

WILSON CANNOT WIN NEXT YEAR
Watterson Says President Will Not Be Able to Carry a Single State

St. Louis.—Henry Watterson, editor emeritus of the Louisville Courier-Journal, who is spending the winter at Miami, Florida, gave the following interview to a correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The correspondent put to him the direct question: "Will Woodrow Wilson be the Democratic candidate for president in 1920?"

"If Mr. Wilson wants the nomination he can have it, because the party machinery is wholly in his hands and there is no one of the national character and standing to oppose him," was the reply.

"What about the third term issue?"

"I am afraid," said Watterson, "that the Democratic party of the period is not much moved by the issues. Its objective is rather the concrete things of public life, the governmental patronage, the emoluments of place and self; in a word, the loaves and fishes. For the matter of that, all parties are more or less afflicted with the disease known of old as 'officials.' It is still with the party leaders as it has ever been. 'What are we here for?'"

"You don't give credit to the claim of the leaders that it is the country, the whole country, and nothing but the country, they seek to serve?"

Party Label a Trademark

"The trademark of the professional politician," the veteran answered, "is the party label; his asset, popular majorities, or the hope of popular majorities. Apart from these he is nothing. You may recall the ingalls of Kansas once described a statesman as a politician out of a job. But now each politician who has a job calls himself a statesman, and his claim allows him to rattle who rattle round as voters—some of 'em banal and some of 'em vulgar, but all of 'em bayseeds and crackers. 'That seems hard on our Southern people," the reporter observed.

"The Southern people," exclaimed the old confederate. "They are a race of degenerates. I know them not. I passed the better part of my life fighting south of the equator. The came out of an unequal war into which the wildest folly had precipitated it, a picked bird. Reconstruction menaced it with political extinction."

The South's Experience

"The Southern extremist of secession vanquished, impoverished, ruined, was met by the Northern extremist of annexation, the savages of temper and malignant of countenance, proposing to yield his beaten adversary two rights, and two rights only, the right to be hanged and the right to be damned. Enlightened conservatism and patriotic devotion to republican ideals rescued him from the boa constrictor of sectionalism. Once more he became a free man. Then what happened? As soon as he got on his feet, or thought he was, on his feet, he plunged successively into greenbackism and free silverism, and was licked to a frazzle in both. He is now plunging into prohibition. Such an animal deserves not his freedom, because he neither values it, nor is fit for it."

"But," interjected the reporter, "is not the President coming to the rescue of the better classes of the people and will he not save the country from what you, Mr. Watterson, have called the Bolsheviki of fanaticism and ignorance?"

The Fable of the Frogs

"Do you happen to recall," said Watterson, "what happened to the frogs who took Jupiter for their king? Mr. Wilson is a very able and very astute person. Hasn't read history for nothing. He has a mighty comfortable berth in the White House; he likes it, he is of mind to move, like the wise old rat upon his hunk of cheese, he delivers beautiful lectures upon the glory of life and living, the virtue of sweetness and light."

"I do not relish the idea of breaking in upon his beautitude or calling time upon his intentions or in any wise of criticizing his exultation, though, whilst copy book maxims seem to be going and have weight with him, I cannot resist reminding him that exploitation may be carried too far. That pride sometimes rides for a fall, and that his passion for breaking precedents is a dangerous indulgence."

No Trucking to Royalty

"Can you mean his foreign journey which has aroused such enthusiasm in England, France and Italy, and brought kings and queens, as well as people and governments, to his feet?"

"I am an old-fashioned Democrat, and take precious little stock in royalties of any sort. When George III reminded John Adams that, being an Englishman born, he ought to love England, the sturdy old patriot sententiously replied: 'Sire, I love no country except my own. I do not like to have the President of the United States quite so persona grata to the great ones of Europe. I do not like his hobnobbing with crowns and scepters, stars and garters, or his saying used to be 'ripping with old Euripides and canting with old Cantharides.'"

Wilson Can't Carry a State

"Two pictures have just reached me from the other side which will make excellent campaign material for the Republicans. One of these represents Mr. and Mrs. Wilson standing. I will not say smiling, with King George and Queen Mary before the camera. The other depicts Mr. and Mrs. Wilson driving proudly down the Corso in Rome with King Victor Emanuel and Queen Helena. For one, I don't like it. It offends not only my plain American sense of republican simplicity but what I may call a sense of national propriety. There can be no such thing as equality between a citizen and a sovereign, and now that the President begins to think, feel and act like a sovereign, he is out of character and out of place in those rain-glorious exploitations. He has shown himself, at times a man of very unequal, even of infirm, judgment. With such handicaps to carry, along with the third term issue, I do not believe that if he agrees to offer himself in 1920 he will carry a state outside the Bolsheviki provinces of the South."

Would be a Second Diaz

"Suppose you are mistaken, and he runs and is elected?"

"In that event, good-by to the republicanism of Washington, Jackson and Lincoln, and all hail the autocracies of Bolivar, Itos and Diaz. North America is next door to South America, you know. But if he runs again, he will not be elected. The Republicans will have an easy thing, an easier thing than they had last year. But, we shall see what we shall see."

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