling Farce.

ROOSEVELT GOOD JUDGE

Knew Rank and File Did Not Want Cannon—Refuses to Tell Where He Got Wealth and Is Suspected.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Sept. 23.—Viewed in the light of recent events, Speaker Cannon's late Presidential boom becomes a howling farce. Here is a man who three months ago was proclaimed by many politicians to be the strongest possible candidate for the Republican nomination to lead the fight against W. J. Bryan. Today Mr. Cannon is fighting, as he never fought before, for re-election to the House of Representatives, and each succeeding day his chance of election grows smaller.

And yet had the reactionaries gained control of the Chicago convention, the advice of President Roosevelt would have been set at naught, and it is quite probable that this same "Uncle Joe" would have been named, instead of Woodrow Wilson. Mr. Cannon's reactionaries; he is and has been anti-Roosevelt, and because of his very opposition to the Roosevelt policies, and because he has, regardless of seeming favor upon every interest, he is threatened with political annihilation. If the church and labor interests have combined to prevent Mr. Cannon's re-election to the House of Representatives, how much more bitterly would they have opposed him in the country at large, had he, and not Mr. Taft, been named as the Republican standard bearer? The rejection of Mr. Cannon and the nomination of Mr. Taft is just one more tribute to the political sagacity of Mr. Roosevelt, than whom no man is closer to the people. Mr. Roosevelt was opposed to the nomination of Mr. Cannon because he knew the rank and file of the party did not want Mr. Cannon; because he knew Mr. Cannon would not be a true representative of the masses of the people, and because he was satisfied that other and better men could be found.

Once Idol, Now Suspected.

The church and labor, combining with the Democrats, may or may not be able to prevent Mr. Cannon's re-election to the House, but regardless of what takes place in the Eighteenth Illinois Congressional District, enough has transpired to demonstrate that Mr. Cannon is the heaviest handicap the Republican National ticket is carrying through this campaign. The very possibility that he may be re-elected Speaker of the House and again installed in the second highest office in the Nation, is a serious drawback to the Republican ticket; it is likely to cost Mr. Taft many votes. There are not a few voters who realize that if Mr. Cannon was strong enough to block the reforms of Mr. Roosevelt, he will be strong enough to do the same with Mr. Taft, and among churchmen and labor the feeling is one of deep sentiment in favor of wiping Mr. Cannon out of the Governmental check-board.

Only a few years ago Joseph G. Cannon was an idol among the people; he was an idol in the House of Representatives. He was then pictured as a rugged, honest, and unselfish man, to whom the Republican party was deeply indebted. Today his honesty has been questioned; he is branded as a traitor to the people; he is regarded as the element in his own party, and altogether one of the most "undesirable citizens" in the Republican fold. No longer is he an idol; he has become a man of suspicion and condemnation. Like some of New York City's most notorious political bosses, Mr. Cannon has been shown to be a wealthy man, and he is continually confronted with the question: "Where did you get it?" Mr. Cannon refuses to tell how he got his wealth, but it is a tremendous fund of resources upon which he can draw. He may have acquired this wealth in some of the ways that have been mentioned, but he has been repeatedly asked to explain, always with the same result. His very refusal to take the public into his confidence has given rise to the rumor that he has acquired wealth by means peculiar to disreputable politicians, and this stigma will stick unless Mr. Cannon comes forward with some explanation. Perhaps this is a purely personal matter that concerns only Mr. Cannon, but the prominence that has been given the charge rather than the man upon whom it is laid bare some of his personal affairs in order to regain public confidence that has been lost.

Where Did He Get It?

The charge of corruption in politics, if supported by any sort of tangible evidence, is apt to prove successful in these days of reform. Here is Mr. Cannon accused of amassing a large fortune, while holding his place in Congress. He could not have made a fortune in the way he did not inherit it, and it is doubtful if his banking interests would net him any such amount as he is supposed to possess. When these things are considered and the average voter recalls that the Speaker has been a staunch friend of the railroads and an equally staunch friend of the brewers and distillers, it takes little stretch of the imagination to satisfy the average voter that Mr. Cannon must have been on intimate terms with some of the leading corporation men of the Nation. This suspicion may or may not be just, but Mr. Cannon refuses to be frank, and he is suspected in a campaign gives color to report. Such a rumor, pushed along by church and labor influence, can do tremendous damage; it may be the undoing of a man who might have been the Republican nominee for President.

POLICEMAN IS MURDERED

(Continued from First Page.)

Young, for instance, though on duty and supposed to be patrolling his beat, was summoned to the scene of the crime on the arrival of a detail of officers from the central police station, no revolver or weapon of any kind was found on his person. He lay on the floor in the center of the room where he had fallen. Victim Was Unarmed. Officer Young was one of the veteran officers on the local force. He had been connected with the department for many years and bore an excellent reputation. So far as is known at headquarters, he had no enemies, and his brother-officers

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