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The Vice Presidency.

The Missouri democracy in state convention yesterday endorsed Gov. Major for the vice presidency, and Champ Clark, speaking here in Washington, added words of high praise for the man. Whether the action will prove to be more than a personal compliment remains to be seen.

What connection, if any, this may have with the change in Indiana conditions occasioned by Senator Shively's death is not more than conjecture. But that change has started some very interesting speculation. Until then talk about a new running mate for Mr. Wilson had excited only languid attention. Mr. Marshall, it was generally conceded, stood in the same relation as Mr. Wilson to a second term. Nobody offered a good reason why, if Mr. Wilson, Mr. Marshall also should not be nominated.

Now, however, when, because of Mr. Shively's death, two senators from Indiana are to be chosen at the coming election, Mr. Marshall's name figures in the equation. His fitness for the senatorial office picks him out most conspicuously for the race.

Gov. Major is not so well known to the country as Senator Lewis, whose name also is under discussion in connection with the vice presidency. Normally, Illinois is a republican, Missouri a democratic state. Just now the former shows signs of swinging back to republican control, while democratic supremacy in Missouri is threatened. An argument used in the appeal for St. Louis which secured the democratic national convention was that the honor of entertaining the national democracy would benefit the local democracy in this year's campaign.

This stage of case will make the contest for the vice presidential nomination at St. Louis exceedingly animated if Mr. Marshall should decide upon a senatorial contest. The question will be as to saving the day in Illinois and Missouri. If Mr. Lewis should be nominated would that check the rising republican tide and insure Illinois for the democracy? If Gov. Major should be nominated, would that keep Missouri in the democratic column? Both interesting questions. Mr. Clark, vouching for his friend and former pupil, describes Gov. Major as a brilliant campaigner. Mr. Lewis needs no introduction to the country. He also understands campaigning, and for years has been in request as a stump speaker in sections where his party has been most in need of that kind of service.

A School Pay Anomaly.

An amendment to the law is evidently necessary to prevent such injustices as that just developed in the case of the Western High School principal who, receiving a so-called promotion from a teachership to be temporary head of the school, actually loses pay, although the salary of the principalship is higher. In this particular case had the teacher remained in the ranks he would have received a \$200 longevity advance, whereas the designation as acting principal, according to Treasury Department decisions, deprives him of that advance and leaves him \$100 worse off than if he had not been honored by a so-called promotion. This kind in the statute should be straightened out promptly. It was certainly not the intention of Congress, in framing this law, that teachers who, after long service, were rewarded by promotion to higher positions should be automatically deprived of the longevity reward. Only by a technicality can this ruling be justified, and it is to be hoped that at an early opportunity a corrective enactment will be had that will prevent the discouragement of aspiration for promotion to principalships.

An outlaw used to rely on superior horsemanship. Now he has the aviator to contend with.

German Advance at Verdun.

Germany's renewed drive against Verdun has produced results that, according to some dispatches, are regarded with great anxiety in Paris and London. The fear is now expressed that the city may be taken, whereas a day or so ago the utmost confidence was manifested that the German campaign in that quarter had come to naught save for the gain of a few miles of territory at tremendous expense.

This persistence of the German commanders has been explained as due to political necessity, a fresh German war loan having been called for, with the closing of subscriptions on the first of April, by which date it is hoped to achieve the objective of the capture of the fortress for which so many thousands of lives have been sacrificed. The military value of Verdun, in German hands, would not be as great as it has been in French possession, save for the incidental straightening of the line of the French from approximately San

Mihiel to the Champagne. This would involve the surrender of a large area of French territory, but it would not advantage the invaders materially in any subsequent operations. In the more open country south of Verdun, if the French lines remained unbroken, the offensive force would be confronted with the same physical conditions as in the rougher and more wooded area in the Verdun region. Attacks would be no more easy in the valley of the Seine and the Marne than in the Argonne and the valley of the Meuse, if as easy.

