

Charles W. Eliot, President Emeritus of Harvard, Supports Woodrow Wilson

Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University, in a statement issued September 30th, set forth reasons why he favors the election of Woodrow Wilson for President, and in discussing the candidates and issues of the campaign declares Roosevelt a dangerous man, many of whose political theories are fraught with peril to the nation. President Eliot's statement says:

"The three candidates are to be distinguished as follows: President Taft is protectionist and conservative on all constitutional and legal matters, ex-President Roosevelt is obscurely protectionist and radical on constitutional and judicial issues, Governor Wilson advocates the immediate reduction of the high tariff rates and moderation in constitutional, political and industrial changes.

"The tariff issue in the present campaign is clearly defined. President Taft holds firmly to the theory and practice of protection, and that portion of the Republican party which gives him some measure of support is protectionist in practice. The citizen who believes, as I do, that the existing tariff prevents the expansion of American commerce and trade, protects manufacturing industries from the foreign competition which would be wholesome for them, supports artificial monopolies, raises the price of many necessities of life and keeps the country as a whole exporting the richness of its soil rather than the products of its skilled labor can hardly vote for President Taft, however much he may wish to do so because of respect for his character, resentment at the injustice with which he has been treated and liking for his conservatism.

"The Democratic party, judged by its history and its recent action, seems likely under its new leaders to accomplish a judicious and effective reduction in tariff rates, and indeed is pledged to do so, so far as its platform and the words of its candidates can pledge it.

PROGRESSIVES CANNOT BE TRUSTED

"The Progressive party, on the other hand, cannot be trusted to deal wisely with the tariff, because its membership is mainly drawn from the former Republican party, which is responsible for the existing tariff and for failure to reduce it, and because its platform is about as protectionist as the Republican. Moreover, its candidate, ex-President Roosevelt, has never shown any acquaintance with tariff questions, any interest in them or any comprehension of the disastrous effects of the tariff on American industries and on the prices of the necessities of life to consumers. His present utterances on the subject are contradictory and vague, and yet likely to mislead the farmers, mechanics and operatives from whom he asks votes.

FULL OF DIFFICULTIES AND DANGERS

"The platforms of all three parties are much alike in promising a large number of social and industrial reforms, many of them long known to be desirable, but some full of difficulties and dangers. The Progressive party contains numerous social workers, ministers, young political reformers and other disinterested persons of unquestionable patriotism who think they can further their various philanthropic purposes by utilizing the energy and popularity of Theodore Roosevelt. It also contains men and women who warmly admire Mr. Roosevelt's private character and public career and accept his proffered leadership with enthusiastic devotion.

"It is over these social and industrial reforms that strong differences of opinion have arisen concerning the right ways of dealing with the obstacles which Constitution, courts and laws have placed in the pathway of militant reformers; hence the



grave constitutional and legal issues in the present election.

"Since all social changes have industrial and political consequences, social reforms, like industrial, can be safely effected only by the method of cautious experiment with adequate notice and not by the sudden, impetuous rush of an emotional multitude. The education of a new generation is often needed to give such reforms satisfactory effect.

"The Democratic party's platform and candidates, while less conservative than the Republican, hold out more hope or expectation of a wise dealing with the reforms proposed than the Progressive party's do. In particular, the published sayings of Gov. Wilson are much more prudent and measured in regard to the proposed changes than those of ex-President Roosevelt. Indeed, Gov. Wilson's temperament, knowledge and experience fit him to deal wisely, as President of the United States, with all these philanthropic projects.

"The coming troublous years will call for fairness, sober judgment and quiet resolution in the executive head of the Government. Gov. Wilson's career gives many indications that he possesses these qualities. Through thirty years of public life ex-President Roosevelt has proved to the American people that these are not his characteristics.

ROOSEVELT TOO IMPULSIVE

"Far the greater part of the social and industrial improvements which the three national parties seem to contemplate—though not in equal number—can be effected by the Central Government only by a dangerous stretching or evading of constitutional provisions, since they lie within the jurisdiction of the several states.

"The National Executive, therefore, at this particular juncture ought not to be an impulsive, self-confident, headstrong man, impatient of restraints and opposition and given to the use of extravagant language. Such a man is ex-President Roosevelt, as both his friends and his foes well know. He also exhibits from time to time a fondness for taking risks and a willingness to use force, which would not be bad signs in an energetic youth but are alarming in a mature statesman.

FLOUTING THE CONSTITUTION

"The candidate of the Progressive party has shown himself capable, while in power, of taking grave public action—which of course seemed to him wise and right—in disregard of constitutional and legal limitations, and, while out of power, of proposing rash changes in the relations of the judiciary to the other departments of the Government and to the voters.

"Finally, at the forthcoming election the people are called upon to express, not directly but by implication, their opinion on another constitutional change—the question of a third term in the Presidency. It is ex-President Roosevelt and the Progressive party that have sprung this important question upon the voters. Fortunately, the issue is clearly joined between the Democratic party, which declares for a single term, and the Progressive party, which has nominated a man who has already held the Presidential office for seven years and a half.

THIRD TERM IS DANGEROUS

"In all probability to give any one a third term in the Presidency, either with or without an interval between terms, would be an undesirable precedent. All observant citizens know that in the cases of Presidents Roosevelt and Taft, preparations for securing a second term impaired the efficiency