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ATHENA, ORE., JULY 19, 1912

It is the opinion of a leading political writer, that Woodrow Wilson will make a stronger candidate, and if elected, a better President than any of the other men in nomination before the Baltimore convention, cannot be thoughtfully disputed; and it is not seriously denied anywhere outside the circles of those whose enthusiasms were otherwise enlisted. His independence has been proved under the most trying circumstances. His progressivism has endured the best of tests. His popular strength was demonstrated at the primaries to be greater than that of any of his adversaries. For purely party purposes, others might have been preferred, men whose boast it is that they have always been loyal to the Democratic machine; but for this transition period in the affairs of mankind, when old things are passing away and all things political are becoming new, not only in the United States but throughout the civilized world, Woodrow Wilson is as nearly as possible an ideal candidate. To few other men could William J. Bryan have transferred his well worn and untainted commission from the democratic Democracy as their leader in the irrepressible conflict of masses against classes, with equal confidence in the new leader's fidelity; to none other could he have done so with as much confidence in the new leader's triumph at the polls next November. It remains now for Wilson to execute that commission with Bryan's faithfulness and courage. Should he measure up to this standard, he will secure for himself that devotion of the masses which only three democratic leaders besides Bryan have won in the whole history of the United States.

One of our exchanges, independent in politics, remarks: "Mr. Roosevelt stood sponsor for Mr. Taft in 1908 and on his recommendation and indorsement Mr. Taft became president of the United States. Mr. Taft's nomination which occurred recently at Chicago is also accredited to Mr. Roosevelt for had he 'flung away ambition' and thrown his strength to LaFollette Taft would not have received the nomination. Now a third party is planned by Mr. Roosevelt. This can only result in one thing and that is the election of Mr. Taft. The third party will divide the progressive vote in both parties and leave Mr. Taft the solid old line republican vote which it is claimed will be sufficient to elect. Thus it is seen that Mr. Taft has been, is now and will be the creature of Mr. Roosevelt's acts. There is no particular objection to it except that if the people desire the election of Mr. Taft it ought to be done directly and not in a round about way."

The false note at Baltimore was "harmony." The value and the virtue of harmony depend upon the elements to be harmonized; and all that "harmony" meant at Baltimore was Democratic harmony—the harmony of men and interests with nothing in common except a party label and a hunger for office. Harmony among men who regard the Belmonts and Harveys and Ryans and Sullivans and Harste as faithful Democrats, and those who believe in Bryan and Wilson and their kind, is a sham. Who cares whether the Democratic party displaces the Republican party in power, if the interests are to own the harvesters as they have owned the out-lookers? Nobody outside of the pie-counter brigade. By all means, let's have harmony; but let's have it between believers in democracy, not pretenders but believers. Between democrats and plutocrats, the more discord the better.

The plan of the Ottawa government to take into camp this summer about 40,000 growing boys from different provinces and give each of them a full week of camp life, with drilling and rifle practice, is especially interesting as an entering wedge for a policy that would quickly create a straight shooting fighting reserve of immense value for defense or aggression in an emergency.

The ousting of Lorrimer is the quietus to the system of buying seats in the United States Senate. It took nearly two years of protest to unseat the Illinois senator who got his toga

through the sinister and secret process of bribery and legislative manipulation in putting men in the Senate to represent the special privilege class. The vote of 55 to 25 against Lorrimer, as against 46 to 40 in his favor 18 months ago, shows what the Oregon system of electing senators will accomplish. The system had in 18 months extended to other states in various forms, with the result that 16 senators who had voted to retain Lorrimer in the senate had been repudiated and were back to civil avocations when Saturday's roll call was answered. Thus is the value of progressive government confirmed.

If the democratic house committee on interstate commerce will only keep its ear to the ground it will discover that the business bodies of the United States are taking very great interest in the Panama canal. And they have ideas, too, have these business bodies, concerning its management and the policy to be pursued.

Speaker Clark and his friends don't seem to realize that the very nature of their assaults upon Bryan goes to prove that Bryan performed a public duty in securing Wilson's nomination.

**Plucking Sheep.**  
The pure bred sheep in Shetland are not shorn, but plucked. The process takes place generally in June, when the fleece is "ripe" and the silky wool can be pulled off without pain. This is called "rooing" and is much less damaging to the young fiber than clipping with shears. The wool when thus handled retains its peculiar softness, so that any one of experience can tell whether the material of a knitted article has been plucked or shorn. It ripens first upon the neck and shoulders, so that sheep half plucked resemble in some sort a poodle that is clipped. We must suppose that harsher handling prevailed at one time, for we read that in 1616 the Scottish privy council spoke of the custom as still kept up "in some remote and uncivil places," and James I. wrote to tell them that it had been put down in Ireland under penalty of a fine. Upon this they passed an act on March 17, 1616, deploring the destruction of sheep thus caused and imposing similar fines on those who should persist in the practice.

**Cleanliness and Arsenic.**  
In Styria and Carinthia there is much arsenic eating among the peasants. The women take it to give themselves a good complexion and to make their hair fine and glossy. The men take it because they believe that it gives them wind in climbing in the chase after chamois. In Styria and Carinthia it is known that an arsenic eater can never be broken of the habit and that if arsenic be compulsorily kept from the eater death rapidly ensues. It is believed in the Tamar and this is perhaps true—that an arsenic worker is fit for no other work. He must remain at this occupation. Health and breath fall him at other employments. Eventually it may be that chronic arsenical poisoning ensues. But this may be stayed off, if not wholly prevented, by scrupulous cleanliness, by care taken not only to wash in the "changing house," but to bathe freely at home. As one of the foremen said to the writer, "Against arsenic the best antidote is soap taken externally."—Chambers' Journal.

