

Senator La Follette, Progressives' Candidate For President

A Short Man, but Every Inch of Him Is a Fighter.

His Chief Aim to Drive the Special Interests Out of Politics.

ONE OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

THE American people love a fighter, and Senator Robert Marion La Follette is about the greatest fighter that has appeared in politics in our day. When defeated time after time he has gone on fighting. When so sick he was in a doctor's hands he has gone on fighting. When legislators have been bullied or bought away from him he has gone on fighting. When hazed in the United States senate he has gone on fighting. In fact, that is the story of his whole career—"he has gone on fighting." The opposition of the bosses or of the interests, adverse votes in the national convention of his party, lack of money or of health, vitriolic abuse—none of these has deterred him. The late Admiral Evans is not the only one entitled to the name of "Fighting Bob." With equal fitness that term could be applied, as it is being applied, to Senator Bob La Follette of Wisconsin, Progressive Republican candidate for president of the United States.

Senator La Follette may not be nominated in the Republican convention, a fact which he doubtless realizes, but if he is not he will go on fighting. He was turned down once or twice in Wisconsin before he reached the governorship, and even when he attained the goal the legislature refused to enact his reforms. Not till he had gone in the third time did he succeed in getting his whole program, but he made the battle so warm that the lawmakers had to come to him in the end.

Writes His Own Life.

Many good people thought that his proposals would play havoc with business if they were enacted into law, but these fears proved groundless, and even the corporations now admit that "La Folletteism" is not so bad as painted. They are reaping the benefits of the new system along with the people at large. Instead of its hurting the sale of their bonds these have a better market than before. So well have Senator Bob's policies worked that when he was a candidate for re-election in 1910 he had 100,000 majority, although most of the country went Democratic. This unparalleled triumph came to him when flat on his back from illness. All of which proves once more that you can't keep a good man down—provided he is a fighter.

La Follette has had to stand alone, or, rather, he has had to start alone to recruit his army. It was practically so in Wisconsin and was absolutely so in the United States senate. When he began to speak in that body the older senators left the chamber almost to a man. On one such occasion Senator "Bob" uttered the famous prophecy that the people would soon vacate permanently the seats then vacated temporarily, which is exactly what the people did as fast as these senators' terms expired.

When he entered the senate in 1906 La Follette had not a man to stand with him. Today he has more than a dozen, and during the special session he controlled the balance of power and virtually ruled the body. With the Wisconsin man standing alone has become a habit. When the average politician becomes a presidential candidate there are plenty of men eager to write his biography, but when La Follette starts a foot race for the White House he writes his own life. Been reading it? I have, and, say, I am glad he wrote it himself. That is a real story, one to make a man want to go out and hit somebody and give three cheers for the flag.

They Call Him "Bob."

In Wisconsin there are two classes of people. One side refers to the senator as "that man La Follette," and the other side calls him "Bob." It is significant that the "Bob" class has been vastly increased of late years and the "that man" bunch has dwindled correspondingly.

It is also charged that Senator La Follette has a boundless selfish ambition. The same charge has been made against almost every man that amounts to anything in the world's history. If the Wisconsin progressive has an undue amount of this quality he has taken a peculiar way to gratify it. For principle he has faced hardship, contumely and almost certain defeat when presumably he could have found a much easier and more inviting road to place and power. The interests were rewarding their own and giving them the best in the land. La Follette had already been a member of the powerful ways and means committee of the national house of representatives. With his eloquence, youth, reputation and extensive political friendships he could probably have reached almost any heights had he followed the party leaders. Yet he turned his back on all this to defy the bosses, fight the corporations and uphold the rights of the public. Was this the course that would have been followed by a man dominated alone or chiefly by selfish ambition? No; this is not an intelligible explanation of the man and his career.

In his earnestness Senator La Follette frequently lets fall the phrase "I

mean it." Have we not here the key to his character? He means what he says, means it intensely, means it not only in words, but in deeds. Emerson said, "Beware when the great God lets loose a thinker on this planet." He might also have bid us beware of the man who is in dead earnest. There is no other way to explain La Follette, his perseverance, his triumph over seemingly insurmountable obstacles, than on the theory that he is tremendously in earnest. His face, his bearing, his words and his deeds all bear out this interpretation. Such a man will go far.

Strong With the People.

