

DEMOCRATS LOSE HOPE OF HOOVER

Leader Would Like to See Oregon Boy on Both Tickets.

PARTY GOSSIP RELATED

Contest for Presidency Narrows to Palmer and McAdoo; Wilson Unlikely to Run Again.

(Continued From First Page.)

...ity. None of the other minor candidates are serious possibilities. Of these minor figures, Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska is probably a little more serious than any of those I have mentioned, for reasons that I will allude to later.

As serious possibilities the democratic situation is now down to a race between Attorney-General Palmer and Mr. McAdoo. That will be the fight from now on until the convention meets. Superficially Mr. Palmer will seem to have the better of it, because he is following the method of getting as many delegates as possible in the primaries, while Mr. McAdoo is following the less obvious plan of waiting until the convention meets. While Mr. Palmer will figure more strongly in the news from now until the meeting of the democratic convention, his strength relative to Mr. McAdoo will not be in proportion to the number of instructed delegates he picks up.

It is not possible for Mr. Palmer to get enough instructed delegates to assure him the nomination, in the democratic convention it takes two-thirds to nominate and Mr. Palmer cannot conceivably get that number of instructed delegates. On the other hand, it is not the intention of the party leaders that Mr. Palmer shall get enough delegates to nominate him on the opening ballots. The intention of the party leaders is to keep the nomination open until the convention meets.

In this race between Mr. Palmer and Mr. McAdoo the decision rests largely with the democratic leaders. Anybody who wants to find out in advance whether Mr. Palmer or Mr. McAdoo is to win can make the nearest approximation to a guess by canvassing the various democratic state leaders, the 53 members of the democratic national committee. The democratic convention and the democratic nomination will be much less affected by popular primaries than the republican nomination. The democratic situation is almost wholly a matter of the net result of the wishes and interests of the leaders, chiefly the members of the national committee.

Palmer Stronger Among Leaders.

Among those leaders Mr. Palmer is stronger than Mr. McAdoo. Mr. Palmer is very popular with the members of the democratic national committee. He is himself a member of the committee and also a member of the executive committee of eight, which is the inner arcanum of the democratic party. In these official party positions Mr. Palmer has so conducted himself as to appear himself to his associates. He has not only been a good party man in the sense of being regular and looking out for democrats in the distribution of patronage, but he has been a good party man in the sense that his associates have come to look upon him as being wise in policy and just in his official party actions.

A poll of the individual members of the democratic national committee would most probably result in Mr. Palmer's favor. But these members do not represent equal strength in the national committee. Some of those leaders who are refraining from casting their fortunes with Palmer are the ones who carry the larger state delegations in the convention. Moreover, while the greater number of the members of the national committee are in favor of Palmer, many strong individual members of the committee and many democratic leaders who are not official members of the committee, like Bernard Baruch, are favorable to Mr. McAdoo.

In one way the fact that the democratic national committee as a whole, and the party workers as a whole, like Palmer better than McAdoo, is to McAdoo's credit. One of the counts against McAdoo in the minds of the party leaders is the fact that, in the distribution of patronage while he was secretary of the treasury, he was not as completely partial to the appointment of democrats as the party leaders would have liked. The creation of the federal reserve board and the farm loan board, during McAdoo's administration of the treasury, involved a large number of appointments to jobs. In these appointments Mr. McAdoo rather leaned over backward in giving a cold eye and an indifferent ear to the party leaders who had good democrats in mind as candidates for these jobs. Mr. Palmer, on the other hand, has always rewarded the faithful. Moreover, the attorney-general's office has expanded greatly during the last few years, and the man who travels about the country learns that the local federal attorneys and the appointees of Mr. Palmer's office are working hard for him.

