PENROSE STILL IN PARTY CONTROL IN PENNSYLVANIA

By Robert J. Bender
(United News Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, May 20.—Political controllers in both old parties have their hands on the levers now, ready to push through the respective conventions their choices for the nominations.

The Pennsylvania primaries, with a single noteworthy exception, have indorsed the Penrose "machine slate" of 76 delegates to the Republican convention. At the same time the A. Mitchell Palmer Democratic slate has come out victorious and the two events give the party chieftains the signal to go ahead with their plans.

SPROUL GETS LEAD

It is true the Penrose victory has what might be regarded as a spot or two on it, the first being the fact that he polled a considerably less vote, according to incomplete returns, than Governor Sproul for delegate-at-large.

In addition, W. F. Kenrick, staunch enemy of the Penrose wing of the Pennsylvania machinery, broke the "chief's slate," it appears, and even polled a bigger vote in the primary, according to incomplete returns, than Penrose himself. Taken together, these developments may prove significant later, in view of a reported difference between Penrose and Sproul over whom the Republicans should nominate.

It would appear there would be too much to be risked by Sproul in an open break with Penrose at a time when, for physical reasons, the "chief's" political leadership must of necessity be somewhat limited.

ACCEPTANCE EXPECTED

In other words, Sproul is in line to step into power when Penrose steps out, and he might lose the opportunity if he attempted to force the issue now.

So the course of Penrose toward the Republican nomination assumes vast importance. The question of the Knox candidacy, informally proposed by Penrose, is still hanging fire. Since the convention now is less than three weeks away, however, it may be expected that this uncertainty will be ended shortly with a clarification of his position by Knox. His friends believe he will accept the bid, and work already is under way on that assumption. Nevertheless, until he speaks out there is nothing that can be accepted as definite.

And General Wood's continued gains in the pre-convention work make something definite for the party leaders to work upon absolutely vital. Wood's latest acquisition is a majority, if not all, of the Vermont delegation, which probably will be instructed to follow the plurality will of the Vermont populace, voiced for Wood in the primary Tuesday. Wood also has a number of strong "second choice" supporters in the Pennsylvania delegation.

Palmer's victory gives him his first real look in on the Democratic proceedings at San Francisco. After his overwhelming defeat in the Michigan primary and his contested victory in the Georgia primary, his candidacy for the nomination had begun to slump. At the outset of the Democratic campaign he was the choice of perhaps a majority of the leaders. The gradual collapse of his boom has turned the attention of these leaders recently to Governor Cox of Ohio. And it is even doubtful that his victory in Pennsylvania will give his boom a momentum sufficient to overtake Cox now. Cox is the man many of the "bosses" have decided upon to beat W. G. McAdoo, whom they don't wish if they can avoid it.

M'ADOO GETS SLAP

The McAdoo candidacy was given a sort of back-handed slap recently by Charles F. Murphy, who seeks to control the New Jersey delegation. And Murphy is expected to have the assistance in the movement of former Senator Tom McTaggert of Indiana, Edward Boeschenstein and George Brennan of Illinois, and New Jersey and Kentucky Democratic leaders.

Frequent conferences have been held between these leaders at Taggart's well known outing resort at French Lick Springs, Indiana.

And it is regarded as significant that following one of these, William F. McCombs, former chairman of the Democratic national committee and the man who gathered in the first dollars and organized the first support for Woodrow Wilson in 1912, has just come out for Cox.

SEEK RELIABLES

Broadly speaking, the old line Democratic leaders would prefer either Cox or Palmer to McAdoo because they believe the two former would be more "reliable" from the standpoint of benefitting "organization work." McAdoo has never had any compunction about informing the curious inquirer that he would run his work as he thought best rather than as the organization demanded.

This has gone to the point where the leaders believe he would oust Chairman Homer Cummings of the national committee and put former Internal Revenue Collector Daniel L. Roper in as his campaign manager if he were nominated—and this, of course, doesn't make any great hit with the national committee, which is the real power today in Democratic politics.

McAdoo's present pre-convention campaign work is largely devoted to "boring from within." He already can claim a substantial support and vast interested work on the part of labor organizations and Democratic women. With the convention held in San Francisco, where labor and women's voting interests are both strong, there may be anticipated some strong influences in his behalf when the convention rolls around.

The nomination seems to rest between McAdoo and Cox, with Cox holding much the same strategical position in the race that Governor Lowden of Illinois holds in the Republican list.

Mobs Are Put Down in Italy

Paris, May 20. — (I. N. S.) — Violent disorders, during which the city hall was burned and members of the royal commissionary were wounded, have occurred at San Niche-Sur-Tagliamento, in Northern Italy, said a radio dispatch from Rome today. Several hundred workers took part in the demonstrations which began when they were refused two weeks' advance wages. Troops finally restored order.

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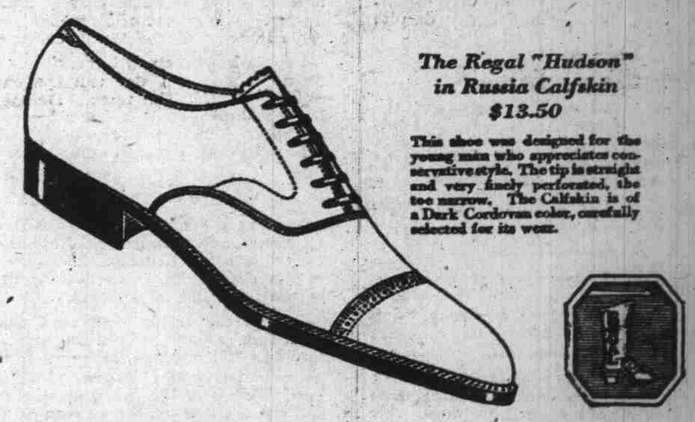

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