

THE EVENING STAR, With Sunday Morning Edition.

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Justice Hughes' Address.

Hughes boomers everywhere—and particularly those now assembled at Chicago—will extract the liveliest satisfaction from the address delivered yesterday by the man they want nominated for President. Is there anywhere a nobler tribute to the Stars and Stripes, or a clearer exposition of its meaning? Is not adequate preparedness subscribed to in every word? Would there be any doubt about the use of preparedness by such a man should he be elected President, and should an emergency arise during his incumbency of the office? Can the republican party, or any party, show a better American?

And another point, which the Hughes men will note with pride. Mr. Wilson is much praised for his powers of expression. He has a nice choice of words and turn of phrase. But here is another man quite as gifted in that particular. The styles differ. Mr. Wilson is an educator and writer; Justice Hughes a lawyer and speaker.

If Justice Hughes is nominated, the republicans will be assured of a speech or letter of acceptance couched in terms of strength and felicity and quotable in the campaign; and if he is elected, messages to Congress and other state papers worthy in form and force of our best traditions. This short deliberance on the subject of the flag exhibits a power which applied to other great subjects—the tariff among the number—will make with equal success for a firmer popular understanding of them.

As a matter of fact, however, this disclosure carries nothing strictly new, but only something previously exhibited. Since his name was first suggested for the Chicago nomination, Justice Hughes has been frequently complimented afresh on the speech he made at Youngstown, Ohio, in 1908, opening the Taft campaign. He showed in that not only a thorough grasp of the issues, but a capacity to group and express them in an unusual degree. The occasion was his debut on the national stump, and the result was an unqualified success. The candidate, the cause, the speaker, all benefited. A local reputation at once became national, and the performance is still remembered.

It is easy to assume that what Justice Hughes then did for Mr. Taft he could now do for himself. As the candidate of his party for President he would state the case, the whole case, and nothing but the case, in a way to prime all republican spellbinders, and inaugurate an exceedingly interesting campaign.

Declarations that any nation foolish enough to attack us will be whipped are wholesome expressions of patriotic faith. The only thing that remains is to be prepared to make good.

Verdun continues to bring to attention the advantage a navy has over land military equipment in bringing an engagement to a quick decision.

It is to be seen whether the passing of the progressive party is to be an occasion of spectacular brilliancy or dignified solemnity.

The fact that the pen is mightier than the sword does not induce Col. Bryan to toss it into the plowshare heap.

New York is consistent in its refusal to give Roosevelt any marked "favorite son" encouragement.

Harding and Garfield.

The keynote which Senator Harding will deliver tomorrow is awaited with very considerable interest. He is a man of ability, and for years has been prominent in Ohio politics. He has reputation at home as an orator, and is expected to extend this widely by tomorrow's deliverance. In the nature of things he must have prepared himself with care, and is ready for an occasion which any orator would feel himself fortunate in possessing. Doubtless he will present himself at his best; and if his best meets the emergency his party will profit in the campaign.

The only tip as to the speech is taken from a statement made by the senator before his selection as keynoter. He said at that time, in speaking of the coming presidential contest, that the tariff would be a leading, if not the leading, issue.

As an Ohio republican Mr. Harding is justified in putting great store by protection. A neighbor and follower of William McKinley could do no other. Ohio is a manufacturing state, and there is elsewhere, protection has wrought much. Re-enacted in a logical and conservative fashion—on the lines laid down by President McKinley at Buffalo in what proved to be his last speech—it will do still more.

Mr. Harding has been the subject of some gossip respecting the Chicago nomination, though he has done nothing to encourage it. He has been referred to as a possible dark horse. Supporting the suggestion is the fact that at Chicago

in 1880—thirty-six years ago—Gen. Garfield, a delegate from Ohio to the republican national convention of that year, made a speech of such power and charm, though in the interests of another—John Sherman—it won the nomination. May not history repeat itself? May not the echo of Mr. Harding's keynote be his nomination for President?

As The Star a few weeks ago pointed out, Gen. Garfield's speech alone, stirring as it was, did not account for his nomination. He had long been a national figure—one of the most attractive in the country. He had helped make much important national history. He had admirers in every state of the Union. His record covered every current issue of national consequence. So that when the convention of 1880 wearied of its deadlock, Gen. Garfield as a key fitted to a T. For a dozen good reasons he was the very man for the emergency, and the people at the polls ratified the selection. His convention speech simply pointed afresh at an opportune moment to the man and his record long widely known and admired.

Death of Kitchener.

England is suffering heavy blows just at present. Quickly following the naval battle off Jutland, in which many British ships were lost, with a serious destruction of life, comes the news that Earl Kitchener, the foremost British soldier, minister of war, has been drowned with his staff in the sinking of the cruiser Hampshire off the coast of the Orkney Islands. The vessel was struck by a torpedo or a mine and sank so quickly that apparently all on board were lost.

Kitchener was the popular idol of the British when the war began. He had a long record of eminent achievements in the field. His services in South Africa during the Boer war, as Lord Roberts' chief aid, were such as to endear him to the British people. He was a stern soldier, silent, determined, highly trained, a severe disciplinarian. At the outset of the present campaign he frankly declared that he foresaw at least three years of strife, but was confident of British victory. His work at the head of the army was heavily handicapped by England's unpreparedness in the matter of both men and munitions. Eventually he became minister of war and the duty of providing ammunition and guns was intrusted to another, David Lloyd George, whose genius for organization finally brought about a sufficient supply of war materials.