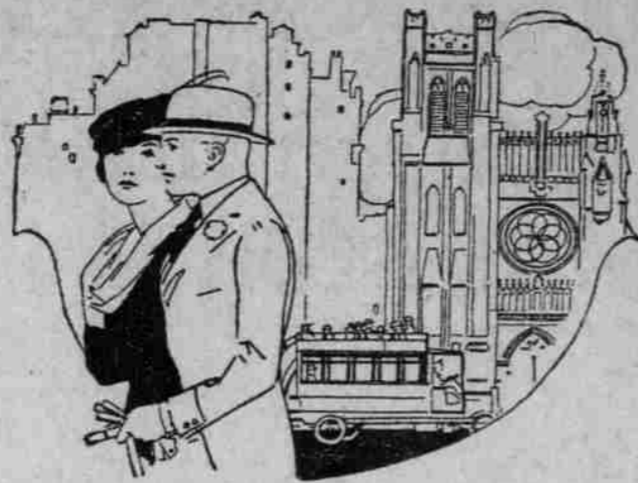
Deadlock Might Be Possible.

And so the race up to the time of the convention will be between Palmer and McAdoo. Mr. Palmer's friends working for delegates in his name and Mr. McAdoo's friends working for uninstructed delegates. It is practically certain that neither one of the two will have enough delegates to make up the requisite two-thirds after the convention gets under way. If the contest between these two men should develop great bitterness, so that each event Governor Cox of Ohio might receive some consideration, although, from the point of view of the party leaders, there are grave objections to him. And the mention of Governor Cox brings us to the important matter of what the democrats are likely to do on the "wet" and "dry" issue. There is more than a fair possibility that the democrats may adopt a "wet" plank.

By a "wet" plank I do not mean a plank in opposition to the prohibition amendment. If the democrats should adopt a "wet" plank at all, it would probably be along these lines: They would declare in favor of the retention of the prohibition amendment; in favor of the abolition of rum, whiskey and brandy and other strong liquors; and in favor of complete local option on the part of each state.

It is to be as "dry" as it chooses to be by state statute. Then, conceding all these things to the "dry" side, they would declare in favor of some legal and harmless method of permitting the sale of beer and light wines in states that want it.

Assuming that the democrats should adopt a platform of this kind, Governor Cox of Ohio would be an appropriate candidate. But, in connection with the "wet" and "dry" issue, more must be said about Senator



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Hitchcock of Nebraska. Senator Hitchcock is not only the favorite son of Nebraska, he is also the favorite child, in a political sense, of one of the strongest members of the democratic national committee, Mr. Arthur Mullen, and Mr. Mullen has high ambitions for him. Just now the "wet" and "dry" issue is being fought out in Nebraska with Senator Hitchcock leading the "wets" and Bryan leading the "drys." If Senator Hitchcock should win the fight in the primaries on April 20, he may come forward as the candidate of the "wets." Senator Hitchcock's friends argue that an additional element in his favor is the fact that because of his senate leadership, he is one of the few men appropriate to make the fight on a league of nations issue. But the fact is that the Hitchcock possibility and all the other possibilities are in a class wholly inferior to Palmer and McAdoo.

At this point, what of Bryan? Bryan is now engaged in a bitter struggle with Senator Hitchcock for a chance to be a delegate to the convention. If he succeeds in getting himself elected as a delegate, and if he has a candidate it will probably be some comparatively unknown person. He has approached ex-Governor Polk, and he has also spoken of Mr. E. T. Meredith, the new secretary of agriculture from Iowa. But the fact is the democratic leaders have rather sewed things up on Bryan this year, and he is not likely to cut any such figure as he did in 1912.

President Wilson Considered. There remains to be considered President Wilson. It is quite true that it is within the power of President Wilson to offset all that has been said in this article. If President Wilson should set himself with de-

tempt to be the next president of the United States. They assume that the president and his immediate family will see this, and that he will refrain from trying to get the nomination. If President Wilson should fail to see it and should try to get the nomination the party leaders will set themselves determinedly in opposition to that course. President Wilson's participation in the democratic nomination, in the rather remote contingency of his participating at all, would be limited, at the outside, to naming a dark horse, like Ambassador John W. Davis of West Virginia, who is the most promising of the dark-horse possibilities.

termination in opposition to the nomination of either Mr. Palmer or Mr. McAdoo; if he should put all of his personal power and all the power he can summon against either or both of these men, he would be successful in defeating them; even more than this, he could probably succeed in nominating anyone he might put his heart upon nominating. Anyone, that is to say, except himself.

President Wilson is still frequently mentioned as a possible democratic nominee. I do not believe he is a possibility. I say this based upon some knowledge of the minds of the most powerful leaders in the party. They believe that President Wilson's health is such that he should not at-

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