

STATE G. O. P. MUDDLE REQUIRES A SOLOMON

There's the Kendrick Situation—Moore and Grundy
Fight Him, Baker and Crow for Him and
Sproul Is Indifferent

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN

It has been a long time since conditions affecting the Republican state ticket have been so badly muddled as they are at present.

Ask any state leader about it and he will pool-pool the idea. But it is a fact. They all know it and are anxious to evade the responsibility.

The woe of it, to county leaders, is that the primaries are so near at hand with the situation so ticklish.

There are inquiries and kicks from county leaders in every direction. It is impossible, they say, for them to send out a slate on the state ticket.

That this may be thoroughly understood by the plain citizen who takes his politics as he does medicine, at semi-occasional intervals, it should be explained that the "state" is the list of names of the fortunate state and county candidates who have been selected by the party leaders to receive the suffrages of the proletariat. They are usually passed out in a printed slip to voters.

So here we are, with the spring primaries only a short time off and yet, in numerous counties, it is impossible to fix up a slate according to Hoyle.

So far as the county tickets themselves are concerned, with few exceptions the bosses—perhaps leaders would be the polite word—have their slate already arranged.

State Ticket Is the Puzzle

It is the state ticket that puzzles them; the uncertainty that surrounds and prevents them from proceeding according to ancient and approved system is aggravating and demoralizing.

The heads of the state ticket, meaning the candidates for state treasurer, auditor general and for the Supreme judgeship have been agreed upon.

But there are six candidates for the four positions of congressmen-at-large and fifteen candidates for the twelve honorary selections for delegates-at-large to the national Republican convention.

State leaders have, thus far, failed to agree on these places. They are at sixes and sevens on the matter. Some names have to be dropped. But which? While there is no break and no unseemly squabbling visible or under the

same condition exists. I say the same condition—only it is more seriously mixed.

There are fifteen candidates. Under ordinary circumstances the fortunate twelve should have been hand-picked, tagged and hung up in the corner to dry long before this.

But toward the end, before the nominations closed, Frederick Kendrick catapulted in as a candidate and the personal representative of the Vares.

He is, of course, opposing Mayor Moore.

Those who assume to conceal within their bosoms the secrets of the Nanghedrim say that Chairman Crow and Secretary Baker are the sponsors for Mr. Kendrick. They are endeavoring to secure the support of Senator Penrose for Kendrick.

Mayor Moore and Mr. Grundy, the Bucks county leader, head of the State Manufacturers' Association, are opposed to him. Governor Sproul and the Pittsburgh bunch are, seemingly at least, indifferent.

Waging Vigorous Campaign

Meantime Mr. Kendrick is carrying on over the state a vigorous campaign. He is scattering personal letters, appealing circulars, and requests for support.

McLaughlin Backed by Penrose

Joseph McLaughlin has the indorsement of Senator Penrose as against Colonel Crago, who is one of the present congressmen-at-large. Crago is a long-time personal friend of Chairman Crow, who is urging his claims.

Mr. Sheatz, who was state treasurer from 1908 to 1910, is running unattached with the odds heavily against him.

The present disposition among state leaders is to let this squad of congressional aspirants go before the people bodily, and the devil take the hindmost pair.

This is all right in principle, but where does it land the county leaders. Which four of the five names shall they place on their county slate?

With regard to delegates-at-large to the Republican national convention the

port with the most reckless and care-free abandon and disregard of what his opponents may think or do.

As in the case of congressmen-at-large the perplexity of the county leadership is increasing. They don't know whether or not to put Kendrick on the slate. If they do, what names are they to strike off?

Judge Sylvester B. Sadler has, with the exception of Harry Baker, the unanimous indorsement of the state leaders. Baker is for Judge George Kunkle, who is fighting Sadler for the nomination. The Dauphin county machine is not

opposing Judge Sadler, but has gone down into Cumberland county to fight him on his own threshold. It is fighting Sadler all over the state.

It is apparent that Baker cannot help himself. He is, so to speak, in a split stick. He cannot flout his own county organization and county candidate, and yet he cannot "go along" in the primaries with the slated candidate, Judge Sadler.

The other state leaders appreciating his position may smile good naturedly and tell him to "go to it." But it would blow the state organization sky

high if every leader followed Baker's example.

Judge Kunkle's friends are claiming all of central Pennsylvania as a starter. Likewise the Vares support in Philadelphia.

It hasn't developed yet whether there is a deal between Judge Kunkle's friends and Kendrick. There are intimations that "K-K" tactics, meaning Kunkle, will be attempted on Judge Sadler in more than one county adjacent to Dauphin.

If there are there will be some swift reprisals, I fancy.

ALTOONA RAIL STRIKE FAILS

Only 26 of More Than 1000 Yardmen Join in Walkout

Altoona, Pa., May 7.—(By A. P.)—As a result of the visit to Altoona of two representatives of an independent yardmen's association, a notice was sent to Superintendent Elmer, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, yesterday by the Altoona Yardmen's Association that a strike would go into effect immediately

to enforce a settlement of the wage scale asked for in July, 1919.

Twenty-six out of more than 1000 yardmen failed to report for work on the 11 a. m. and 3 p. m. tricks. No addition was made to this number today.

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