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MONDAY - - - MAY 1, 1896

WHY THE WEST SHOULD GET IT

Two reasons why the Western states should choose the speaker who is to be elected when the present congress opens will suggest themselves to everybody. The West has had the speakership a comparatively few times only, and has not had it at all since 1883, when Gen. Keifer, of Ohio, retired, after serving one term. The West furnished more Republican members to the present house than the East, and in the election last fall it made gains in its Republican membership in the house, while the East scored losses.

These two reasons, if standing alone, would entitle the West to the speakership at this time. But these reasons do not stand alone. The West is the progressive section of the country. The Republican party originated in the West. Until a little after the middle of the century the West was a stronghold of the Democratic party. When the Democracy committed its folly of trying to make slavery national and freedom sectional, the West broke away from that party, and formed a new party, bearing the Republican name. Then the Democracy, which was invincible so long as it commanded the support of the West, was thrown into a minority, and it has been in the minority ever since.

Everything which is enlightened and progressive in public policy manifests itself in the West earlier than it does in any other part of the country, and expresses itself more vigorously. As already intimated, the movement which defeated the Democratic conspiracy to diffuse slavery all over the territories, block emigration westward, and check the tide of civilization was defeated by the revolt of the West. It has been charged that the Democracy's base money folly, as expressed in Pendleton's "Ohio idea" in 1868 and in Bryan's 46c-dollar infamy of 1896 originated in the West. But the new and revised Ohio idea, that of 1875, under which Hayes carried that state for governor on a 100c-dollar platform killed the Pendleton folly. Under the leadership of another Ohioan Bryanism was extirpated in 1896. The movement for expansion in 1898 had its origin in the West, and from thence swept all over the country. Every policy which lives, or deserves to live, reveals itself in the Western states before it does anywhere else. In political and social matters the West gives the law to the country. The progressiveness and potency of the West has been recognized in the national conventions of the Republican party by giving almost all the candidates for the presidency to the West. The party which has always taken its presidential nominees from the West, except in the case of Blaine, has shown a sense of the importance of the West which should be supplemented more frequently by the selection of a speaker from the

same section than has been done hitherto. The West ought to get the speakership this year, and probably will get it.—Globe-Democrat.

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