

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1912.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE.

Woodrow Wilson, Ph.D., LL.D., former holder of numerous professorships of Jurisprudence and Politics, and now Governor of New Jersey, has been chosen as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States. The selection is noteworthy and the outcome will be watched with special interest in that a Presidential candidate has been introduced into the political arena in the Republic who, in nearly every respect, presents a contrast to all the other aspirants for the Presidency, whether Republican or Democratic.

Mr. Wilson has been in political life less than two years. He has been known far and wide as "The Princeton Schoolmaster." Born in Staunton, Virginia, in 1856, and educated at Princeton, Virginia, and Johns Hopkins Universities, he practised law at Atlanta, Ga., during 1883-3, but finding study more congenial gave up practice to enter academic life. He studied history, jurisprudence and political economy at Johns Hopkins University and received his Ph.D. degree in 1885. Many professorships in the particular branches of learning he chose to pursue fell to his lot. In 1895 he was elected the first non-clerical head of Princeton University. He has a brilliant record as a writer and public lecturer and first came into notice in 1885 for his Ph.D. thesis "Congressional Government: A Study of American Politics." Since that date numerous standard works have been the product of his pen.

In 1910 Mr. Wilson resigned the presidency of Princeton University to accept the Democratic nomination for Governor of New Jersey. Scornful references were made to "the Schoolmaster in politics," but his strong personality, his pre-election pledge "the people of the State will be the boss, the only boss," and a wave of anti-Republican sentiment combined to secure his election by a plurality of 49,000 votes. Mr. Wilson was the first Democratic Governor elected in New Jersey for sixteen years. His sweeping victory brought him into national prominence.

Governor Wilson's record since that date would seem to justify the belief that he will make a strong Presidential candidate for the Democratic party. He stood pledged to the enactment of a Workmen's Compensation Act, a reform of the election laws of the State which would make direct nominations possible, a corrupt practice act and a Public Utilities Commission Bill. All these measures were written into the statute books of New Jersey during the first year of his term, in spite of the fact that one House of the State Legislature was Republican. In addition, a law will be passed authorizing municipalities to adopt a commission form of government, and several other measures of a reformatory character were enacted.

While discounting the pre-election eulogies of Governor Wilson's friends it would seem that the Democratic candidate has claims for support entirely distinct from his political affiliations. He has the reputation of being a scholar and a statesman, a gentleman of unpretentious habits, with the fear of God in his heart and the love of mankind exhibited in the acts of his life, above all a public servant who has been tried in the balance and not found wanting. In the disorganized condition of the Republican party, through the incursions of Theodore Roosevelt, more unlikely things have happened than the election of Woodrow Wilson as next President of the United States.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The preliminary statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Government of Canada for the fiscal year 1911-12, ending with March 31 last, has been made public. The statement is epitomized in the Montreal Gazette as follows: The figures are the largest in the history of the country. The revenue of \$136,120,857 exceeded that of the preceding twelve months by \$18,250,000. The figures of the receipts were:

Customs taxes	\$ 86,586,142
Excise taxes	19,261,661
Total taxes	\$105,847,803
Post Office	10,492,394
Public Works and Railways	11,689,832
Miscellaneous	8,100,828
	\$136,120,857

In 1910-11 the tax revenue amounted to \$89,835,231, of which \$7,965,394 was from customs and \$16,869,837 from excise. The increase in the case of customs is the result of enlarged import of merchandise. The growth in excise income is apparently proof that in their prosperity people are smoking more tobacco and drinking more beer than in former years. The other items in the revenue represent payment for services rendered or value given, and naturally grow with the growth of business. In this regard they may be accepted as an additional evidence of the commercial activity that prevails in the country. Large as the total income was it failed to provide for all the expenditure by almost a million dollars. The items of outlay were:

Consolidated fund account	\$ 98,196,309
Public Works, Railways and Canals	30,942,627
Subsidies	859,400
Other special accounts	7,129,721
Total	\$137,128,057
Revenue as above	136,120,857
Shortage	\$997,200

As the outlay on consolidated fund account included a sum for the sinking fund the net result of the year's operations was a decrease in the net debt of \$169,255. The figures of the debt on March 31 were:

Liabilities	\$508,263,722
Assets realizable	368,480,925
Net debt	\$239,782,796

The general result is not quite as satisfactory as had been expected. The heavy outlays on the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway and other public works more than offset the reductions in some of the items of expenditure. Such outlays also are likely to be heavy during the current year, the demands for the undertaking of extensive works to which the Government and Parliament acceded having been even heavier than last year.

THE COMMISSION ON STATISTICS.

The appointment of a departmental Commission on Statistics by the Dominion Government should prove an effective method of bringing the statistical work of the Dominion up to date and of establishing a system on practical lines. Canada, with her immense possibilities and natural resources, needs better statistical references than are at present available. A Government Statistical Bureau, such as has been established in other countries, will be considered by the commission as a solution of the difficulty.

