

THE DEMOCRAT

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A BOOST FOR KERN

There seems to be a practical unanimity of sentiment in support of the candidacy of John W. Kern for United States senator from Indiana.

Persons interested in the success of Mr. Kern's campaign have collected the editorial utterances of the Democratic press of the state, and more than two-thirds of the counties have either declared for him through the local organizations or newspapers—in many instances in both ways.

In addition to this collection of sentiment it may be said that the Republican press has also been most kindly disposed to Mr. Kern. While it is true that he must be elected, if at all, by the support of his party, it is conspicuously true that no man in the party is more popular with all the people than Mr. Kern. His long service in the party is pointed to as deserving of a reward which is within the power of the party at this time to give.

It is also pointed out, and is certainly true, that no Democrat in Indiana would be so readily accepted in the United States senate as the true representative of Indiana Democracy as would Mr. Kern.

The Democratic party of Indiana has for a long time been out of power, and the things it does now will go a long way in determining whether it shall be continued in power and its

lead be increased. The naming of John W. Kern for United States senator would help to establish the confidence of the people, and in his own party he is not a factional candidate.

So far as state appointments are concerned, being free from promises before his election, this newspaper believes Governor Marshall is going to make no mistakes. His expressed determination to name men who are fit first, the second consideration being their standing in the Democratic party, is on the right business lines and on lines that the people will approve regardless of party.

We also believe that the legislature is going to work to establish a good record on a safe and sane basis.

L. E. Slack, who is popular in the Democratic party and who is the most conspicuous person contesting the claims of John W. Kern to a seat in the United States senate, has a strong following, being also a member of the state senate.

Senator Slack made a splendid and clean fight for the nomination for governor in the convention which named Thomas R. Marshall as its candidate. He has since been conspicuously before the people as a man with whom the leaders must calculate. His loyal following places him in this position. But he is a young man in years, his progress being ahead of his age as political preferment is usually considered. He cannot be overlooked in the continued success of the party in Indiana.

At the present stage, however, the sentiment of the state, if followed means that Mr. Kern will be sent to the senate as the successor of Senator Hemenway.—Indianapolis Sun.

THE STAR IS ALREADY SCARED

The Republican party put up a poor fight at the recent state and congressional election because it was not a homogeneous, effective organization, but a collection of two distinct and hostile factions. If this situation is to continue, Indiana will have two Democrats instead of one in the United States senate, and all the available strength of the party will be exhausted upon internecine strife instead of in winning victories.

It is perfectly clear that the Republican leaders, or at least some of them, are already forming their lines for a renewal of this factional strife, looking to control of the organization

in 1910. We have, it is true, the announcement from Senator Beveridge that so far as appointments are concerned, at least, selections will be made from the standpoint of fitness; which is very well so far as it goes, but as those appointments are not yet made does not go very far. In the meantime, Mr. Hemenway serves notice upon the party workers that he is a force still to be reckoned with, a person who is very greatly desired in a cabinet office but is above accepting it, one who will have a good deal to say as to patronage and whose intention is to continue in politics.

We shall not offer any criticism on our Indiana senators for what they have said, or for what they obviously have in mind. These actions are privileges which no one has the right to call in question. But we do invite the attention of the Republican voters of Indiana to this proposition: That what is wanted here is one party and not two factions. Are Senator Beveridge's appointments to be made to help Beveridge or to strengthen the party? Are these important political undertakings which Senator Hemenway is about to launch in the interest of a faction or of the party?

Republican victory in Indiana in 1910 or any other time, can only come as the result of a united party, in which all elements have a place, and will never come as the result of one faction taking the offices and the organization, relying upon the other faction to do the dirty work and like it. This is a thing the Republican workers throughout the state can control, and if they are wise they will exert themselves to that end. The warning sounded on Nov. 3 is too plain to be disregarded.—Indianapolis Star.

THE PRESIDENT'S LAST MESSAGE

The president's message is hardly a Roosevelt message—it's mild. It is more a review of accomplishment and the doubting Thomas' should read it, and be convinced that the reign of Roosevelt is the greatest in history.

