

OLD STANDBY
CROWDING

Blythe Finds Republican Party Dominated by Forces as in Mark Hanna Days.

By SAMUEL G. BLYTHE. (Copyright, 1920, by Samuel G. Blythe.) CHICAGO, June 9.—The Republican party, as it registers through its leaders here, is as standpat as it ever was when Mark Hanna was running it. It is evident that the intention is to prove to the country at large that no radicalism has seeped into it, and that it is a rock ribbed, respectable, conservative institution.

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Plan to Place Women on Big G. O. P. Committee

CHICAGO, June 9.—The Committee on Rules by unanimous vote yesterday recommended to the convention that the Executive Committee of the National Republican Committee be increased from ten to fifteen so as to give women representation.

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Common Sense of Convention Will Nominate Hiram Johnson

This isn't a political convention. It's a financial convention.

The managers of this convention don't seem to care what the people want or what the delegates want.

The question with these machine managers is not WHO CAN BE THE MOST SURELY ELECTED but WHO WILL BE THE MOST SERVICEABLE AFTER HE IS ELECTED?

There is not a delegate in the convention hall who does not know that Johnson is the strongest man before the public, and that the day that he is nominated the election is surely won.

There is hardly a delegate who does not hope in his heart that Johnson will be nominated, so that every Republican politician will get the benefit of Johnson's popularity and be safe in his own State and his own district.

And yet the delegates do not yet know whether they are going to be allowed to vote for Johnson or not.

The delegates are waiting to hear what the machine managers want and the machine managers are waiting to hear what the big interests want.

And the big interests? They are waiting and wondering whether it would be safe to turn down Johnson in the present temper of the public mind; whether the smooth-running machines without the power of public opinion behind them could really elect one of the superserviceable gentlemen whom the big interests want.

It's a knotty problem, and the big interests are thinking very hard. They realize that the Republican party might be changed over night from a sure winner to a sure loser.

The big interests want Lowden. He is one of themselves by adoption, as it were. He would allow himself to be harnessed and haltered and would stand hitched to any post; but he has injudiciously permitted himself to be involved in a criminal bribery scandal, and what is a worse crime in their eyes, allowed the facts to be found out.

A stalking horse is of no use to the big interests after the public finds out that he is a stalking horse. "In vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird."

The public has come to know Lowden for what he is and furthermore, the public has a deep-seated objection to seeing delegates bought and sold and the presidency hawked about to the highest bidder.

Lowden can be nominated, but he cannot be elected. The big interests know that. They have something more than wrinkles in the back of their necks. They have convulsions in their gray matter. That's the way they came to be big interests.

So Lowden will not be nominated. Dark horses are already being groomed, currycombed and brushed sleek, and trotted out for the inspection of the judges.

Sproul had his day yesterday, but Sproul did not seem to win on points and was led dejectedly back to his Pennsylvania stall.

There will be other political horses led out, dark and light and piebald, but none of them is going to measure up with Johnson, and the good sense of this convention and of the machine managers of this convention and—most important—of the big interests behind the managers of the convention is going to come back to Johnson as the one man who can surely win.

A Southern delegate yesterday put his feet upon the radiator in the Congress Annex, tilted back in his chair and explained Johnson's strength. He said:

"In the first place, Johnson has demonstrated his capacity for leadership. He has led the fight against the Democratic Administration and its un-American policies. Johnson more than any one man is responsible for the condition of defeat, discredit and general demoralization in which the Democratic party finds itself."

"In the second place, Johnson is immensely popular with the voters. Wherever he has not been overwhelmed by the corrupt use of money he has beaten his opponents from 2 to 1 to 5 to 1. He can poll the biggest Republican vote, and he can add to that many independent Democratic votes. He is the only Republican who is talked about in the South, and if he is nominated the Republican party will break into the solid South."

"In the third place, his name has never been linked with the slightest scandal, but is always coupled with honestly achieved success. He has won every election by ever-increasing majorities, and this is a remarkable thing when you consider that every incumbent of a public office must make some enemies, no matter how conscientiously and considerately he conducts the office."

"Johnson, therefore, has always made more friends than enemies in office and has compelled recognition by all classes not only of his honesty, but of his efficiency."

"He is the kind of man who can put the Republican party in power and keep it in power."

"In the fourth place Johnson is the only man whose defeat in the convention would jeopardize the Republican party's high hopes of success. No one will leave the party if Lowden is defeated, if Wood is defeated, if Sproul is defeated, if any other man is defeated, but there is no knowing how many popular votes will be lost to the party if Johnson, the popular idol, is defeated, and for no other reason than because he is the popular idol."

The Southern delegate was right. There is every good practical argument for Johnson. There is only one cry being raised against Johnson and that is a false and insincere cry. He is called a red radical by some who oppose him.

