

REPUBLICAN PARTY AND LABOR

An Equality of Opportunities Secured for Wage Earners.

William H. Taft's Speech of Acceptance Gives Party Record in Behalf of Labor.

(William H. Taft in his speech of acceptance.)

We come now to the question of labor. One important phase of the policies of the present administration has been an anxiety to secure for the wage-earner an equality of opportunity and such positive statutory protection as shall place him on a level in dealing with his employer.

The Republican party has passed an employers' liability act for interstate railroads, and has established an eight hour law for government employes and on government construction. The essence of the reform effected by the former, is the abolition of the fellow-servant rule and the introduction of the comparative negligence theory by which an employe injured in the service of his employer does not lose all his right to recover because of slight negligence on his part.

Then there is the act providing for compensation for injury to government employes, together with the various statutes requiring safety appliances upon interstate commerce railroads for the protection of their employes and limiting the hours of their employment.

These are all instances of the desire of the Republican party to do justice to the wage-earners.

Doubtless a more comprehensive measure for compensation of government employes will be adopted in the future; the principle in such cases has been recognized and in the necessarily somewhat slow course of legislation will be more fully embodied in definite statutes.

The interests of the employer and the employe never differ except when it comes to a division of the joint profit of labor and capital into dividends and wages. This must be a constant source of periodical discussion between the employer and the employe, as indeed are the other terms of the employment.

To give to employes their proper position in such a controversy, to enable them to maintain themselves against employers having great capital, they may well unite, because in union there is strength, and without it, each individual laborer and employe would be helpless. The promotion of the industrial peace through the instrumentality of the trade agreement is often one of the results of such union when intelligently conducted.

There is a large body of laborers, however, skilled and unskilled, who are not organized into unions. Their rights before the law are exactly the same as those of the union men, and are to be protected with the same care and watchfulness.

In order to induce their employer into a compliance with their request for changed terms of employment, workmen have the right to strike in a body.

They have a right to use such persuasion as they may, provided it does not reach the point of duress, to lead their reluctant co-laborers to join them in their union against their employer, and they have a right, if they choose, to accumulate funds to support those engaged in a strike, to delegate to officers the power to direct the action of the union, and to withdraw themselves and their associates from dealings with or giving custom to those with whom they are in controversy.

TAFT'S KINDNESS TO BLIND.

Overrules Washington Monument Regulation for Benefit of the Sightless.

The kind heartedness of Mr. Taft and his sincere, common sense sympathy with the unfortunates in this world has just been brought to the attention of the blind in a peculiar way.

Away up in the top of the Washington monument, where thousands go to behold the beauties of the nation's capital, the Columbia Polytechnic institute, which seeks to make it possible for the adult blind of the United States to rise above conditions of dependence by becoming self sustaining, placed on sale souvenir post cards manufactured by its blind. Some sentimental persons took the view that this was undignified and succeeded in having the superintendent of public buildings and grounds order the cards removed.

F. E. Cleveland, principal of the institute, appealed to Mr. Taft, then secretary of war and within whose jurisdiction came the office of public buildings and grounds. It took only a few words to convince the secretary that the blind should have the benefit of this privilege, and the cards were again placed on sale in the monument.

"For this action," said Principal Cleveland in discussing the incident, "Mr. Taft deserves the gratitude of every blind person, particularly the progressive blind, who are striving to help their less fortunate fellows."

In Georgia the electors must have a majority, and with Watson, H. S. and Chaney pulling away from them the Bryanites are becoming apprehensive.

DEMOCRATIC HOPES SIDETRACKED

Taft and Foraker Shoulder to Shoulder for Republican Principles.

Another Democratic hope has been sidetracked. That was that United States Senator Foraker would not support the Taft candidacy, and would thus impair his chances of carrying the State of Ohio.

The two big Oblians fittingly met at the G. A. R. reunion in Toledo, and publicly and good-naturedly cast what differences may have existed between them to the air.