How many votes will he have in the convention? That is yet purely a matter of speculation. Various newspaper correspondents have written forecasts giving him anywhere from 100 to 200, but all this is guesswork. The Wisconsin senator has behind him a nation wide organization and a tremendous sentiment among the common people. His friends are making an active campaign in his behalf. My own belief is that he will make a stronger showing in the convention than the average man now believes possible. A poll taken by the Farm and Home Magazine in all sections of the country showed the following results:

	La Follette	Roosevelt	Taft	Total
New England	153	61	112	326
Middle states	453	57	230	740
Central west	910	99	289	1,298
Western	265	19	79	353
Northwest	472	43	156	771
South	431	36	157	711
U. S. total	2,899	263	1,062	4,124

In this straw vote La Follette receives 65 per cent, Taft 25 per cent and Roosevelt 10 per cent. Polls made through other agencies show results almost as significant. The voters are going to have something to say about this nomination. In five states there are presidential primaries and means of making the public will felt in other states.

Against Special Interests.

The chief and all inclusive demand of Senator "Bob" and the Progressive league is that the special interests be driven out of politics. He believes there is a money trust which is the progenitor of the other trusts. In the beginning our government was pure, but the interests have corrupted it. Now we must bring it back to the people. This is all good doctrine, and nobody can be found who will seriously attempt to controvert it. Yet the senator is not always so general in his statements. He can be quite specific, and his remedies for these evils and the brood of lesser abuses that have grown out of them are worked out in detail by experts. Nor are his laws ever successfully attacked in the courts. La Follette is a lawyer, and he is not in the habit of enacting reforms only to have a coach and four driven through them by the first court before which they are brought.

On the tariff the Wisconsin senator demands a permanent commission reporting to congress and a downward revision schedule by schedule to the point that shall equalize cost of production at home and abroad, nor is he especially anxious about assuring a "reasonable profit to American manufacturers." He believes that manufacturers should look after their own profits. Moreover, he is in favor of making the revision speedily and giving the people relief.

Amended Railroad Law.

On the railroad question he believes in physical valuation as a basis of ratemaking. It was Senator La Follette who was instrumental in changing the administration draft of the present rate law. After he and his fellow insurgents were through with it President Taft scarcely knew his own child. It had teeth.

The initiative, referendum and recall are among the strong cards played by the senator, although these are state rather than national questions. He makes it plain that he wants the recall to apply to judges. He is likewise an ardent advocate of popular election of senators. There would be more of his kind of senators in the upper chamber if the people elected them.

During his recent tour through Ohio, Illinois and adjacent states, Senator La Follette said that the government could now be brought back to the people by the ballot, but boldly intimated that if left much longer it might require a revolution. In Illinois he charged that the panic of 1907 was manufactured by the money power and said that if he had been Roosevelt when Frick and Gary went to the White House asking to be permitted to absorb Tennessee Coal and Iron and threatening a panic if they were refused, he, La Follette, would have called their "bluff." He also made it a point to denounce the "jackpotters" in Illinois. That is his way. He usually prefers to denounce an abuse in its stronghold or a man to his face.

Senator La Follette is a farmer who farms with his own hands. One of the chief issues with people generally is as to the pronunciation of his name. Many accent it on the "lette." I

LEVEES CRUMBLE ALONG MISSISSIPPI

30,000 Persons Homeless, and Vast Area, Once Rich, is Made Desolate.

Memphis, Tenn.—Three breaks on the Mississippi occurred south of Memphis. The first was at "24-mile post," 16 miles south of Helena, Ark. Late in the afternoon the levee gave way at Laconia, 60 miles below Helena, and the levee went out at Henrico, near Laconia. The water is pouring rapidly over several hundred square miles of rich farm land.

At Columbus and Hickman, Ky., at Tiptonville and Ridgely, Tenn., at Osceola and Luxora, Ark., at Memphis and a number of other points on the river, refugees continue to arrive. In the flood district 30,000 homeless families are being cared for.

Thousands of acres of the best agricultural land in Tennessee is under several feet of water and the flooded districts will produce no crops this year. This will mean the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to farmers.

Between 1700 and 2000 square miles, including more than 500,000 acres of rich farming land in northeastern Arkansas, in the St. Francis basin, are flooded by a break in the main line of the levee system about 50 miles north of Memphis near Golden Lake, Ark.

Marked Tree, Ark., and Wilson, Ark. are inundated and many other villages are threatened. No loss of life has occurred so far as known.

Wilson Papers Stolen.

Chicago.—Burglars with undoubted political affiliations raided the rooms of Governor Wilson in the Sherman house while he was absent and stole all his private letters, vouchers, and other papers. That it was the work of political enemies is shown by the fact that valuable silver and other property in the room was untouched.