As conditions have existed for many years, the Customs Department, whose duties should be confined to what its name implies, is responsible for a certain measure of statistics; the Trade and Commerce Department bears another part of the statistical burden; the Department of Agriculture, which should have its statistical figures in the farming districts, is required to furnish other figures. In addition, there is a census office, which has an oversight of work every ten years, enough to put it out of business.

The importance of reliable statistics, ready to hand, cannot be overestimated. It was a marked feature of the last general election campaign, when Reciprocity was the great issue, that through the lack of reliable Canadian statistics speakers and writers had to rely on returns published by the United States. Accurate figures are required on many subjects. Little is known, for instance, of the production and distribution of commodities in the Dominion. From the statistical viewpoint, inter-provincial trade—an eminently vital question—is practically an unknown quantity. There has never been any first-hand information as to labor costs and commodity prices at home and abroad. The Commission on Statistics has been appointed by the Government to make a thorough investigation and suggest a remedy for these and other deficiencies. Its report will be submitted in the fall.

THE PLOT THAT FAILED.

The first congress on the French language which met in Quebec last week, by a practically unanimous vote, firmly refused to submit to a proposal that the Provincial Government and the city of Quebec should be represented on the permanent committee of organization. The congress is an international body and in delivering this well-merited snub to the influence at work to secure these appointments and to introduce politics and a "municipal coterie" as one member expressed it, demonstrated their claim to be an independent organization. Senator Choquette, a former director of Le Soleil, the leading Liberal organ of the Government, was the instigator of the scheme, with the excuse that the Government and the city had contributed generously to the success of the congress. The meeting was thrown into a turmoil and the suggestion was roundly denounced on all sides. Abbe Gauthier voiced the general opinion when he pointed out that if this precedent were adopted it would put an end to organization. When the motion was put Senator Choquette and Mr. Leduc, a young advocate of Quebec, alone voted for it. For ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain the Liberal machine is peculiar.

A "DEAD ISSUE."

The plans of Hon. Walter Scott to save the Liberal party in Saskatchewan from defeat by making Reciprocity the issue in the Provincial election, are liable to be somewhat upset when the attention of the electors is directed to the platform adopted by the Republican National Convention at Chicago. There is no reference to Reciprocity. It is not even hinted at. The representatives of the political party which supports Mr. Taft have accepted the President's view that it is a "dead issue."

It should not be difficult to convince the farmers of the Western Province, who favor Reciprocity, that, apart from the absurdity of making the Pact a Provincial question, they would be voting for an Agreement which Mr. Taft, its author in the United States, has repudiated, which Mr. Roosevelt has condemned and which the Republican Senate would strike from the statute books. The farmers of Saskatchewan will gain more satisfaction by repudiating Mr. Scott, who is afraid to make his Government's disgraceful record a Provincial issue.

Champ Clark, who hopes to see the Stars and Stripes ultimately flying to the North Pole, has gone to keep Reciprocity company in the discards.

Current Comment

(Victoria Colonist.)
The whole story of the Loyalists has never been told, and never will be told. Only those who have heard fragments of it as they stood by their grandmothers' knees and heard them "tell of the days that tried men's souls," can understand what it meant to be a Loyalist. What was it meant to the Empire? It has meant everything, for without the Loyalists there would have been no British Canada, and without Canada there would have been no Empire.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)
A rather bad election forecast was made by one Liberal paper in New Brunswick on election day. This paper said that thirty-one seats were safe for the Opposition, nine doubtful and eight would be Government. The Opposition obtained only two of the safe seats and none of the doubtful ones. In some of the safe seats the Liberal candidates lost their deposits.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
Students at Annapolis must learn to swim before diplomas will be granted to them. It is remarkable that drastic measures are necessary to induce students to take up swimming. A man can learn to swim more quickly than he can learn to dance, but there are far more dancers than swimmers.

(London Advertiser.)
That's a shrewd thrust of Bryan's that in the seven and a half years of his presidency Roosevelt never expressed an opinion on the tariff. In no period were tariffs abuses more rampant. Even today no one knows where Roosevelt stands, except that he is against Canadian Reciprocity.

(Hamilton Spectator.)
Keir Hardy, the notorious, has been calling the King an anachronism. He must have been trying to emulate the late Dan O'Connell, who roused an old Irish apple-woman to fury by styling her "an obtuse angle of a double parallelogram."

(Saturday Review, London.)
Mr. Roosevelt will not again be trusted in American public life. He has lost his character, and the illusion of the masses cannot hold when the excitement of this political contest has died down.

(Calgary Herald.)
Calgary must hold the world's record for church building. To erect, furnish and equip a church in fifteen hours is no mean task, but it was done here last Saturday.

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