Mr. Taft's contribution to the treasury of peace was as follows:

"It is a pleasure for me to be here with Senator Foraker, because when governor of Ohio he gave me my first chance and took a good deal of risk in putting a man of 29 on the bench of the Superior Court of Cincinnati. We are about to enter—or rather have entered—a great oratorical campaign. It is a pleasure to think in this presence that we are going to stand in the campaign shoulder to shoulder, with the full strength of the Republican party."

In response Senator Foraker denied that enmity had existed between Mr. Taft and himself, and said:

"Under the circumstances I hope I may be pardoned if I say here in this presence—the first time I have had opportunity to say it—that there is not now and so far as I know there never has been the slightest ill feeling of any kind between Mr. Taft and myself.

"If there is anything I have a right to claim beyond another, it is that I am Republican three hundred and sixty-five days in the year. I have my preferences sometimes as to who should receive the honors of the party, and everybody generally finds out what they are. But I am one of those old-fashioned Republicans who settle every such question at the convention. When the Chicago convention nominated Mr. Taft to be the Republican candidate for the Presidency this year, that instant he became my leader. He has been my leader ever since, and he will be my leader until the polls close on the night of the election."

Mr. Foraker followed with an estimate of Judge Taft's fitness for the office he seeks by repeating what Bishop Fallows had said before him.

"I want to repeat it," he said, "that his experience on the bench, in the Philippines, as Secretary of War, in the construction of the Panama Canal. In all the positions he has filled, has been such as to qualify Mr. Taft almost beyond every other man for the Presidency. We are going to elect him, and if he does not make a success of it, it will be his own fault."

Senator Foraker followed this statement with a review of his early acquaintance with Judge Taft, and the favorable impression he then gained of him.

WHERE SHERMAN STANDS.

Approves Legislation to Improve the Conditions of Labor.

(From Sherman's Speech of Acceptance.)

The Republican party believes in the equality of all men before the law; believes in granting labor's every request that does not seek to accord rights to one man denied to another. Fair-minded labor asks no more, no less, and approves the record of the Republican party because of that party's acts.

I have helped to make my party's record in the enactment of the Eight-Hour law, the Employers' Liability act, the statutes to minimize the hazard of railroad employes, the Child Labor law for the District of Columbia and other enactments designed especially to improve the conditions of labor. I cannot hope to better state my position on injunctions than by a specific endorsement of Mr. Taft's Cincinnati declaration on that subject. That endorsement I make.

But He Runs on Forever.

(From the New York Sun.)

What will Mr. Bryan say after next election day? Mr. Bryan will insist that he is an optimist. Heaten three times! What of that? He's the one great Democrat willing for his fellow men to be beaten once again.

Read the Commoner and learn! Mr. Bryan, Mr. Kern, Sull together on this trip. In the old, oft stranded ship. (They have quarters in the stern.)

In this antiquated craft, While they gaze at Mr. Taft Miles ahead—the race near done And by Taft and Sherman won— Mr. Bryan, ever wise, Doubtless will philosophize And to Mr. Kern recite That remark, already trite, All prepared and often sprung; "Beaten? Yes, but I'm still young! I can wait another four Years, then try the race once more, I have got this thing down pat, I'm the one great Democrat!" —Julian Durand.

Making or Keeping Promises.

The difference between Mr. Taft's promise of tariff revision and Mr. Bryan's pledges in the same direction is that Mr. Taft if elected will be in position to redeem his pledge, while Mr. Bryan if elected would be powerless to accomplish anything with a Republican Senate arrayed against his free trade plans—Omaha Bee.

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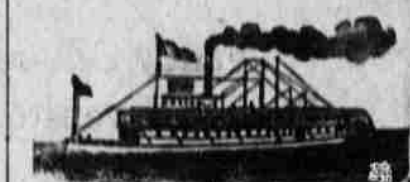
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