

ELKIN AND WATRES IN JOINT DEBATE

Concluded from Page 1. It is for them to decide who is right and who is wrong in this controversy. All that I now expect, and all that I have claimed from the beginning of the campaign is fair treatment at the hands of the leaders of the party, as well as the voters themselves. The question is now up to the people, and they will decide the issue.

Battle for Majority Rule. During the past four years the Republican party in our state has fought a great battle to sustain the principle of majority rule. It was a long, arduous, and, although a simple proposition, it was stoutly contested. But it was finally decided, once and forever, that in Pennsylvania the will of the majority must prevail. It required several years of the most strenuous kind of political warfare to decide this simple vexed question. I had thought that, when the question was settled, and because it had been returned to the United States senate, our political troubles would cease, and that those who had engaged on the "different side of this partisan warfare would soon forget their differences, and join together as a united party to fight the common enemy. My hopes in this direction have been somewhat blighted.

The new question is now thrust upon us. The real issue involved in this contest is whether the people shall be permitted to nominate a candidate for the high and dignified office of governor, or whether the will of the people shall be supplanted by the dictation of the few. I am not vain enough to believe that my personality counts for anything in this controversy. It does not. What has become of me in this complicated situation is a matter of small importance to the people of the state, but it is a question of vast concern whether myself or any other citizen shall be permitted to come out before the people and seek their suffrages for official preferment. No friend of mine has asked that any favor or advantage be shown me in the contest. All we have asked is that the choice of a candidate for governor shall be submitted to the people and be decided by their votes.

I am advised that some wealthy gentlemen, for reasons unknown to me, have thought proper to demand my political head as the price of their fealty to the party. The reason for such a demand does not appear on the surface and remains veiled in mystery. It is not for me to conjecture why the demand was made and acquiesce in it. Under the circumstances, however, I would be lacking in a proper appreciation of the duties of American citizenship if I failed in standing for a principle that is dear to every Pennsylvania heart; that is to say, that every man shall have a fair chance in an open field before the people on any question in which the public has an interest.

The Republican party will not suffer by reason of this contest, so long as it is conducted in a proper manner. Let every man who is a candidate for governor come out before the people, submit his candidacy to their approval or disapproval, win all the delegates he can, go into the state convention, and let the majority of the delegates to the state convention elect their support my candidate; but if it is decided otherwise, and a majority of the delegates in that convention decide to favor some other gentleman, let the nominee of our party, I will vote for that decree most cheerfully, and will do all in my power to aid the successful candidate at the November election. This is a contest within party lines. It is a fight between the people for majority rule. If a majority of the people favor my nomination, let them elect delegates and send them to the state convention in my behalf, and if such a majority is elected, my friends will see to it that their votes are properly recorded there. If a majority of the people favor the nomination of some other gentleman, they will indicate their desire by sending a majority of the delegates to that convention for the other candidate. The voice of the convention will be heard and respected throughout the campaign. It is a good thing to encourage candidates to come out in the open and state manly contents of their character. When the people have laid their way and the majority has been properly ascertained, the political advice will be clear and men will settle down to do the right and proper thing. But the potent voice of the great mass of the people, for which the ear of Lincoln was ever open, and to which the late lamented McKinley ever gave heed, whether expressed directly by the assembled multitude, or indirectly by the representative body, never be ignored. Factional chiefs may war and temporary confusion reign, but when that great voice is heard the waves of discord are stilled and a mighty calm ensues.

It is not an index of wise leadership to undertake to thwart the people's choice of men and measures. In the administration of political affairs there has been, however, a growing tendency to have from the people, as directly as possible, an expression of their will in the election of nominees for official position and for the adoption of measures of general interest. The right of the citizen to seek the suffrages of his fellows and the right of the elector to a free and untrammelled choice are elementary principles upon which every great political organization must stand. In this contest it shall be my pleasure to advocate the principles and policies of that party under whose benign guidance the country, in both state and nation, has so marvelously progressed and prospered.

This is not a contest for supremacy. The question of leadership is not involved. Every political organization must have its leaders, and the

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great mass of the people are not interested in the nomination of some other gentleman, they will indicate their desire by sending a majority of the delegates to that convention for the other candidate. The voice of the convention will be heard and respected throughout the campaign. It is a good thing to encourage candidates to come out in the open and state manly contents of their character. When the people have laid their way and the majority has been properly ascertained, the political advice will be clear and men will settle down to do the right and proper thing. But the potent voice of the great mass of the people, for which the ear of Lincoln was ever open, and to which the late lamented McKinley ever gave heed, whether expressed directly by the assembled multitude, or indirectly by the representative body, never be ignored. Factional chiefs may war and temporary confusion reign, but when that great voice is heard the waves of discord are stilled and a mighty calm ensues.

position newspapers urged, with much seriousness, that while such a nomination might be made, it would not represent the wishes of a majority of the people, because it would be brought about by the combination of the delegates elected in the counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny. It was urged by these same newspapers that the delegates from these counties were controlled by the machine, and that they did not represent the popular sentiment. In the twinkling of an eye, all these conditions seem to have been changed. These same newspapers now take a great interest in chronicling the fact that my nomination will be defeated by reason of the very forces they charged me with having in my favor in the earlier stages of the campaign. At that time they said the only hope my friends had of securing my nomination was the support of the two big counties. Now they admit the only hope of defeating my nomination is by getting three two counties practically solid against me and I am pleased to say that they are not likely to accomplish this result. My natural strength is in the country, and it will be seen when the convention meets that the rural counties will have a mighty voice in saying who the nominee shall be.

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Laboring People Not Opposed. These same newspapers have been urging that the laboring people of the state are opposed to my nomination. This has been so completely proved that it is scarcely worthy of mention. It has been suggested that the United Mine Workers of Pennsylvania were arrayed against me. Yet, as I came to your city today, and as I look over this vast audience composed largely of such people, the assurance comes to me that the laboring people are my friends. It has been my good fortune to have been associated with laboring men the greater part of my life. My natural sympathies are with them. It has always been a pleasure to serve the interests of labor when the opportunity presented itself. I desire to return my thanks to the wage-earners of Pennsylvania for the loyal and cordial support they have given me in the contest for governor.

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