

CARMI THOMPSON LOOMS AS HANNA IN HARDING CAMP

By Lowell Mellett

United News Staff Correspondent
Washington, Dec. 20.—It was pretty generally agreed during the campaign by those whose business it is to tell the world what's what in politics that Senator Harding was another McKinley. This raised the question of who was or who would be his Mark Hanna. It now seems possible to name the man who will fill the place—if Harding must have a Mark Hanna.

However, there has begun to be doubt that the political setting of the next few years will afford a place for such a stellar role as the practical-minded Cleveland business man filled during McKinley's term. The question Washington observers now put to one another is: "Who will be Harding's Colonel House?" It is likewise possible to make a well supported surmise concerning the potential successor to the all-important part played by the Texas statesman—if Harding is to have a Colonel House.

THOMPSON'S INFLUENCE

The six weeks that have elapsed since the record Republican majority engulfed this land of the free and the brave seem to have revealed that the Ohio senator is quite likely to see his job through to the finish without either a Hanna or a House. That is to say, there is likely to be neither a man of the Hanna type dominating him nor one of the House type exercising a preponderant, if unselfish influence over his policies.

To take up the Mark Hanna idea first and name the man marked by every external condition for the part, he is Carmi A. Thompson of Hanna's own lakeside metropolis. The Cleveland city directory lists Thompson as a vice president of the Todd-Stambaugh company, operators of a fleet of ore-carrying vessels on the Great Lakes. A political directory probably would list him as the man who had more to do with making Harding the president-elect than any other man.

FURNISHED FUNDS

In November, 1919, months before other politicians in his own state had thought of taking Harding's prospects seriously, Thompson was urging the senator to enter the race. One of the things in Thompson stood by him through thick and thin—and it is not forgotten that it was very thin. It was said in Cleveland that he furnished the funds for the primary campaign and was the collector of large funds for the national campaign.

Ohio campaigners, such as Rud Hunkeler of Cincinnati and Harry Davis of Cleveland for example, wavered, it is alleged, but Thompson stuck. It is even declared that the wholeheartedness of Myron T. Herrick's support occasioned doubt as late as the week of the Chicago convention, to which he went as delegate at large from Ohio.

IN SELF MADE MAN

At Chicago, Thompson, in charge of Harding's headquarters in the Congress hotel, worked day and night—harder at night, perhaps—for Harding's nomination. He worked intelligently and effectively as a result of experience in three previous conventions. Harding's own estimate of Thompson's loyalty and ability can be found in the statement attributed to him that Carmi Thompson can have anything he wants now. Thompson replied to this that there is nothing he wants.

The Cleveland political genius is the son of a state miner. He worked his way through school, something of a desperate job under the conditions that faced him, and obtained an education in law. He started practice in the Ohio river town of Ironton.

NOW WEALTHY MAN

In 1904 he went to Columbus as a member of the legislature, and the following term was elected speaker of the house. His quiet geniality and his im-

partially made him a friend of Warren G. Harding, who served in the other chamber as a state senator. They have worked together in politics ever since. President Taft in March, 1911, put Thompson into office as assistant secretary of the interior to close up the wreckage of the Ballinger regime. In July, 1912, Taft made him his own secretary, where he served until November of that year, when he was made secretary of the treasury, to fill out the remainder of the administration. Out of office, he went into business, becoming general manager of the Great Northern iron properties, part of the James J. Hill interests, continuing in this capacity until 1917. Since then he has been part of the ore carrying concern of which he is now general manager, and has become independently wealthy.

Thompson has never been an outdoor campaigner. That, in the case of the Harding campaign for the nomination, was left for Harry Daugherty. In the case of the campaign for the election, it was left to Will Hays.

In the first case and the second case the men who were carrying Harding's cause to the country kept in constant touch with Thompson. Some persons on the inside phrase it even more strongly—"Daugherty and Hays took their orders from Thompson."

Thompson, not being greatly inclined to the giving of orders, it is likely that over-emphasizes the part he played. All of which perhaps reveals Carmi A. Thompson's qualifications for the place—if there is to be a Mark Hanna in the next administration.

Limitations Put On Esch-Cummins Act Were Not Intended

Miami, Fla., Dec. 20.—(I. N. S.)—The decision of the United States labor board to the effect that the Esch-Cummins transportation act does not include inter-urban or electric lines limits the scope of the act considerably more than intended by its framers, said Senator Albert B. Cummins here.

The senator said the plan of the committee which formulated the act was to include all lines engaged in freight transportation, no matter by what form of power the carriers were propelled. If the decision is as reported the act will have to be amended and its scope more definitely and clearly defined, said Senator Cummins.

Moffatt New Head Of Naval Aviation

Washington, Dec. 20.—(I. N. S.)—Secretary of the Navy Daniels announced that Captain William A. Moffatt had been appointed to succeed Captain T. T. Cravin as director of naval aviation. Captain Moffatt was until recently in command of the Mississippi with the Pacific fleet and formerly commanded the great lakes naval training station. Captain Cravin has not been given a new assignment.

Labor to Fight for Trade With Russia

Washington, Dec. 20.—(I. N. S.)—Duncan McDonald, former president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, announced here that organized labor will be called to attend nationwide mass meetings to force the opening of trade relations with Russia.

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