



EVER HAND IN HAND

Republicanism and Prosperity, Democracy and Adversity

IS IT UNFORTUNATE OR AT FAULT?

Whatever the Reason the Melancholy Fact Remains That When Democratic Leadership Comes in at the Door, National Prosperity Goes Out of the Window—Senator Beveridge's Brilliant Rejoinder to a Southern Colleague.

Senator Beveridge never appeared to better advantage in the arena of debate than during his famous colloquy with Senator Simmons of North Carolina. It was upon this occasion that he drove the Southern senator into the awkward position of denying that he knew what the Democratic national convention would do in the matter either of platform or ticket, which opened the way for the Indiana senator to describe the opposition as "an issueless party." In the course of his remarks Senator Beveridge said:

"I wish I could recall the eloquent words of the senator in describing the condition of the people of this republic—"prosperity luxuriant as never before," said he, or something like it; "the gold of the world flowing in upon us," said he, or words to that effect; "all the happy conditions which good government and wise policies bring to a free people prevail," said he, and the Republican party in power! What a syllogism from which to draw Democratic inspiration and hope!

People Will Remember.

"Does not the senator imagine that when the people find the gold of the world pouring in upon us, as he says; that when the people find themselves enjoying a prosperity unexampled, as he declares, and then reflect that the Republican party is presiding over the destinies of the land at a period so fortunate—does he not think that when the people consider, they will give a verdict at the polls that they are pretty well satisfied?

"When the people recall the fact that this prosperity has come to them since the inauguration of William McKinley, and that this golden daylight of prosperity followed a midnight of disaster, and that that disaster occurred under a Democratic administration, the senator must not impeach the intelligence of the American people by fancying they will return to their former condition.

Unhappy Coincidences.

"Now, with reference to where hard times originated, the senator knows it is not my disposition to split hairs, but I will be permitted, even by him, to call attention to the fact that the Democratic party is at least unfortunate in its coincidences. Whenever it is in power hard times come; whenever the Republican party is in power good times come; explain it how you will. It follows, then, that it is either the fault of the Democratic party, or else that party is very unlucky. Let the senator take either horn of the dilemma; either is equally uncomfortable. It is a melancholy organization, which is always either at fault or unfortunate. Why should the senator continue a member of it? It is a waste of splendid material for a man like the senator to remain with an organization which seems to be failing even in its best efforts.

"Whatever the reasons may be, the fact exists—Democratic supremacy and hard times; Republican supremacy and good times; explain it how you will. Explain and explain, yet the facts remain, and with those facts the senator will find that the American people are content.

Partisanship Confounded.

"Consider the achievements of this administration. In the great question of legislation concerning modern industrial organization, so wise have been the policies which the Republican party, under the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt, has proposed, that all the power of partisanship was not able to consolidate that side of the chamber against them. This side of the chamber stood a solid phalanx in favor of those measures concerning trust legislation, and you of the opposition admitted that they were so excellent that you divided upon them, many of you being forced by the merit of those measures to give them the approval of your votes.

"Then we came to Cuban reciprocity, a measure of national honesty and of national good business, too; and so wise was that measure that, declaring you would oppose it forever, when it came to a vote a large number of you of the opposition supported it.

Opposition Always Divided.

"Then we came to that great world work of the centuries—the Panama canal—the eternal wedding of the two great oceans of the globe in the interests of the commerce of mankind and the ongoing and welfare of the human race. It was fought for weeks by a distinguished leader of the opposition, who was in desperate search of an issue, and he thought he had found in Panama a new one. Yet so wise was the administration policy that you could not by all the power of partisanship, consolidate your votes against it.

"So well that in every great constructive measure of the Republican party in the last three years, you yourselves have not been able to solidly oppose them.

"Well, then, when all the powers

of partisanship and partisan discipline cannot unite your own votes against those Republican measures here in the senate, do you fancy that you can appeal to the American people with very much confidence to unite against them?

A Party of Disagreements.

Will the senator—and I will give him some of my time, although I want to get through—name one single issue upon which the leaders of his party all agree?

"It is the greatest aggregation. Mr. President, of disagreements political history has ever beheld; yet we are told by this motley political array that we, who stand united and consolidated upon sound principles and policies and behind a leader we have been agreed upon, must fight for our lives!

"Well, I do not think the senator has pursued his usually excellent logic. The senator tells us that we have agreed upon our candidate. That is true. We have. He says it has been in obedience to some power that those on their side have not been able to fathom and do not know what it is.

"I will tell him what that power is, although I am surprised, from reviewing the political history of the last eight years, that the senator and his colleagues do not know what that power is.

The Power of the People.

"The power that has caused us to agree upon our candidate is that power known as the people. That is the power to which we have yielded a willing and glad obedience, and always will; and it is because that has been our course of conduct that we are in power today and will continue to be for many years to come.

"Yes, we have agreed upon our candidate, and the power that caused us to agree is the people. And that power which caused agreement upon him as a candidate will cause agreement upon him at the polls, and the name of our candidate, the name of our next president, is the name of the present President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, and we are glad and proud to declare it."

CONUNDRUM OF ACCEPTANCE

What the Sage of Esopus Really Believes Remains a Mystery.

What Judge Parker would do if he were to be elected president, is little less an unknown quantity than it was before his speech of acceptance was given to the world. He would recognize the gold standard, and he repeats that he would regard it as "firmly and irrevocably established," but this was known before he added the second word. He thinks he would like to have a reduction of the tariff, but he is not sufficiently sure of this to intimate what degree of reduction he would have upon any one item, nor does he indicate one item on which he would have the tariff duty changed in any way.

And the few explicit statements he does make emphasize the wisdom he manifests in what he fails to say. When he redeclares his belief that the gold standard is "firmly and irrevocably established," for instance, he shows that he is ignorant of a fact that exists in the minds of most voters at this stage of proceedings. Almost everybody else by this time knows that the gold standard lacks a good deal of being irrevocably established, and even he would probably be convinced of it if once he were called upon to deal with it.

So also he suggests that he would fix a time to haul down the flag in the Philippines, but he gives no hint of the year or the month or the time of day.

On most things that he touches he leaves the reader to infer almost anything that he would like to infer, especially if the reader is seeking an excuse for casting a vote against the administration, but explicit statements in his speech of acceptance are almost as rare as in the silence that has prevailed for so long at Esopus.

In another explicit statement that he makes he shows his wisdom in avoiding such things as much as possible. For instance, he says that the tariff furnishes the trusts a market in the necessities of eighty millions of people, "practically excluding competition." On the same day that this speech was delivered came the announcement that an independent concern had taken away from the trust an order for 1,000 tons of steel plates.

The record shows that while what is known as the steel trust began business with the control of about eighty per cent. of the total output, in two years this had been reduced to fifty per cent. or less, due solely to competition here at home under this same protective tariff. The salt trust undertook to do business on the assumption expressed by this presidential candidate and competition soon forced it to reorganize and pursue its business on the assumption that it would have the liveliest sort—and even ruinous—competition if it attempted to maintain extortionate prices. About two years ago the prude trust had the same experience. On window glass the duty always has been high. It is so now; it was so in the Wilson-Gorman bill and under the McKinley law and so on. Yet the combination known as the window glass trust has not been free from competition for years, and this competition has been of the keenest sort. Trust after trust has failed because it attempted to do business on an assumption similar to the one offered as statesmanship from this man at Esopus. Every one of them that has attempted this has either failed or been forced into the courts for reorganization on a different basis. If this man is fit to be a candidate for anything he knows this. Even casual attention to what has been going on in the courts of the land would have revealed this vital fact.

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"Well, then, when all the powers