Johnson is not a red radical in the slightest degree. He is a sound and safe progressive. He was running mate with Theodore Roosevelt eight years ago when the Progressive party was founded, and the same men who called Roosevelt an anarchist eight years ago are calling Johnson an anarchist today, and with a little reason. Many of these men lived to learn that Roosevelt's progressivism was right and many of them now will live to learn that Johnson's progressivism is the wisest of conservatism.

There is one class that knows for a certainty that Johnson is not a red radical, and that is the red radicals themselves. When the I. W. W.'s were rioting in California, Johnson sent a message that he would stand no more nonsense, and the rioting ceased on the receipt of the message. There is some advantage in having a public official that everyone knows means exactly what he says. It often averts the violence every good citizen would like to avoid.

No, Johnson is not a "red" radical, but he's a progressive, and there are hundreds of thousands of these progressives in the Republican party just like him. It would not be healthful for the Republican party to declare that Johnson could not be nominated because he was a progressive. A couple of million progressive voters might come to the conclusion that if there was no hope for progressivism in the Republican party the best thing for any progressive to do would be to get out of a reactionary Republican party, run by machines and manipulated by a thoroughly corrupt and conscienceless money power.

And that is exactly what these progressives should do as a solemn duty to themselves, their convictions and their country. WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST.

Women Arrive Earlier And Are Clothed Less Gaudily Than the Men

By NELLIE BLY, Written Exclusively for International News Service. (Copyright, 1920, by International News Service.) CHICAGO, June 9.—The first day of the Republican convention was bright and beautiful and pleasantly warm. The streets looked as if it were a universal holiday. Also as if everybody meant to spend it at the Coliseum. There were more early women than there were early men.

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A little farther down on the same pavement were dark-clad women bearing banners, demanding to know why we allow to remain in jail marauders of their own volition.

The convention opened by the band playing the national hymns. The national chairman, Will Hays, walked down the platform, and, standing under the sound amplifying dome, began to speak. He wore a cutaway. Mr. Hays had a well-pressed crease in front. He smiled without good humor. It looked as if the whole thing were a joke and we were there for a jolly good time. Politics certainly does need a joke when one gets close to it.

The convention opened by prayer. The prayer was read. A copy of it had been distributed in advance among the delegates and representatives. Afterward the chairman offered a resolution to make Senator Lodge temporary chairman. Everybody good-naturedly voted "Yes." The chairman requested Channing D. Dewey, Herrick and one woman, Mrs. Hume, as a guard of honor to escort Senator Lodge to the chair. Mr. Dewey wore a stiff collar and black suit; Mr. Herrick a soft shirt and collar and sack coat; and Mrs. Hume a tailor-made coat and skirt. I was awfully sorry. She should have had the elegance and prettiness of feminine clothes.

The surprise of the proceedings followed Senator Lodge's speech. A man darted out upon the platform, and, waving his hands frantically in the air, jumping up and down like an enraged monkey, cried out for three cheers, which he endeavored to wring from the throats of the audience by his fantastically swinging arms. And, not a bit abashed by his own antics, he called upon the assemblage to sing, at the same time trying to lead them.

Newspaper men and special writers occupied the next platform. There were as usual quiet, busy, extraordinarily efficient, and always well-behaved. The entire audience, for that mat-

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IRISH PLANK OPPOSED BY KNIGHTS OF MALTA

WORCESTER, Mass., June 9.—The Grand Commandery of Knights of Malta, for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, in convention here yesterday adopted a resolution protesting against the Republican national convention "interfering in their platform with the domestic affairs of Great Britain, especially with the Irish claims for independence, because to do so would disturb the friendly relations created by our common sacrifices in the world war and would be a crime against civilization." A copy of the resolution was sent to Senator Lodge.

Brisbane's Running Story Of the Opening of The G. O. P. Convention

Mr. Brisbane's comment on the activities of the convention yesterday was received too late to be published in full. Here is his description of the opening of the convention:

Will Hays has walked out on the gangplank running like a sea captain's bridge beyond the main platform. He has a big wooden hammer in his hand, calling for order, and announces the prayer. The praying bishop, grateful for all our blessings in ages past, looks like an energetic young modern business man. His prayer deals with generalities; no reference to the fact that some powerful men have been trying to direct the convention by a more progressive and practical than a guidance from above.

11:40 a. m.—Prayer ended, everybody standing up sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Big-lunged men for three cheers for "America, the greatest country on earth." Bryan helps the crowd to give the cheers, and says, "Well, they're giving us something we can all join in."

It is the greatest country, all the more so because it is being run by the people out of the candidate they want, Hiram Johnson.

Mr. Bryan is absolutely positive in his assertion that this convention would be a success. He knows, he knows, that convention day. He is the most powerful American in handling a convention and there is no second to him.

Mr. Lodge attracts a little attention as a trainman calling out somebody else's train until he says: "Mr. Wilson and his dynasty must be driven from power in the United States, as you will understand McAdoo is the 'dynasty.' However, the people would probably object to no more to a Wilson dynasty than an ivory soap dynasty—the past is the past."

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