

Senator Burton the Man to Lead Republican Party to Victory

His Nomination For President Will Harmonize and Solidify All
Factions—Great Record In House and Senate Part of Recent
American History—Comes From Section Which Will Be
Storm Center of Coming Contest.



HON. THEODORE E. BURTON OF OHIO.

FOR nearly two years the war in Europe has affected world history like a partial eclipse of the sun. It is as if the spot-light of the solar system were turned upon the area of battle-fields, while all the other nations stood like spectators at a moving-picture show, watching in darkness.

The attention of all peoples outside the realm of conflict being thus fascinated by the awful scene, their own affairs have seemed trivial, and have been neglected or forgotten in the hushed thrill that has held the heart of the world.

This phenomenon alone can account for the fact, obvious to every one in the United States, that the approaching presidential campaign has not developed an appreciable fraction of the interest and agitation which usually prevail for many months before the meeting of the great party conventions. Usually the political temperature in America begins to rise about a year before each recurring national campaign, reaches fever heat about the time of the conventions, and shows boiling blood before the election. In this year, 1916, the popular mood that ordinarily would have been manifest in January, is barely discernible in May. The whole political season is backward. But, for this very reason, we may well expect that from now on there will be a quick-step in the march of events, to make up for past lagging, and by the time the conventions are over, the American people will be ready for the full swing of our quadrennial contest. Even the European war will then drop back to second place; and this for two reasons, first, because the political campaign, by the sheer insistence of issues that can no longer be postponed, will crowd its way to the front; and second, because, as the English writer H. G. Wells so aptly puts it, the conflict abroad has passed the stage of initial onset and reached the period of drag, when the result is to be determined rather by endurance than by impact, and by standstills are always more interesting in a quick assault than in a prolonged tug.

Contest Unique In American History.

The conventions of the two great parties are now immediately before us. Every day and every hour quickens the interest, reveals new phases of the situation and presages a contest unique in American history. Already Congress is restless, and the leaders of both parties are considering an early adjournment, or, at least, a recess, until after the nominations are made at Chicago and St. Louis. But more unusual and significant than any other aspect of the situation is the fact that the mind of the whole country is intent upon one convention only. This is true for the first time within the experience of the present generation. While it has several times happened in recent years that the candidate of one party or the other was a foregone conclusion many months in advance of the nomination, there has been, at least, an interest in the platform or in some other incident of the convention. For example, the second nomination of Cleveland in 1888 was assured, while the probable Republican nominee was a riddle; yet both conventions attracted the liveliest concern, because it was not known how far the Democrats would follow their leader's declaration for a radical revision of the tariff. So in 1896, while the probable choice of the Democrats remained a mystery until the day of the convention, the Republicans were not without interest in the nomination of McKinley, who was chosen by acclamation.

That there will be a good fight no shrewd observer doubts. That defeat is possible, even that there are chances to make it certain, every frank and disinterested party man will admit. That victory is assured if there is a unanimous choice of the whole Republican sentiment of the country, all Republicans and all Democrats know.

Necessary Qualifications.

In such an emergency who is the best man to nominate? It is easier to describe his type than to find his name.

First: The Republican nominee must be a man experienced in public affairs. He must know world politics, and he must be skilled in domestic legislation. There is nothing so dangerous to the fortunes of a democracy, or indeed of any other government, as a theorist in power. No man whose habits of life have been shaped from presidential affairs can wholly lead or interpret popular opinion. It is the man who knows men, who has been trained and disciplined by years of service in the business of government, and particularly in the exacting school of national legislation, who makes the best candidate and the best president.

Second: He must be well known. This year of all years would be a bad time for experiments. The character and the career of the Republican nominee must be an open book. But even this is not sufficient. However well known he may be it is more important, still, that his views should be well known. On all the great problems that now confront us the people will want to know where he stands and what he stands for.

Third: He must be firm and safe. No one can tell what the next four years will bring forth. The whole world is in flames, and the sparks are flying in our direction. Today is more critical than yesterday, and tomorrow may require a steadier hand than today. There was never a time when clear thinking and fixed purpose were so essential to American honor and security. If the threat of war increases, Republicans must present a candidate who prefers peace and who will not impulsively embroil us, but who will never flinch or falter in the face of danger. If war comes, he must be one to whom the people can entrust the military power of the government with the fullest assurance that it will be used only to defend the sovereignty of the United States.

Need Big Man After War.

Fourth: He must understand American business and finance. When the war in Europe ends there will be greater need than ever before in our history for a skillful, experienced and sympathetic handling of the financial and industrial interests of the country. The sudden exigency will require rare foresight to prevent disaster and prompt adjustments to meet new conditions with advantage to American commerce. The United States will be the richest of all nations and the greatest of all creditors; while the rest of the civilized world will be ready to make any sacrifice to regain lost markets. Such a situation will call at once for practical, hard-headed knowledge of finance, and common sense appreciation of the interests and opportunities of American capital and labor.

Fifth: He must be a broad-gauged Republican. The nominee at Chicago, next month, must be satisfactory to all substantial elements of the party. His record must be such that both conservatives and progressives can trust and support him. On three occasions only has the Republican party been defeated since the Civil War, and each time the defeat was caused by a nomination forced upon a large and protesting minority. The fact is that there has never been a time from the day the first Republican was elected President in 1860 down to the present hour when the principles of the Republican party were not held by a clear majority of the people. In 1884 when Blaine, the idol of the party, went down in defeat; in 1892 when Harrison failed of reelection and in 1912 when the party was split over the re-nomination of Taft, the real cause of the result was not an abandonment of Republican principles, but dissatisfaction with the Republican candidate. The lesson is well learned. It will not have to be repeated. Far-sighted Republicans everywhere appreciate this fact. They will come to the convention resolved to choose that candidate who possesses, first, the highest qualifications for the office, and next, the greatest availability—that is, the power to command the full strength of the party and to attract the support of that great body of independent citizens of all parties who desire a change in the national administration.