Verdun stands as a moral objective. Its capture would be an achievement, to hearten the Germans in the ranks and at home, after many months of comparative inability to move forward in France. It might be instrumental in case of the beginning of peace negotiations in making for better terms than would otherwise be possible. Having started to get it, Germany must continue, at almost any cost, unless a disastrous failure is to be acknowledged.

The renewed Russian activity is apparently timed to bring heavy pressure upon the German east front at the juncture of the most powerful blow at Verdun. The superior transport of the Germans will enable them to concentrate at the threatened points, but it now remains to be disclosed whether the drive at Verdun has so weakened the Teutonic forces that the reserve power is no longer available for emergency.

A Small Hoosier Herd.

At the recent Indiana primary the bull moosers polled less than eight thousand votes—an insignificant number by comparison with either the republican or the democratic polling.

In the days of its vigor in the Hoosier state, bull moosery was led by Mr. Beveridge, whose relations with Mr. Roosevelt were very close. Indeed, there was a belief, extending beyond Indiana, but especially strong there, that Mr. Beveridge in the campaign of this year—1916—would be the bull moose candidate for President.

But that belief soon disappeared. A revised opinion took its place. This was that there would be no core to the bull moose apple. It dawned upon the Beveridge men that bull moosery represented only Rooseveltism; that all future bull moose maneuvers would continue to be in Mr. Roosevelt's behalf, and would cease if, and when, it was discovered that he could not "land" again.

From that time bull moosery began to decline in Indiana. Mr. Beveridge, who when a republican had been very popular in the state, was still popular with those he had led out of that party into the bull moose party; and when they became convinced that there was nothing for him in bull moosery in the way of national leadership great numbers lost interest in the movement. He was nearer to their hearts than Mr. Roosevelt.

This revised opinion of bull moosery is the correct opinion. Mr. Roosevelt's spear knows no brother. There will be no legate. As much so as in 1912, Mr. Roosevelt is the whole of bull moosery. Remove him from the equation, and little, if anything, remains.

What admirers of Mr. Beveridge in Indiana, admirers of Gov. Johnson in California, admirers of Victor Murdock in Kansas, admirers of former Senator Dixon in Montana, have to consider is, not a matter relating to the advancement of the personal fortunes of their respective leaders, but a matter relating to the fortunes of the country. They must choose between two parties, and among men representing the party to which before 1912 they belonged.

Either the republican or the democratic candidate for President will be elected next November. If there is a bull moose candidate he will be Mr. Roosevelt again, but not even he can win. Mr. Beveridge took no part in the Indiana primary; was not a candidate for any office, and made no speeches for anybody. What his course will be after the two Chicago conventions have acted has not been indicated.

By this time the Berlin editors no doubt have given up trying to understand the complexities of American politics by reading the contradictory statements of the United States editors.

No horrible details have been permitted to get into print about the mental sufferings of submarine commanders disciplined for torpedoing neutrals.

Discussions of armor plate manufacture tend to complicate the question of preparedness with the very extensive subject of government ownership.

Verdun is presenting a very unsatisfactory example of "in statu quo."

The Call for More Troops.

It is not extraordinary that Gen. Funston should have called on the War Department for additional troops for use in Mexico or on the border, and his requisition should not be viewed as a necessarily alarming indication. Obviously the pursuit of Villa is not going to be easy. He has got a start and is now in the hills, and even with the Carranza forces actively at work rounding him up from the south and Gen. Pershing's column pushing in from the north, his advantage of position is such that he may keep his opponents guessing and maneuvering for a long time. Gen. Pershing's position is difficult. Having no assured base of supplies in Mexico he must depend upon a base on this side of the border, and it is necessary to maintain protection for this line of communication. Even though it may take no more than 4,000 men in the field of actual operations to accomplish the appointed task, 10,000 may be necessary, or even 20,000, for guard duty on the border and along the line over which Pershing's supplies must go.

