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WHO IS IT TO BE?

Blaine, Arthur, Edmunds, Gresham.

CHICAGO—Eve of the convention, John C. New is the chief functionary of the convention here. He occupies a cordial position towards all the candidates and is a man of good address and common sense. I take the liberty of quoting him in a brief talk I had with him yesterday, as nearly as I can recollect:

"Why do you think Blaine not liable to get the nomination?" I asked.

"Because," said Mr. New, "his very merits seem to be out of fashion this year. All say he would make a brilliant administration, and that's what the business classes are afraid of. The times are ticklish, and the quiet of Arthur's administration seems to be desired. I have no doubt myself but that Blaine has the heart of the Republican party. Its rural population thinks more of him. There will be some disappointment if he is not nominated, but Arthur holds the fortunate position of one already in the place, who will not require to make any changes that will shake things up. The country has fallen into accord with his tone. I am not making an argument for him, but only showing you why it looks to me like Arthur's nomination."

THE INDIANA RIVALRY.

"Mr. New, what is the extent of this competition in Indiana between Secretary Gresham and Senator Harrison?"

"Why, there's nothing there except the natural ambition of two prominent men and their supporters. We have no divisions in Indiana. Harrison was our candidate for governor and became our senator. Gresham was the United States judge and had been an aspirant for the senate. He has excellent qualities, but he is an imperious man. I will not say that Harrison is one of the greatest men in the world, but he is a very good lawyer and his qualities are steady and lasting. Gresham is more ambitious than Harrison. His ambition is of a more decided sort, and his warmer type starts it up at unruly times. Either man would have the support of the majority, if it became a clear case either could get the presidential nomination. If outside delegates come to Indiana and say, 'We will go for Gresham,' or if we saw the tide turning towards Harrison, not a voice would be lifted against either man getting the vote of the state."

A DIVIDED DELEGATION.

"How does the delegation stand?"

"It stands twenty-three votes for Harrison and twenty-seven for Blaine. You may here to the contrary, that is the fact. The first choice for an Indiana man in that delegation shows Harrison altogether in the lead."

"How does the delegation from Indiana stand?"

"It is divided up between Arthur, Blaine, John Sherman, General Sherman, Logan and others. I think General Sherman has two votes in the delegation."

"What do you think about the time the convention will stay here?"

"I have an idea that it will nominate on Thursday, and if there is no nomination on the fourth ballot, I think we shall stay here at least till Saturday. If it becomes apparent that neither Arthur nor Blaine can be nominated, and that Arthur will not transfer his vote to anybody, then you may look out for a long convention and a good many ballots."

"Do you think Lincoln's name is as prominent as it was?"

"No, I think there never was much in it. Outside sentiment toward the young man is all correct enough, but when you come down to putting before the people a ruler you must take high experience of some kind. A man must have been in the senate, a governor, a general, or something, and have shown other qualities than a pleasant business capacity. The contest is to be a very hard one."

"You are not then prepared to say that any man is sure of the nomination?"

"No; I have thought it leaned toward Arthur. That is merely my opinion. I have supposed that Blaine, with a very large popular and party support, would start off well and perhaps fall finally. It may be a new quantity and a good many people think it will be some third person."

VIEWS OF BLAINE'S MANAGERS.

I was in the Blaine headquarters yesterday, which are kept by three territorial men—Stephen Elkins, formerly of New Mexico; Tom Donaldson, formerly an officer of Idaho, and Mr. Keats. Elkins is a western boy, who went to New Mexico and engaged in business and politics, and when he came to congress Blaine treated him very kindly, and Elkins has always stood by him. They have had no business relations. Mr. Elkins told me that Blaine would begin with about 330 votes and Arthur with perhaps 280 votes. Figuring on this, I found that he admitted about 213 votes to be independent or doubtful. Now, making allowances for the votes that Blaine will lose after a ballot or two, I think it probable that there may be 250 independent votes in this convention, and if they can be organized against Arthur, as they are already against Blaine, they may decide the day. There is a slight probability that when the break comes a large vote will go to Blaine. But it seems more probable that Blaine will first be beaten by Arthur and the independent votes of the north in the Democratic cities of the north in the Republican minority represented here. Mr. Blaine represents the open districts, where the generous Republican vote is given. It is this to be a party convention, he will get the nomination, in my judgment."

"The eastern wing of the independent"

partly small portion of men who were in the convention of 1880 and were brought over to Grant and Sherman between the two forces of money and Sherman's appointments in the south. That is another element of weakness this year for the administration."