**A Piscatorial Gunner.**  
The jaculator fish, the piscatorial gunner of the Javan lakes, uses his mouth as a squirt gun and is a marksman of no mean ability. Go to a small lake or pond filled with specimens of jaculators, place a stake or pole in the water with the end projecting from one to three feet above the surface, place a beetle or fly on top of the pole and await developments. Soon the water will be swarming with tiny gunners, each anxious for a shot at the tender morsel which the experimenter has placed in full view. Presently one comes to the surface, steadily observes his prey and measures the distance. Instantly he screws his mouth into the funniest shape imaginable, discharges a stream of water with precision equal to any sharpshooter and knocks the fly or beetle into the water, where he is instantly devoured by the successful Nimrod or some of his hungry horde. This sport may be kept up as long as the supply of beetles and flies holds out.

**The Air Mile.**  
The air mile is a unit of measurement that came into use with the advancement of aviation. We have the land mile and the sea mile, which is approximately one-seventh longer than the land mile of America. The nautical mile is often incorrectly called a knot, but a knot is a measure of both distance and time. It is correct to say that a vessel makes ten knots, but to say that she makes ten knots an hour is tautology. The air mile is measured differently from the land mile and the sea mile. It is a land mile minus the retardation of an adverse wind or plus the acceleration of a favoring wind. Thus an aviator could cover many air miles while hovering over a given point on the earth's surface.—Browning's Magazine.

**Watching Sponges Grow.**  
Outside the harbor of Sfax, Tunisia, in the shallow water of the clear Mediterranean, is situated a biological laboratory for the study of sponges. It is one of the most unique in the world and affords opportunity for observing the development of the sponge from tiny larva, so small that it can only be studied under a microscope until five years later it has developed into a perfect sponge.

"The little son of the hostess is mighty ugly, isn't he?"  
"Do you think so?"  
"He certainly doesn't take after his mother. Must look like his father."  
"His mother says he does. I'm his father."—Houston Post.

**NEW TALES THAT ARE TOLD**

**He Took No Chances.**  
E. J. Ridgway, magazine publisher, accepted an invitation to luncheon with Representative "Chimmie Fadden" Townsend. Then he asked permission to switch the program so that he would be the host at the New Willard and the author-congressman the guest. The luncheon was exceptionally good, and when it was over Townsend said:



"I'LL TELL YOU HOW IT HAPPENED," HE SAID.  
he would like to ask why Ridgway had changed the plan so as to be host instead of guest.

"I'll tell you how it happened," he said. "Yesterday I was the guest of a United States senator who is very wealthy, and he gave me mush and milk for luncheon. I figured that if mush and milk were the best a millionaire senator could do I had better not take any chances on a member of the house who is not known to be financially strong."

**A Tribute to Genius.**  
Carl Carey Anderson represents the Thirteenth Ohio district in the house. He is so popular his constituents name children after him.  
Mr. Anderson, who is only thirty-five, prides himself on having more children named after him than Abraham Lincoln had in the heyday of his popularity. Anderson says there are more Carl Carey Andersons in his district than Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft combined. Recently Anderson got an old soldier a pension. The soldier wrote to the congressman: "I haven't got any baby and I don't expect to have any more, so I can't name one after you. But I just bought a beautiful parrot and I named it Carl Carey Anderson."—New York World.

**FIDDLING BOB AS A FINANCIER.**  
How Senator Taylor Proved His Qualifications.

When the Democrats of Tennessee were running up and down the state in a desperate search for a suitable candidate for the governorship on their ticket the name of Senator Bob Taylor was mentioned. By some idea of nominating Taylor was received with wild enthusiasm, but one faction of the Democrats let out this cry: "Give the state a business governor and a business government. What does Taylor know about business?" Taylor, it may be mentioned, is one of the grandest performers on the fiddle since the time of Nero, and he is not regarded as a deep student of business.  
He was nominated and took the stump in an effort to convince the people that he should be elected. In a little town where he was billed to speak his attention was called to an article in a newspaper which claimed that he was inexperienced in the intricacies of finance and was unfit to undertake the work of funding the state debt during his term if he should be elected. To this Taylor made the following reply:  
"This paper says I should not be elected on the ground that I know nothing about finance or the funding of the state debt. My friends, what is the funding of the state debt but taking up one note and putting down another? I have no hesitation in declaring that I am eminently qualified for that work. I have been doing it for myself all my life."—Popular Magazine.

**A Dubious Compliment.**  
Judge Orrin N. Carter, chief justice of the Illinois supreme court, told the following story at the fifth annual banquet of the Traffic club of Chicago: "Down in Missouri a few years ago a man who was about to declare himself as a candidate for judge asked a colored constituent to vote for him. 'You see my second choice, judge,' answered the colored man. 'Who's your first choice, Uncle Tom?' asked the prospective candidate. 'Anybody who can beat you,' was the unexpected reply."—Chicago Tribune.

**Wilson's Aggressiveness.**  
(Jamestown (N. Y.) Journal)  
As time rolls around the indications are pointing more strongly to the nomination of Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey as the Democratic candidate for president. He appears to be gaining strength in states and districts where a few weeks ago his case was regarded as hopeless, and unless there is a sweeping change in the trend of Democratic politics Governor Wilson will go into the Baltimore convention with a very strong following if not an absolute control of the situation.

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