Thus far there has been no sign of anything but a sincere disposition on

the part of Carranza and his military leaders to co-operate in the capture of Villa. This is a gratifying development for which the United States government is sincerely thankful. It is immaterial to this country whether Villa is captured by Carranzistas or by the American troops, so long as he is caught and punished as his crimes warrant. If Carranza can, through his own forces, even with the United States troops acting as an element of pressure to drive Villa into his hands, take the bandit himself, he will have done more to establish himself at the head of the Mexican government than anything else that has been accomplished thus far. His danger, which is fully recognized here, lies in the possibility of a suspicion among the Mexican people that he is playing into the hand of the United States, and that the motives of this country are sinister.

Coal and Charity.

Every householder knows how his coal pile diminished during the first three weeks in March as a result of the chill winds that swept over Washington. Many have had to replenish this supply, which to most people has been chiefly an inconvenience at this season of the year. Has it occurred to many Washingtonians that the conditions that made the fuel stock shrink so rapidly in their cellars affected the poor just in the same manner? Whereas in one case there was annoyance and a comparatively slight addition to the coal bill, easily borne, in many other cases there was acute suffering. The poor buy their coal in small quantities, which is the most expensive way of laying in supplies, and when the pinch of weather comes they are the greatest sufferers. Relatively they are harder hit than the householder who doubles his normal supply of fuel.

These facts must be taken into account by the charitable people of Washington at the present juncture, with an appeal sounded for additional funds for the work of the Associated Charities and the Central Relief Committee. About \$5,000 is necessary to complete the winter's work of these organizations in caring for the poor of Washington. It will be well for every man who stakes his own furnace or hires another to do it for him to regard his dwindling coal pile as a reminder of an obligation he owes to his less fortunate fellow Washingtonian. If he orders a ton of coal for \$7— or more— he should think of the family that is buying fuel by the peck or ten-pound lot at a rate that would cause him to expostulate against "extortion." Let him come to the rescue of these small-quantity fuel buyers and help the charitable agencies means to give those who have no funds to keep themselves in safe comfort during these last days of the season.

It may cause Col. Roosevelt certain pangs of envy when he reads about Gen. Funston in the middle of a real fight.

Some presidential possibilities are as shy and inquisitive as if they were being asked to be candidates for initiation in a secret society.

Whatever happens, Col. House's remarks will give the news censors no trouble.

The schoolhouse may be more popular with the youngster if he finds it the place which his elders prefer to the movies in the evening.

Japan has shown how nearly neutral an ally can become.

Von Tirpitz is said to be suffering the mental depression which an exact theorist experiences when he neglects to take the element of human sympathy into his calculations.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Selection.

"Them same people wants to engage board for next summer," said Mrs. Corn-tassel.

"Well, we won't take 'em," replied her husband. "I want somebody that kin tell some new jokes an' play some new tunes on the piano."

A Comforting Conclusion.

The congressman remarked, "I am now satisfied, oh, friends of mine, though March may go out like a lamb, that pork will not be in his line."

In Philosophic Mood.

"The folks out home don't approve of some of the things you said."

"Well," replied Senator Sorghum, "such conditions will arise. A public man's success depends a great deal on his ability to secure forgiveness and forgetfulness."

"A patient man," said Uncle Eben, "generally ain't intitled to much credit, 'cept foh knowin' when he's licked."

Harmless Cheer.

"Bob," said Coyote Joe, "what's one of these here optimists?"

"Well," answered Broncho Bob, "as near as I kin make out, an optimist is a fellow that kin look at a pair of deuces an' imagine it's as good as three kings; an' still have sense enough not to bet on the hand."

The Constant Reminder.

I much admire a gentle soul Who sounds a single warning. And lets its rhythmic cadence roll Both afternoon and morning; Who, when your mood Is somewhat rude, And even rather scrappy, Salutes you with the platitude, "Be good and you'll be happy."

From Marc Aurelius he will bring Some serious thought to greet us, Or paraphrase a little thing He read in Epictetus. We know he's right. We may not fight His words sedate or snappy, And yet we've wearied of it quite— "Be good and you'll be happy."

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