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Bert R. Greer, - Editor and Owner
W. H. Gillis, - - - City Editor
W. E. Barnes, - Business Manager

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LINCOLN AND JEFFERSON.

The convention which nominated William H. Taft at Chicago Saturday was in no sense a republican convention. It was organized in defiance of the wishes and principles of the rank and file of the republican party. Its declaration of principles is out of line with original republican principles. Theodore Roosevelt has done exactly what Lincoln and Jefferson did. When the Whig party failed to stand for the principles that Lincoln conceived as vital to the best interests of this nation he joined hands with and helped to vitalize the new republican party.

Jefferson had a part in the organization of three distinct political parties. First it was the democratic party. When he became convinced that those opposed to the first principles as enunciated by that party had taken control of its machinery he organized the republican-democratic party. When in turn that organization went into the hands of those not in sympathy with its purposes he organized the new democratic party.

Jefferson and Lincoln stood for well-defined principles, not for a name. Instead of worshipping the institution, they were sticklers for principle, and they did not hesitate to abandon the ship when they saw dangerous holes in its hull.

The Tidings is in hearty sympathy with the movement inaugurated by the progressive element of the party. The time is at hand when the motto, "Thou shalt not steal," should be made a distinctive vital principle in party organization and in administration.

The sincere hope of the Tidings is that the Parker element shall dominate the Baltimore convention just as the reactionary element of the republican party dominated the Chicago convention, to the end that the real progressives of the democratic and republican parties may be forced into a movement that will result in the complete overthrow of the reactionary principles in government.

A government of the people, for the people and by the people must not perish from the earth.

NEWSPAPERS.

Editing a newspaper in some respects is a good deal like preaching the gospel—truth must be presented in the form of generalities or some fellow will get hit and howl. Few persons like the truth, even the homeopathic doses, if it hits them. But while preachers criticize editors for what they do say, no one thinks of giving them credit for what they do not say. Yet what they keep to themselves constitutes the major portion of what they know about people.

Very many people harbor the belief that newspapers are eager to publish derogatory things. It's a mistake. There isn't a newspaper that does not keep under the lock of secrecy scores of derogatory things which never meet the public ear. Deciding what not to print is the most troublesome part of newspaper work.

The many good stories suppressed because of innocent relatives and for the good of the public, nobody outside of a newspaper office has any means of knowing.

In some instances he who flies into a passion because a newspaper prints something about him which he considers uncomplimentary, has every reason to feel profoundly grateful to the newspaper for publishing so little of what it knows about him. And oftentimes the loudest bluffer is the most vulnerable to attack. A big noise is generally a device employed to cover trepidation. Newspapers put up with more bluffing than any other agency would endure. It is not because they lack courage; it is because they are unwilling to use their power to destroy or ruin, unless the interests of society demand it.

It might be well for some people to reflect upon these truths and in silent gratitude accept mild admonition lest worse befall.

LET EPHRAIM HAVE HER.

In the solid south states there is no republican party. A number of persons have banded together there to control federal patronage, and are enabled to do so by an unjust apportionment of delegates to the national republican convention. As long as one republican voter in Georgia, where there is no possibility of party success locally or in the national electoral college, amounts to as much as ten republican votes in Illinois, where the party is always locally successful and returns a full republican delegation to the electoral college every four years, there can be little hope for justice from the deliberations of a convention dominated by delegates originating under such conditions. The national republican convention, as now constituted, is not representative of the party in the nation. Therefore why should republicans consider themselves bound by it? There was a time when partisans could be whipped into line under whatever circumstances. But that time is past. Partisans then believed in the principles and integrity of their party. But as it has grown more apparent that party organization is becoming based alone on spoils, that apparent great party issues are but tinkling brass, and party platforms are but ladders upon which leaders climb to preferment, regardless of clean and upright administration, party fealty wanes. The common people do not care a rap now for the success of this party or that. The thing they want and demand is good government. They are determined to have it in spite of party and politicians. Corrupt domination of politics by big business has already progressed too far. People are beginning to see that it is the party organizations that need to be reformed. Special privilege has long ago captured both the republican and democratic parties. Special privilege has no politics. In Illinois it is republican and in Louisiana democratic. Wherever political power is lodged there it entrenches itself. Is it to be supposed that special privilege will reform itself? Can there be found an example in the history of the world where an organization grown sleek and fat by the spoliation of mankind has had the virtue and honesty to correct the wrong—where the abusers have abolished the abuse?

The great issue in the republican convention at Chicago just closed was not whether Taft, Roosevelt, Cummins or La Follette should be nominated, but whether the republican party should be representative of the people or of special interest. The people went to the convention determined, but the system was so deeply entrenched in the organization it was found impossible to dislodge it. And failing, the people are no less determined. Party loyalty will not hold them, because the party lacks substance, it no longer represents them, but has been stolen by privilege, and they feel no further allegiance.

Let Ephraim have his idol and go; the American people will worship none but the true and living God. Administration must henceforth be representative.

PURELY REACTIONARY.

The republican organization has gone on record as opposing the elemental principle that this is a government by the people. The bosses have triumphed in the organization by theft. The party no longer represents a great and vital principle of government; it has degenerated to an instrument through which special privilege entrenches itself in an attempt to further suck the lifeblood of the nation. It has struck a rock and is rent asunder. One part of the ship carries the name and is manned by a piratical crew floating toward destruction; in trying to appropriate all it has lost all. The other part encompasses the substance and is protected by the saving compartments of principle. By whatever name it is known in future, it will be commanded by true representatives of the people, and will be truly representative of the people in administration as well as in declaration. So let it be.

