

FUSION HAPPILY EFFECTED

Keystone Party Nominees Withdraw in Favor of Berry and Cresswell.

By voluntarily retiring from the Keystone party ticket in favor of Robert E. Cresswell, Democratic candidate, Cornelius D. Scully, Jr., of Pittsburg, Keystone candidate for Auditor General, paved the way for complete fusion on the State ticket between the two parties, which was accomplished by the action of the Keystone State committee on Thursday, September 26, in Philadelphia. Upon motion of D. Clarence Gibboney, seconded by Mr. Scully, Mr. Cresswell was unanimously nominated on the Keystone ticket.

Mr. Scully's retirement from the ticket followed long negotiations between the leaders of the Keystone and Democratic parties, in an effort to bring about fusion by mutual concessions of places on the two tickets. The efforts proved fruitless, and, rather than obstruct in the slightest degree a united fight against the Flinn machine in the coming election, Mr. Scully sent his declination of the Keystone nomination to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. While it is not certain that the office of Auditor General will be filled at the coming election, in view of the adoption of recent amendments to the Constitution, Mr. Scully's action is regarded as a notable boost to the Democratic nominees in the approaching contest.

Only Way to End Bossism

Mr. Scully's letter to the Keystone committee, announcing his withdrawal, follows:

"Some two years ago the Keystone party was organized to free the State of Pennsylvania from the domination of a bi-partisan ring. There is no doubt that the great progress which has been made in that direction has been contributed to by the Keystone party more than by any other one influence in recent years.

"However, no person conversant with the present movement within the Republican State organization can fail to see that in the name of reform an attempt is now being made to change bosses and maintain the same political organization which has been the subject of the Keystone party's attacks for two years past.

"While convinced that more would have been gained by a Keystone-Democratic fusion in which the Keystone representation was equal to that of the Democratic party, I cannot but feel that my duty under the present circumstances is to withdraw as a candidate for the position of Auditor General, lest in any way, however slight, I should contribute, by detracting votes from the Democratic candidate, to the election of a Republican candidate who pays lip service to a retiring boss, real fealty to a coming one and avows loyalty, regardless of bosses, to a political Machine which the Keystone party was organized to oppose.

National Issues Not Involved

"The triumph of the cause in Pennsylvania is a question entirely apart from the election of candidates for Congressman-at-large. In voting for a candidate for Auditor General the national test cannot be applied under any circumstances. The independent who desires to strike a blow at boss control in Pennsylvania, whether it be brazenly flaunted or poorly concealed, need not hesitate to use as his weapon a man who may entertain opposite views on national questions but who in the test of 1910 proved himself to be a loyal Keystoner.

"I decline the nomination for Auditor General and second the nomination of Mr. Cresswell to take my place on the Keystone ticket simply because his nomination is the only means to the end so much desired by those who appreciate the real situation in Pennsylvania to-day—that is the coincident defeat of Boss Penrose and Boss Flinn."

COMMENTS ON THE EVENT

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger (Independent):

"The Keystone State committee has now given the final proof of the sincerity of its recent efforts for fusion by withdrawing the Keystone candidate for Auditor General and substituting the name of Robert E. Cresswell, the Democratic nominee. The path is thus cleared for an aggressive cam-

paigned for the overthrow of both the Republican factions. Just what strength the Keystone party might be able to muster at the polls in November, as a separate organization, is altogether problematical, but if its achievements at the last State election be taken as a criterion, it is a political force not to be lightly disregarded. By fusion with the Democrats, however, on the offices of State Treasurer and Auditor General all uncertainty is removed, and a new and important field of usefulness is opened to the Keystone organization which may exercise a potent influence in insuring the election of Berry and Cresswell.

"The State ticket this year is extremely important, for the Flinn-controlled ticket, which will appear on the official ballot as representing both Republican and Washington parties, is not entitled to the support of consistent Republicans. Its triumph will mean the creation of a new State political machine no less discreditable than the Penrose machine which it aims to displace, but which will carry the added stigma of gross hypocrisy. While its success will undoubtedly involve, for the time being, the defeat of Penrose, the substitution of Flinn and his satellites is not an alternative which genuine Republicans can view with any satisfaction. Still there have been many who hesitated to risk their party standing by taking the only logical means of rejecting both alternatives—namely, by voting for the Democratic candidates.

"In this emergency the Keystone party has patriotically placed itself in a position to perform a great public service. It is recognized as the rallying ground for the independent voters of the State, and by taking the Democratic ticket for State officers it maintains this position of neutrality. Republicans who still value the name of party regularity, but revolt against supporting either Penrose or Flinn, can vote their presidential preference, yet at the same time vote in the Keystone column for the State candidates without affecting their standing in the old party. This should insure the unity of the independent thinking voters of Pennsylvania in support of Berry and Cresswell, whose election is the only certain method of defeating the schemes of the Flinn plotters without thereby inviting a return of the Penrose machine."

From the Philadelphia Record:

"The move will add to the prospects of the defeat of the Republican State ticket and the election of Mr. Berry as State Treasurer and Mr. Cresswell as Auditor General.

"Now that the Democrats and Keystoners are together on a State ticket they should continue the good work by uniting on the same candidates for the Legislature in every district in Pennsylvania. With such a union the members of the next Legislature will be beyond the control of either the old Republican machine or the new one, and the prospects for the passage of the legislation so badly needed to permanently redeem the State will be assured. We feel sure our Democratic brethren are open to negotiations to this end, and their representatives and those of the Keystone party should lose no time in perfecting the details of complete fusion in the Legislative and Senatorial districts."

From the Harrisburg Patriot:

"The purpose for which the Keystone party was formed was to free the State from the control of selfish bosses and corrupt political machines. Great progress has been made in that direction during the last two years. The Penrose machine has been put out of control, but if Mr. Flinn shall succeed in his purpose to perpetuate his own rule, the Penrose machine will be succeeded by another, in no respect any better. The Keystone party has taken a long step towards putting both of these machines out of power and placing the control of the State government in the hands of the people to whom it belongs."