Of course he sees but little in legislative or judicial government, but much indeed in government by the executive. For instance in paying his respects to corporations, he says: One of the chief features of this control should be the securing entire publicity in all matters which the public has a right to know, and furthermore, the power, not by judicial but by executive action, to prevent or put a stop to every form of improper favoritism or wrongdoing." So you have it. The courts cannot be trusted, but the executive can; the courts may err, but not the executive; the courts may play favorites, but not so the executive. Usurpation of power and the playing of favorites has been a characteristic of the Roosevelt administration. Precedent and even decency in playing fair has never been a cardinal virtue with President Roosevelt. What's more, it never will be. His message pays some attention to finance, and the argument is produced and the figures displayed to show how masterful has been the operation of his secretary of the treasury. The figures are made covering the seven years, and this is done no doubt to cover up the deficit that is now causing much newspaper talk and even more anxiety in administrative circles.

But the message as a whole is real mellow. After seven years of stirring the animals—in president's messages only—the last state paper seems tame indeed. But as a booster for what Roosevelt has done, it needs no comment.

NO GROUNDS FOR THE REPEAL

Lew G. Ellingham, a member of the Democratic state committee and editor of the Decatur Democrat, continues to protest most earnestly and vigorously against the repeal of the county option law. He says such a course would be suicidal. In this view he is joined by a half dozen or more Democratic papers in various parts of the state. Nevertheless the general belief seems to be that the county option law will not be permitted to remain on the stat-

utes for many months after the legislature convenes.—South Bend Times.

The Democrat does not believe that the sentiment favors the repeal of the county local option law. And if it is wise to effect such a repeal, why does not the Times champion it? It is of public and political importance and deserves thorough dissection before legislative action. There should be some argument where there is said to be so much sentiment. The only argument so far advanced has been that the Democratic state platform promised a temperance law with the township and ward as the unit, and the additional argument that the returns of the election was a rebuke to Governor Hanly's special session and a demand for the repeal of the forty thousand dollar law. If all this is true, then the Democratic organization, orators and newspapers should not have said before election that this same special session removed the temperance issue from the campaign. Instead they should have openly stood for the repeal of the law. Did they do it? Before the special session the question was an open one and the people felt they were perfectly capable of settling it. After the special session, the general feeling of the people was that the question was settled, and the Democrats finished their campaign upon this assumption. In a way the election results is a rebuke to Governor Hanly, but that rebuke is not because of the law, but because of the manner in which Governor Hanly gave it to them.

If you discover a republican with gum shoes, prancing up and down the dark places, don't get alarmed. The party is out on the hunt of a man who can beat Adair for congress. No clues yet.—Bluffton Banner.

The two or three eligibles left in the whole country who are not mentioned as possibilities for Taft's cabinet may be boys he tried to lick at school and couldn't.

The merchant can make business for himself by advertising a list of suitable Christmas presents. It does not require a great deal of enterprise to do this, and it will help those who may want to buy.

Whitley county Democrats are talking of a love feast and banquet to Governor-elect Marshall on December 16. It will be a strictly Whitley country affair, and besides being a beneficial party house warming, is in honor of the best governor Indiana will ever have.

And now the newspaper dispatches have it that Jim Goodrich is out of politics for good and all. The dispatches are wrong. When Jim Goodrich says he is out, is when he is getting ready to get in good. It will pay the skeptical to watch him closely.

The Southern Indiana newspaper that gives Hanly credit for being a modern Sampson was not quite fair to Sampson. Sampson only had one jaw bone of an ass with which to slay the Philistines, while the Indiana Sampson used two in his slaying of the innocents.—Columbia City Post.

Blodgett of the Indianapolis News, was a Decatur visitor yesterday. The News is greatly interested in a system of state accounting department, a needed reform to economy and honesty in public office. By the way the Indianapolis News is one of the few great newspapers of the country, and its owner, Delavan Smith, is a distinctive and strong character.

It was a beautiful service held by the B. P. O. E. Lodge of Sorrow Sunday, and those who joined the members of this benevolent order, and heard those things which softens men's hearts, were the better for it. It was the one day in Elkhorn in which thought is given to the immortality of man, and the reverence of such a day makes every Elk a better man in the sight of God, and likewise a better Elk. The ritualistic teachings of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks elevates mankind general

ly, and the practice of their benevolent generosity is the best sort of Christianity.

