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BY HOFER BROS.

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The Rise and Fall of Odell.

(From the New York Evening Sun.)

The passing of Benjamin B. Odell, Jr.—and well informed Republicans say that he is down and out, not for a little while, but for all time—marks the end of a peculiar career in politics. For a little time Odell was the most thorough boss the Republican party in this state has ever known, and today there are few members of the party so low as to do him reverence. Of his career in politics it may be said with truth that he went up like a rocket and came down like a stick.

Odell came out of the obscurity of the ice and grocery business in Newburg some 14 years ago as a member of the Republican state committee. His father had served several terms as mayor of Newburg, and the family was in charge of the local Republican machine.

Young "Ben" was then vigorous, aggressive and a good handshaker. He was always cordial and good natured in manner. He soon won the entire confidence of Senator Platt, the state leader. He presented new ideas and plans of campaigns, and most of them proving good, he was soon made chairman of the executive committee at the request of Senator Platt. In that office he was on the job every minute and constantly extending his acquaintance throughout the state. He was then sent to congress, where he served two terms without distinction, good or bad, except that he was known as a "good fellow."

When the late Charles W. Hackett, who had been chairman of the state committee for a number of years, died Odell succeeded to th office without opposition. He was the personal choice of Senator Platt. As state chairman he relieved Senator Platt, as far as possible, of all routine work and continued to grow in the good graces of the senator.

At the republican state convention in 1896, there were a number of candidates for the nomination of governor. Odell was the personal choice of Senator Platt, but at a conference the night before the nomination was made the senator said to let all the candidates go into the convention and receive a complimentary vote. With the backing of Platt, Odell would have won under the plan. But at 9 o'clock the following morning Lou Payn, Jacob Worth, Elward Lauterbach and other leaders held a secret meeting and arranged a combination in favor of Frank S. Black. When the facts were made known to Senator Platt he advised Odell to step aside in the interest of harmony, and Black was nominated.

In 1898 Colonel Roosevelt was the logical candidate, and Platt and Odell supported his nomination. In 1900 they succeeded in side tracking Roosevelt to the candidacy for vice president, and Odell was nominated for governor without opposition. When elected he continued for a time to be a "good fellow." His first message to the legislature was approved by nearly all the newspapers in the state. He continued for a time to consult Platt in all political matters.

But long before the end of his first term Odell was burrowing in all directions, and secretly undermining Senator Platt and his friends to build up a political machine of his own. He was renominated in 1902, and after an exciting campaign, in which came the first disclosures of how he mixed politics and business in his own interest, he was re-elected by a scant 8000 plurality.

From the day that he was inaugurated for his second term Benjamin Odell was a changed man. He became arrogant and aggressive. He ceased to burrow like a mole in politics and adopted the methods of a Dooley raider, sledgehammer and axes. He ruled the legislature with a rod of iron, but did not neglect his private business. The governor ceased to confer with Senator Platt and refused every request made by the man who created him in politics and public life. During the session of the legislature no man or corporation could get a bill passed without the consent of Odell. It was known that he was determined to make the Republican party of the state his personal property. He continued to deceive Senator Platt until it was too late for the senator to make a successful fight to retain the leadership.

Odell first reorganized the New York county committee, put out most of the Platt men and took personal possession of it. Then he got control of the state committee, put out Colonel Dunn, Platt's lifelong friend, and took the chairmanship himself, while still governor. But he was making lifelong enemies by his disloyalty at every step advanced.

He violated the confidence of a conference at the White House and the President would see him no more. That was the first step in his downward career. He tried to capture Kings county, and Leader Woodruff defied him and won. His open and flagrant treachery to Frank S. Black as the instance of E. H. Harriman is too well remembered to require repitition.

From that time to the present Boss Odell has been aboard the toboggan slide headed for his political grave. The President of the United States, the governor of this state, and every decent Republican of high or low degree in the party is against him. His course has been down and down without one check. He lost the New York county committee, he lost the speakership and in a few months the reorganized Republican party of the state will know Odell no more.

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No War Party in Germany.

The German bourgeoise had certainly devoted interest and attention to the 21st of January, but they were interested to a much greater extent in the Morocco affair. Even the tedious course of the negotiations in Algeciras has not been able to divert their sympathies. The German nation has quite rightly recognized that it is here not merely a local question, so to speak, but that a great principle is at stake, namely, whether treaties can be made over the heads of great nations when these are directly affected by the results of such treaties. Germany has answered this question in the negative, and that this standpoint was right in principle has been acknowledged by the general participation in the conference. For it has been thus acknowledged that only such an all around conference is in the position to remodify the earlier modifications. After the determination of this principle the decisions upon the individual modifications, however important they may be in themselves, really take a second place. In any case it is hoped here that an agreement may be arrived at. There can be no talk of the war party in Germany, of which so much has been heard about abroad. The feeling of the German people may perhaps be best summed up by saying, "Only a few think of war; none wishes for war, and nobody fears a war."—Continental Correspondence.

MARSHALL FIELD'S WEALTH

Marshall Field did not have to wait for death to extinguish envy. For many years he had enjoyed the esteem of all sorts and conditions of men. In a day when so many men of great wealth are made the object of suspicion, dislike, hatred, wrath and malice, Mr. Field's immunity is well worth inquiring into. Doubtless his personal bearing and manners counted for something; though H. H. Rogers has just proved again that a millionaire cannot disarm all prejudice by suddenly becoming affably jocose. The deeper reason lay behind. Mr. Field had accumulated his immense fortune by methods which the considerate judgment of his fellows pronounced legitimate. To his money none of that taint attached which comes of building up a fortune upon the deliberately planned wreck of the property of others—a wreck accomplished by methods at once repugnant to morals and the law of the land. Unlike some of the great accumulators who have heaped up hatred with their hoards, Mr. Field's first instinct, on seeing money in the hands of another, was not to ask "How can I get that money away from him?" His impulse was rather, that of the born merchant, who believes that commerce is profitable for both buyer and seller, and who delights to open new channels of trade activity because he knows that all reached by him will be gainers. And we are convinced that it is the sort of business he conducted, as much as the nature of the man himself, which accounts for the difference in the general estimate of Marshall Field and say, the head of the Standard Oil company.—New York Evening Post.

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