The official announcement of the disaster states that the Hampshire was on the way to Russia and it is to be inferred that Kitchener was going to confer with the Russian military authorities respecting the plans of campaign. Kitchener, it will be remembered, went to Greece some months ago and had an interview with King Constantine at Athens. He was in the line of his duty when death overtook him.

Kitchener's loss will be sorely felt by England. His great personal prestige was a large asset in the war-making organization, and it will be difficult to fill his place adequately. If the Hampshire was sunk by a torpedo the belief will prevail that his presence on board was known to the Germans, and that the vessel was marked for destruction in order to deprive England of the valuable services of her chief soldier.

The office that many republicans believe to be seeking the man may place a Supreme Court justiceship under the necessity of doing the same thing.

Even political harmony resembles the popular sentimental ballad in being associated more or less with heartaches.

The connection between Oyster Bay and Chicago is one of the busiest lines in the history of the telephone.

Even Congress becomes an assemblage of subordinate interest when a national convention is in session.

The Passing of Yuan Shi Kai. China is a land of mystery. No westerner can fully understand the ways of men there, or follow clearly the course of events. Much is hidden under the deep reserve of the Celestial nature and the indirection which is the dominating characteristic of the race. When a few days ago it was reported that Yuan Shi Kai, the president of the republic and would-be emperor of the restored monarchy, was dangerously ill the intimation was given in the dispatches that he had been poisoned and was dying. This report was vigorously denied officially. Yuan, it was declared, was in good health, physically and officially, and everything was serene in the land. Today comes the brief announcement of Yuan's death.

Yuan Shi Kai played a remarkable role during the period of Chinese reorganization. He found his opportunity in the turmoil following the overturn of the empire. He wrested the lead from Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who was the soul of the revolution, and placed himself at the head of the new organization. His ambition, however, was his undoing. He aspired to be the founder of a new dynasty and had himself anointed with the emblems of imperial dignity and proclaimed his design to make China once more into an empire, with himself at the head. The reaction against him was immediate and Yuan was politician enough to see that his move was ill-timed. He renounced all imperial intentions and sought to regain the confidence of the people, which he had never, however, fully won. It was too late. In the southern provinces the spirit of rebellion was rife, and lately Yuan had been facing a situation of the gravest difficulty.

It is hinted that Japanese intrigue has been active in China to undermine Yuan, to throw the country into turmoil and to create a state of demoralization in which it might be easy for the island empire to secure a lasting hold upon the

great continental area. Japan, however, has shown no outward signs of such a design, though here and there detachments of Japanese troops are stationed in China, at strategic points.

No man can know the result of Yuan's death. China is in a state of great ferment and developments have a way of occurring swiftly there. If the republic is to be perpetuated, some man as strong as Yuan must be developed quickly. If he was assassinated, as is intimated, his death is probably but one item in a course of a plot which may lead to astounding results.

An Old Swindle Worked Here.

It is astonishing with what success old swindlers are worked upon unsuspecting victims. Notwithstanding all warnings and despite the very fragrant of the frauds, these traditional games, like the penny-matching contest and the "lost pocketbook," are continued as methods of separating the unwary from their money. The latest case is peculiarly pathetic. A colored woman in this city was approached on the street by two strangers, of her own race, who told her they had just found a pocketbook containing \$500, and were anxious to make change. By some locus-pecus of persuasion, coupled with the promise of a part of the findings if she aided them, they persuaded her to give them \$117.50, promising to meet her at a certain time with the money due to her. Of course, she never saw them again.

It would seem that such a barefaced swindle would never succeed. But there is no telling what people will do for the chance to get something for nothing. The victim is usually played upon through a desire for gain. The swindlers are shrewd and select their marks carefully. In the case of the penny-matching game they are clever in finding some one from out of town, as a rule, and always some one with funds in pocket.

The police can do little to check these games. By the time they hear of them the criminals have fled town, seeking other fields. If they ever return to this city for fresh victims they are forgotten and identification is difficult. All that can be done is to give the widest publicity to every swindling case, to warn everybody against putting confidence in unknown persons in matters relating to money. Suspicion may be an uncharitable impulse, but it is safer than injudicious generosity or quick grasping for unearned profits. And the cry of "Safety first" is a good rule to adopt when dealing with strangers.

All appearances would indicate that the republicans have eliminated the third party from the list of great national problems to be considered. There is a disposition in the republican convention to let T. R. have his own way so long as he does not demand what he most desires.

A preparedness parade does not mean actual immediate military efficiency, but it is a most valuable guarantee of popular sentiment.

There is never any telling when Col. Roosevelt will be moved to drop the telephone and rush on to make it a personal communication. The nature of the conflict is not such as to entitle Chicago to be designated as a war zone.

SHOOTING STARS. BY PHILANDER JOHNSON. Plaint of a Slumberer. "Does he make hay while the sun shines?" "No. He isn't satisfied to wait that long. He gets out and cuts the grass before the sun's up."

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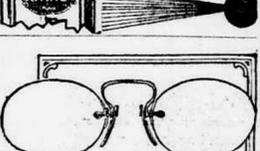
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