Here is a sample from the Richmond Item which shows the general tone of the Republican press toward the great cause of prohibition:

"It will be many a day before the real friends of decent honest, anti-machine and representative government will put their shoulders to the wheel to help out the Anti-Saloon league and others, leagues which at the critical time in Indiana politics threw their entire strength into the fight in support of the most pernicious, double-faced and thoroughly disreputable political machine that ever cursed and looted a commonwealth."

It is well not to let our surprise and indignation over the illegitimate operations of Standard Oil blind our eyes to the marvelous business methods of the company. It has not only driven out competition here, but has successfully competed with the long established and perfected systems of the old world. Mere greed and bludgeoning could not have given Standard Oil the complete ascendancy it enjoys today.

Mr. Rockefeller's story of how the legitimate advantages of the company were wrought out is a feature of the history which many American business men may learn from. It is a record of keen business intellect working patiently and persistently. More expense and labor were put into legitimate work than into illegitimate, and competitors were outgeneraled rather by doing better work than by trickery. Stripped of its high finance superstructure, there remains a model business machine in Standard Oil.

Government treasury reports now deal in deficits, the amount for the fiscal year being estimated at \$115,000,000. It cheers us greatly to know that Taft is going to pull us out of the hole—maybe.

Christmas buying will likely be heavy this year, and the one that goes through the ordeal early, will prove the wise one later, when the general rush begins. Merchants should also early begin their suggestions to the buyer. A classified list of Christmas presents would greatly aid the buyer and lead to many sales for the merchant who is enterprising enough to try it.

There is nothing like having two strings to one's bow. When Representative Burton ran for mayor of Cleveland he retained his seat in congress as an anchor to windward in case of defeat. Now it appears he is to be secretary of the treasury, provided in the meantime he cannot capture Mr. Foraker's seat in the senate. There are some fellows who just can't be put out of office.—Muncie Star.

The statement has often been made that Indiana never had a United States senator whose place of residence was north of the Wabash. This is not strictly correct, though nearly so. Before the civil war a vacancy occurred, and the governor appointed Charles W. Cathcart, a strong-minded LaPorte county farmer, to temporarily fill the place. The legislature twice placed the senatorship as far north as the shores of the Wabash, but not beyond. Graham N. Fitch, was elected to that high office during the '50's, and Daniel D. Pratt was honored in like manner by the legislature of 1869. Both were residents of Logansport—the former a Democrat, the latter a Republican. Both were men of respectable ability.—South Bend Times.

Here we are in the midst of prosperity, an almost prohibitive protective tariff and a deficit of more than a hundred million dollars, all at one and the same time. There is even some gossip behind the scenes about the probability of a bond issue to pay the running expenditures of the government. We are compelled to ask ourselves whether or not the foreigner pays the tariff. All this brings to mind how impossible is a panic during good old Republican times. There must be something wrong. Perhaps the powers that be intend this as a just punishment for suffering Indiana to elect a Democratic governor and

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eleven congressmen. Who knows? We have got to blame this nasty thing to some cause. In the meantime the standpatters in congress are trembling in their boots, and promising all sorts of congressional economy, in order that they may help Uncle Sam out of the very bad hole.

President Roosevelt's recent order placing 15,000 fourth class postmasterships under civil service regulations is displeasing to the average republican congressman who finds in the post-office jobs the framework of a very effective political machine. In Indiana alone 1,084 fourth class postmasters are no longer answerable to the congressman who secured their appointment and the congressman is shorn of that much power when he comes to organizing his forces for re-election.

On the other hand, what made a convenient machine for the individual congressman can be transformed into a powerful machine, covering fourteen states, by a president who has use for it. We have seen that Roosevelt did not hesitate to use all the machinery at his command to bring about the nomination of Taft. Any president who desires to dictate his successor will find efficient tools ready to hand in the 15,000 fourth class postmasters on the civil service list. Under the circumstances one can understand why congressmen are casting about for an expedient that will practically nullify the president's latest civil service order. It is proposed to pass a law defining the status of fourth class postmasters in such a way as to keep them out of the civil service.—Anderson Bulletin.

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