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CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

Following the general rule, the elections of 1898 would have gone heavily against the Republicans. Dissatisfaction with an administration usually finds expression in the first congressional election after the inauguration of the president on trial. In 1862 the Democrats made a campaign against the Lincoln administration on the conduct of the war. They reduced the Republican and Union membership in congress from 135 to 102, and increased the Democratic membership from 48 to 75. New York gave a Democratic majority on the state ticket of 10,000; Pennsylvania, 3,500; New Jersey, 14,000; Ohio, which had given Lincoln a majority of 20,000, gave a Democratic majority in 1862 of 5,557; Indiana, which had given Lincoln a majority of 23,000, gave a Democratic majority in 1862 of 9,543, and Illinois, which had given Lincoln nearly 12,000 majority in 1860, gave the Democratic candidate for state treasurer in 1862 a majority of 16,546. Had Lincoln been a candidate for re-election that year he would have been defeated.

In 1866, after Johnson had succeeded to the presidency, the uneasiness of the people was as in congress. The danger then was from the executive, and, with their hope centered in congress, the people elected 143 Republicans to 49 Democrats. Grant swept the country in 1872, but the Republicans lost control of the house in the off year of 1874. In 1876, 140 Republicans were elected to 153 Democrats. In 1878 the Republicans lost the senate and had only 130 members in the house to 149 of the Democrats. In 1880 the Republicans practically regained control of the senate and elected 147 members of the house to 135 Democrats.

In 1882 there was dissension in the Republican ranks, and the Democrats elected 196 members of congress, and the Republicans only 118. In 1884 the Democrats elected the president and 182 members of congress to 140 Republicans. In 1886 the Republicans secured control of the senate and made gains in the house—the membership standing 170 Democrats to 152 Republicans.

In 1888 the Republicans elected the president and regained control of the house by a majority of only five. In 1890, the off year, there was a Democratic landslide, and the house had 236 Democrats to 88 Republicans. In the presidential year of 1892 Cleveland was elected president, and the house had 222 Democrats to 129 Republicans. In the congressional off year of 1894 there was a Republican landslide. If Cleveland had been a candidate that year he would have been overwhelmed in defeat. The Republicans carried nearly every Northern state by heavy majorities, and elected 244 members of congress to 104 Democrats. They did not maintain this phenomenal majority in the presidential year of 1896, the Fifty-Fifth or present congress having a membership of 204 Republicans, 123 Democrats, 27 Populists, and 3 silver men.

To break down this majority of fifty-one the Democrats entered upon the same sort of a campaign in August last as was waged against Lincoln in 1862. They represented that the volunteers in Southern camps were being starved, that the sick were dying through neglect, and that the army in Cuba was being decimated through incompetence or negligence of government officials. The Democrats were assisted in this despicable work by many Republican papers, which joined in the sensation-

al campaign to excite, alarm, and distress the people.

Wherever Republicans were united on the war issue the results are very encouraging. We have lost only one state that gave its electoral vote to McKinley, and we have made gains in states like Nebraska and Kansas, carried by Bryan. In Minnesota local issues and rivalries were thrown to the front, and more than usual disaffection prevailed on account of the alleged treatment of certain regiments of the National guard sent to the front. But in most of the states the paramount issue of McKinley's policy was the one that appealed to voters. Hal McKinley been a candidate for president this year he would have, on the returns, received a larger electoral vote than in 1896.

The fact that there is a Republican majority in the house, and that the complexion of the several legislatures assures a Republican majority in the senate after the 4th of March, 1899, is most important to the future of the country. The house has little to do with treaties, but the senate may modify or reject, and thus embarrass the executive. But in this election the expansion policy has been indorsed. A treaty of peace approved by the president is likely to have the required majority in the senate, and the country will not be halted in its march toward a higher destiny.—Inter-Ocean.

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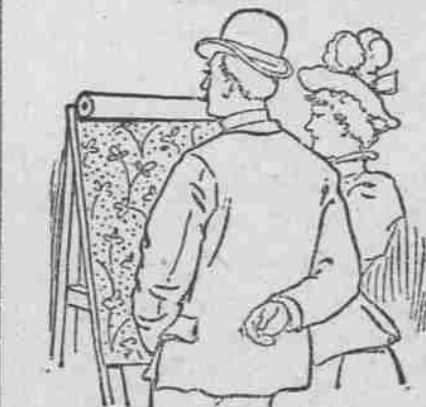
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