

THE POLITICAL PARTY FORMING?

Signs Appear on the Political Horizon That Would Seem to Indicate That the Old Line Parties Have About Worn Themselves Out—Opinions Not So Much Divided as in Days When Party Strife Was Keen—75 per Cent of Masses in Favor of "New Idea."

By John E. Lathrop.

A NEW political party forming? Signs appear in the political firmament pointing that way.

Usually, after the dominant party has ended its fight, such as at the tariff bill, the quarrelling statesmen shake hands in very fact as in appearance, agree to fight it out within the party, and all that sort of thing.

This time, however, up to the moment of adjournment, bitterness, expressed views marked the conduct of the congress. The congress had been in continuous session for eight months, December to August. The dominant party had been torn with dissension. Accusations by the progressive senators and representatives were that "the interests" were dominating this tariff bill. Answering charges were that the progressives were deserting the party and abandoning the time-honored policy of protection.

And the session ended with these charges and counter charges freshly preferred, and hurried from fact to fiction, with a culmination of bitterness and definiteness of purpose which were the outgrowth of the two thirds of a year of struggle.

Senator La Follette, the progressive, at this moment is on the Chautauque platform discussing "true representative government," the congressional record, a performance which has become mighty interesting to the people and equally repugnant to the men who by that record appear to have supported "the interests."

Senator Dooliver, within three hours from the moment of final passage of the tariff bill, declared that, if necessary, he would leave the Republican party, but he would not abandon the position he had taken in this fight, after 25 years of service as a Republican.

Senator Beveridge fought to the last moment, complaining in rage that Senator Clapp of Minnesota like Dooliver declared that he would retire from public life if he need be, or from his party, but would not abate by one iota or tittle his insistence on real reform of the tariff.

Senator Nelson, of the same state announced similar sentiments.

Senator Bristow of Kansas remained under the insurgent banner, blood-red word in hand, fighting to the last ditch.

Senator Cummings of Iowa proclaimed unalterable allegiance to the cause of the tariff. He was the only Republican insurgent to the moment the vice president's gavel fell to end the special session.

In the house, Victor Murdock of Kansas, Cooper of Wisconsin, the Pacific northwest's lone representative among the insurgents, and Edward S. Kane, with other Republican congressmen, retired from the field weapons truant, strategy abandoned, purpose as strong as ever before, and yielding nothing to their opponents.

The other side? Equally defiant, forcing the insurgents to retreat for every charge and gallant onslaught. Upholding the banner of high protection, and accepting the dictum that the ultimate consumer is a myth, a thing not to be considered in congressional legislation.

Senator Aldrich to the end defied the insurgents, branded them bad Republicans, and led the standpat army with the thought of future compromise with the progressives.

Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania remained unrelenting in his hatred of those who, nominally his party associates—the insurgents—are, nevertheless, as far from resemblance to him morally and politically as the antipodes to each other geographically.

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts persisted to the end that there were no consumers to be considered in making tariff bills.

Speaker Cannon, with his horde of followers, were not far from their previously assumed position. They hate the insurgents as heartily as ever they did.

What does this presage as to the political alignment for the future? This was the question asked on all sides as the session closed. The answer, it is believed, would follow. For all sensible

men acknowledge that in all issues in which politically mortality does not become an element, compromise must be the rule.

But, these insurgents have transferred the contest from economic to ethical grounds, have declared that common honesty to the masses demands entire change in the policy of the dominant party. They have carried this issue into the chambers of senate and house, and have marched to the very gates of the ruling powers' encampment, fighting with energy and courage.

Upon this issue, apparently, as viewed from this, the central battleground, there may be no compromise.

"You are unwise in your contentions," may result in compromise.

"You are dishonest in your position," means fight to the bitter end.

After all, political factions are much like individuals. If a man says to another, "You are a liar," the denials follow, if both be red-blooded. No man who has watched the battle this year believes that the congress is aught but red-blooded. They are fighters to the last ditch.

How, then, can there be compromise between these regulars and insurgents? One faction says to the other:

"You are traitors to our cause."

"You are traitors to your position."

"You fellows are political thieves."

"That means fight, of course."

Geographically? These insurgents come from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, and their states are backing them loyally. With those states behind them, they are making South Dakota, Ohio, Illinois, for these states were not truly represented by the votes of their senators and congressmen in this contest.

These states form the backbone of this nation—the great upper Mississippi valley. In many of these states, and in those that have traveled within a year through all those states, and I need not say what is the sentiment of the people.

Some Men Who Are Prominent in the Movement to Get Out of the Rut.

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SENATOR BEVERIDGE, ARIZONA.

SENATOR ALDRICH, RHODE ISLAND.

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