These are the five essentials. Who is the man who best meets every test? Thoughtful Republican leaders in all parts of the country, as well as the rank and file whose composite judgment is fast taking form, have been giving this question the most sober and earnest consideration.

One thing is assured. The Chicago convention will be a deliberative body. There is a serious resolve, manifested in all elements of the party, to take counsel together and nominate the best and strongest man—not only the one who will poll the largest vote and satisfy the expectations of the greatest number, but who will harmonize, solidify and strengthen the party. Already a process of elimination, having regard for no individual preferences, influenced by no pride of section or partiality of leadership, has been quietly going on throughout the country.

Senator Burton Man of Hour.

Out of this process there is gradually emerging the name of one man around whom the whole party could rally, who would satisfy every element, meet every requirement, and carry the Republican standard to victory.

That man is Theodore E. Burton of Ohio.

Senator Burton is experienced in public affairs. He is known from one end of the land to the other and his position on every public question is as well known as his name, for his great record in the House and Senate are a part of recent American history. He is firm in character and safe in judgment. He understands American business and finance, for his work in national legislation has made him easily the leading authority on these questions. He is a broad-gauged Republican whom every member of the party from every section of the country could support with enthusiasm and without reserve.

More than this, Senator Burton comes from the very heart of that section which will be the storm center of the coming contest. The states of the mid-

dle west have always been essential to Republican success, and the issues in the present campaign make this fact more important than ever before.

Senator Burton has no superior on the stump. He would make a campaign that would arouse the finest spirit of the party. He is fearless, vigorous and a master of political debate. Ever since he entered the House of Representatives to fight side by side with William McKinley, twenty-five years ago, for the chief tenet of Republican faith, he has been, in Congress and out, a conspicuous leader of the party in all the practical problems of government, and his record upon tariff legislation, international affairs, the improvement of rivers and harbors, the support of the army and navy, the strengthening of the banking and currency systems, and the insistence upon honesty and economy in the public service, is a platform in itself.

Senator Burton is a staunch party man—an earnest believer in political organization and responsibility, and he would not only unite all Republicans in the present campaign but he would keep them united during his term of office, and he would leave the party stronger in power and more effective in the performance of its great duties than ever before.

In surveying the whole field on the eve of the most momentous Republican convention since 1860, if not since the birth of the party, the conviction is growing throughout the country that the wisest choice that could be made at Chicago is Theodore Burton of Ohio. —The Lawyer and Banker, New Orleans.

HUMAN SIDE OF SENATOR BURTON

Many Anecdotes Related of the Ohio Statesman.

One result of Senator Theodore E. Burton's being mentioned so prominently in the papers is that several times each week he receives letters from college and high school students in different parts of the country asking him to help them in preparation for debates. He always makes it a rule when his engagements will permit to help students by suggesting arguments and giving them the results of his public service. However, a few days ago he received a letter from a student in a normal school in one of the northern states suggesting a most interesting arrangement. The young lady wrote him that she was about to enter a prize contest and she had chosen for her subject a question on which he was regarded as a particular authority. She proposed that if he would write her essay and it was awarded the prize she would divide it with him fifty-fifty. He sent her his regrets that he was unable to accept her proposition.

Senator Burton is a prodigious worker, and the light in his study can always be seen burning far into the small hours of the night. He says that he is able to pursue his studies to these late hours by always retiring for an hour late in the afternoon.

One afternoon President Taft wanted to consult with Senator Burton on the telephone and was connected with the Rochambeau exchange. The Rochambeau operator informed the president of the United States that Senator Burton was asleep and she could not disturb him.

Mr. Taft replied, "But this is President Taft, who wants to speak to Senator Burton."

She answered: "I can't help it. I couldn't call him even if it were the king of England."

President Taft told this story on Mr. Burton at the next White House dinner that Mr. Burton attended.

Senator Burton is a practical anti-race suicidist. Inexplicable to his friends as it is that he has never married he is the personification of devotion and tenderness to children.

When he was in the senate he had an appointment to a position at his disposal. There was a score of applicants. Out of the number he selected for appointment a man with a family of seven children.

"The man needs it," said the senator. "He is doing more for his country and the next generation than any of us."

Senator Burton, who cannot bring himself to stick to the principle of organized charity as against open handed, indiscriminate giving, but who has a firm determination not to be imposed upon, recently had this experience: He was accosted by a man who declared he was hungry and needed a quarter. Senator Burton replied: "My friend, I don't want to see any man go hungry. Just come with me to a restaurant and I will buy you something to eat."

"Aw, I want a quarter; I don't want none of your charity," the man replied.

Consulted by Roosevelt.

When Theodore Roosevelt was president he often consulted Theodore E. Burton, particularly on matters of conservation. Roosevelt appointed Burton chairman of the inland waterways commission, and the senator was afterward chairman of the national waterways commission, both having for their object the conservation of the waters of the country to be used for irrigation and navigation. Roosevelt and Burton did not always agree, but the president had a profound respect for Burton's opinion and advice.

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