WOMEN AND RECALL WIN

Arizona House Would Grant Equal Suffrage.

Phoenix, Ariz.—Equal suffrage scored a victory in the Arizona assembly when the house, 21 to 4, passed Assemblyman Moore's bill granting women the full right of suffrage. The bill immediately was sent to the senate, where the leader announced public hearings would be held before any action was taken.

The senate, 16 to 2, passed the recall amendment to the constitution. The amendment was passed last week by the senate and sent to the house for concurrence in a few minor changes, but was recalled for the purpose of making more corrections in phraseology.

Grant Unable To Resume Command.

New York.—Major-General Frederick Dent Grant, U. S. A., commanding the eastern division of the army, with headquarters on Governor's Island, who for several weeks has been absent on leave, will not resume command of the division. General Grant has suffered an almost complete break-down in health.

Allen Kinman Is Caught.

Pittsboro, Va.—Reuben Edwards, 17 years old, another kinsman of Sidna Allen, the fugitive, was arrested, charged with aiding the outlaws to elude capture. He was locked up here with Jordan Edwards, a cousin, who was taken into custody on the same charge two days ago.

ROOSEVELT-CLARK ILLINOIS' CHOICE

Chicago.—Winners in the Illinois preferential, advisory and direct primary elections, as indicated by sufficient returns to warrant a prediction, are as follows:

For president—Theodore Roosevelt, republican; Champ Clark, democrat.

For governor—Charles S. Deneen, republican; Edward F. Dunne, democrat.

Practically complete returns from the city of Chicago and estimates based on returns from about one-half of the state vote outside of Chicago show the following total vote in the primary:

For president—republicans, Roosevelt 233,000, Taft 118,000, La Follette 37,000. Democrats, Clark 221,000, Wilson 79,500.

Presidential delegates were not named on the ballots, and will be elected by congressional districts and at large, the effect of the vote being only to serve as a guide to party officials as indicating party feeling.

even heard one man call it La Follette. It is a three syllable name and is accented on the "Fol." Senator La Follette is not a tall man; but, as previously remarked, every inch of him is a fighter.

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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WOODMERE
—Services and sermon at 4 p. m., every Sunday. Sunday School at 9:00 a. m. Communion service, on second Sunday of each month. Dr. Van Water and Rev. Oswald W. Taylor.

LENTS BAPTIST CHURCH—First Avenue, near Foster Road. Rev. J. N. Nelson, pastor. Sunday School 10 a. m. Preaching 11 a. m., and 7:30 p. m. B. Y. P. U. meets at 8:30. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30.

SWEDISH LUTHERAN MEETING—Held every Sunday at 10:30 a. m., and in the evening at the Chapel at corner of Woodbine street and First avenue. Rev. B. S. Nyström, pastor. SWEDISH METHODIST CHURCH, ANAKIL—Scandinavian Sunday School at 11 a. m. Bible study and prayer meeting Friday at 8 p. m. Scandinavian people cordially invited and welcomed.

GRACE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, LENTS—Preaching Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday School every Sunday at 10 a. m. Young Peoples' Alliance every Sunday at 6:30 p. m. Prayer meeting and Bible study each Wednesday evening. Special music. All cordially welcome. Rev. Conklin, pastor.

LENTS FRIENDS CHURCH—South Main St. South School 10:30 a. m. Service 11:30 a. m. Christian Endeavor 6:30 p. m. Evangelistic service 7:30. Prayer meeting Wednesday 7:45 p. m. Myra B. Smith, pastor.

LENTS M. E. CHURCH—Corner of 7th Ave. and Gordon St. Sunday School 10:30 a. m. Services at 11:00 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Epworth League 6:30. Prayer meeting Thursday evening of each week. All most cordially invited. Rev. W. Boyd Moore, pastor.

TREMONT UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH—62nd Ave. 6th St. S. E. Sunday School at 10:30 a. m. Preaching 11:30 a. m. Christian Endeavor 6:30 p. m. Preaching 7:30 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday 7:30 p. m. Mrs. Lynn, pastor.

MILLARD AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Levi Johnson, pastor. Residence 6921-3 Lenoxy St. Services, Sunday School at 10 a. m. Morning Worship 11 a. m.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH—Saturday Sabbath School 10 A.M. Saturday Preaching 11 A.M. Sunday Missionary Meeting 6:30 P.M. Sunday Preaching 7:30 P.M.; Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:30 P.M. All welcome to these meetings. C. J. Cummings, Pastor, residence 98 East 4th St. Phone Tabor 3621.

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