GOOD NEWS.

"Do you get any better advice from the wavering states, like Michigan and Minnesota?"

"Yes, we get good news from Michigan—that our men are going to stick for Blaine. I will tell you another thing that may interest you, and if you will come up stairs I will give you the dispatch. I was wired this forenoon from New York that when the Union League committee counted noses they found a majority of it for Blaine, and, therefore, they are not going to come. It was designed to serve Arthur's purposes, but failed of that object again. I have a telegram that they are having the hardest time in the world to get enough business men to make up that committee designed to come here and work for Arthur. A good many of the business men there are afraid to turn their backs on New York lest they might burst."

"Do you expect him to be nominated, Mr. Elkins?"

"I think he is sure to be nominated," Mr. Elkins continued. "These gentlemen who expect to have better results in government by forcing into the presidency some man without a great popular following should look at the result of four years ago. Three strong men came before the convention, and then, as now, Blaine had the popular support. Sherman was backed by the administration and the army. They were determined to kill Blaine, as they are now. In his place we got a president, gentle and excellent enough, yet not the man they expected, and I attribute the tragedy to the terrible quarrel in the senate, and the disruption of the Republican party for a time in many of the states to nothing but that interjection of a person not designated for the place. It produced that disturbance in political things that the advent of some new animal would in the social world. All things had to violently reshape themselves to him and we had confusion unparalleled, and out of it has come this candidate for president, Mr. Arthur. For myself, I am quite tired of coming to these conventions to see dark horses like Hayes and Garfield brought forward by the convention system, if it grows to be a recording of the drawing of lotteries, instead of a popular expression, will fall into disfavor and leave the selection of our presidents to a much less safe system."

"GRESHAM AND HARRISON."

"Mr. Elkins, what is there in this Indiana contest?"

"Why," said he, "both Gresham and Harrison have got the presidential bee in their bonnets. Gresham has got it bad, and has been working among his Indiana friends to be supported here. If he has written a letter saying that his friends must not put him forward, but support Arthur, then he has been found out."

"Well," said I, "how are you to meet the argument that is putting out that Blaine cannot carry New York?"

"We are going to meet it from New York itself. Here will come our delegates from New York, about half the whole delegation, representing all the strong Republican districts. They will say to these gentlemen: 'There is no finching about us. Blaine is the only man who can carry New York. Your man Arthur cannot do it.'"

"Said I, 'Now tell me what you really hope.'"

"Why, my friend," said Mr. Elkins, following me into the hall, "if I did not think Blaine's chances were first-class for this nomination I would pull him out this very day."

RENEWED CONFIDENCE.

This morning I encountered Mr. Elkins and Mr. Donaldson, the Blaine managers, on the ground again, when they were fresh out of their boots. Elkins said to me, with a very bright face: "This thing is all right. All our advisers are promising better and better. I think that you can depend upon it that Blaine is going through this time. I took out of my pocket and showed Mr. Donaldson, who was standing by, the following estimates, which I said had been given to me by a newspaper man as President Arthur's own tally of the vote on the first ballot: Blaine, 351; Arthur, 297; Logan, 59; Edmunds, 80; Sherman, 24; Lincoln, 11; in the field, 17. The president said that on the second ballot 100 votes would come over to him, giving him nearly 380, not enough to nominate him. His idea is that his vote will go on increasing, and on one of the following ballots he will get the nomination. Mr. Donaldson, in reply to that, said: 'We count for Blaine only 341 votes on the first ballot. That we are positively sure of, leaving out Virginia, but Mr. Arthur counts too surely on his southern votes. He thinks he has all the votes of Georgia, where we know we have three for Blaine. He will have four from Mississippi and four from North Carolina. Virginia has a contest and we shall certainly get a portion there.'"

"Yes," said Mr. Elkins, "the only point with the office-holders, of whom there are a hundred from the south in this convention, is about their bread and butter. The moment they see the vote begins to waver and go to Blaine they will shoot."

"But," said I, "cannot Arthur turn them out in the remaining months of his term if they disappoint him?"

"Oh, no; there the civil service rules come in. He would have to send the name of each of these men to the senate to turn them out. The fear of these office-holders is of not being in favor of the candidate who is to get the nomination and who will displace the offices for four years more."

Said I, "Is there any corruption fund here, Mr. Donaldson?"

"No. At the last convention there was a large pile of money. This year the rich men are out of the way. Morton, who was bled so badly, is in France and many of them have burnt up. There will be no money used this time, and it is a better convention than the last and it has a com-

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