It is a hundred to one that before the end of this week it will be demonstrated that the same interests which stole the republican organization at Chicago will steal the democratic organization at Baltimore. It is a desperate fight between the people and special privilege. The organizations will go to privilege, but the government will be held by the people. At the end of this national campaign the people will be in the saddle, and equity and justice will again ascend the throne.

If it required no brains, no nerve, no energy, no work, there would be no glory in achievement.

THE NAME.

"What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Yet there is a kind of fascination in a long-honored name. The name of republicanism has been long associated with justice and progress. It was the party of Lincoln, the great emancipator, and champion of human rights and equal opportunity.

The name democracy is associated with the great principles enunciated by Jefferson and believed in by the rank and file of its adherents for more than a century.

And so these names bear a sacred aspect to those who have long associated their original principles with the name.

After all, a name is but a symbol—a word. "Purity" conveys a thought of cleanliness and right, but to attach the word "purity" to acts of oppression and injustice does not change the consequences of the act.

During the last Cleveland administration, when the democratic organization had the opportunity to put into force the long-cherished tariff doctrine of that party, instead it adopted the Wilson tariff bill. Cleveland did not call the act "democratic," but he called it "party treason." And he was right. The organization had fallen into the hands of its enemies, and what that organization chose to exemplify as democratic was but treason to the principles for which that word had long been the symbol.

So with the republican party. The name has been stolen by those opposed to the principles for which it stood and has been attached to doctrines directly opposed to what it originally represented.

Now, this is the question to be decided by the rank and file of both the old parties. Is it the name we worship, or is it a principle for which a name can be but a symbol? If the latter, then there is nothing in the name; there is all in the principle.

The principle of the people's rule and the destruction of the power of bossism must be adhered to under whatever name. A government of the people, by the people and for the people must not perish from the earth. This is and must be a government by the people. The old names are but sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. The people will no longer stand divided one against the other on a name. The names that once stood for justice now symbolize oppression—that once stood for the people now stand for special privilege—that once symbolized the people's rule now stand for the rule of the bosses. The great mass of American citizens whose interests are identical will no longer stand divided at the polls on a name without the substance of true republican-democratic principles.

THE BASIC DIFFERENCE.

The thing this nation needs is a higher ethical plane in politics. In Australia, or Canada, or England, where the ethics of sport is applied to the political game, it would have been impossible to seat delegates secured by means wholly disreputable and unworthy. Every one of the southern contested Taft delegates were elected by such means. The least that fairness and justice could dictate in such case would have been to throw out all contested delegates from these sections, and allow the convention to proceed with delegates selected by the rules of propriety and decency, with due consideration to the states which had sent up delegations by the popular will of the party through the primary system.

Government is instituted to serve the ends of common justice and the general good. When it ceases to do that it deserves no longer the support and respect of the governed. Individual candidates may come and go, political parties may rise and fall, but the political life of the people must go on or government, under whatever name, will fall.

People now think independently. The day of blind party servitude is past. Only insofar as party, or government, serves the common good, will it retain the loyalty and respect due a just institution.

The republican party was not riven on the candidacy of Taft or Roosevelt. The popular deflection is deeper than that. The people do not hope for good government from a party, or representatives, who gain power by theft. When the only incentive for action is common good, the majority is able to rule unhindered, but when sinister motives prevail, the necessity for disreputable practices arises.

It is commonly charged, and generally believed, that a certain privileged class has sprung up in our national life. This class has been fostered by political manipulation, and by controlling political organization it hopes to perpetuate its abuse. The people are determined that no class shall thrive at the expense of the whole by legislative and administrative control. That is the ground upon which the republican convention split.

It is said that people are speeded up too fast nowadays, and if some one will kindly have the wolf pursue them a little less swiftly, no doubt every one will be glad to slow down.

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REPUTATION.

Reputation is what people say about a man when he isn't in the immediate vicinity. Character is what they say to him when he comes in to pay that little balance. It is a very easy thing to acquire reputation, as new styles are continually being invented and tried on. Some reputations are quite durable and dog a man through a protracted meeting long after the court costs have been paid. Others shift around like a petit juror in tight boots and change their location faster than the early symptoms of appendicitis. A man can acquire a reputation nowadays for almost anything except being a devoted husband or joining the church without trying to stimulate trade. The hardest reputation to shake off is the kind which is manufactured by the neighbors, who are usually very frank and anxious to do full justice to the subject. The man who has been saddled with a reputation which he would like to trade for a good family cow doesn't gain anything by removing to the Pacific coast, for when he dies the neighbors will favor the obituary with the pious hope that he had forethought enough to take a palm-leaf fan along. It is astonishing how a judgment-proof reputation will chase a man around the country until he can't settle among total strangers without having to pay the rent in advance. On the other hand, a man with a reputation which doesn't have to be bolstered up with a lodge grip or a letter of recommendation from the official board is never advised over the telephone that a \$3 overdraft would look better to the bank if it was accompanied by some collateral in the form of real money. A good reputation is a very handy article to have in the safe when money is harder to find than a high school graduate who can spell the English language twice alike in the same essay. It is harder to get than the other kind, but it pays a better rate of interest in the long run.

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