

## WASHINGTON G. O. P. IS LESS CONFIDENT

Hughes' Visit Said to Have  
Added Nothing to  
Cause.

POINDEXTER VICTORY  
ALSO CAUSES UNREST

Woman Voters Say "Wilson Kept Us  
Out of War"—Republicans May  
Win Most of State Offices.

Special Dispatch to The Star.  
SEATTLE, September 20.—There has been noticeable a greater moderation in the claims of the republicans in the state of Washington during the last few weeks. This state went heavily for Roosevelt in 1912, and when the colonel espoused the cause of Charles E. Hughes the republicans computed their forces by adding the progressive vote to the republican vote. Recent developments indicate the fallacy of such a claim.

For one thing, the visit of Mr. Hughes to this state added nothing to the interest in the republican cause. The people here had clothed Mr. Hughes with a fictitious personality; they had an idea—at least the republicans had—that he was a sort of superman. His visit disillusioned them to the extent that they now see that he is only human and that he is not infallible.

Generally it was believed that he was too critical of the administration in matters looked upon here as of little importance. The people here would like to have heard Mr. Hughes devote more time to constructive things and less to building bonfires under the administration.

### Adds to Republican Unrest.

The recent victory of Senator Miles Poindexter over Representative W. E. Humphrey for the republican nomination for United States senator has added somewhat to the republican unrest. Mr. Humphrey, who has served fourteen years in the House of Representatives, was regarded as representing the orthodox brand of republicanism. Senator Poindexter voted for the Underwood tariff bill and generally has been closer to the democratic administration than any other republican or progressive from the west.

The issue here was the tariff. While Senator Poindexter voted for the Underwood act, he declared during the campaign that he was at all times in favor of a tariff on shingles and lumber, the principal industry of the state. The results of the direct primary show that many democrats asked for republican ballots solely for the purpose of nominating Poindexter. Humphrey's attacks on the administration had made him distasteful to the democrats and they accepted the opportunity to rebuke him.

Now that Senator Poindexter is the republican nominee for United States senator, there is noticeable a lot of dissatisfaction among the so-called regular republicans. Many of them have announced their purpose of voting for Judge George Turner, the democratic nominee, at the general election, on the ground that a straight democrat is preferable to them. Whether this movement will attain importance cannot be foretold at present.

### Stand of Woman Voters.

One striking development in the general situation is that the woman voters take a good deal of stock in the democratic claim that "Wilson kept us out of war." Recently the Washington National Guard returned from the Mexican border safe and sound and there has been a good deal of rejoicing among the woman voters that there was no clash of arms.

The republican leaders have pleaded in vain that Wilson's Mexican policy brought us dangerously near to war and that a Hughes or a Roosevelt would have made impossible the miniature war at Vera Cruz, or the marching in and marching out of Pershing's column. Many woman voters decline utterly to accept any such line of reasoning. They say that the country is at peace and that war was at all times a possibility, hence "Wilson kept us out of war." From a republican standpoint, the obstinacy of the feminine mind is very exasperating.

A month ago, when prominent progressives who formerly had been republicans went over to the Wilson side, the republicans smiled good-naturedly and gave themselves a little concern about the matter. They saw no danger in a few progressives going to the opposition. The disconcerting thing is that there had been noticed a steadily increasing sentiment among the women for Wilson. Republican orators have been in the habit during the summer of estimating the republican plurality in Washington at 75,000 and 50,000. It requires a hardy speaker now to announce from the platform that the republican plurality will be 50,000. Secretly the republicans hope that it will be 25,000, and some have put the estimate as low as 15,000.

The democrats have no means of telling what the Wilson vote will be. There has been no test by which it could be estimated. The republicans are better organized and are almost certain to elect all the state officers, save, perhaps, the governor. The democrats are basing their hope on the tendency of the women to vote for Wilson; beyond that they have not gone.

### Prohibition Question Factor.

In the gubernatorial race the prohibition question will be a factor. Washington prohibited the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquor January 1, 1916. Since then the breweries have initiated a bill providing for the manufacture and sale of beer. That measure will be voted on by the people at the November election. Gov. Lister, who four years ago was elected as a democrat, is a pronounced dry. Henry McBride, the republican nominee, while pledged to oppose any change in the prohibition law by the legislature, is acceptable to the wets. Eight years ago he was the wet candidate for governor, when local option was a burning issue. Of the eight candidates at the primary, he alone was able to rally the anti-prohibition forces.

It is freely predicted that many dry republicans will prefer Gov. Lister, the democratic nominee, to McBride. Whether this defection will be important depends largely upon the margin of safety which the republicans will have on the presidential ticket. Nobody at present considers it at all likely that any democrat will be elected to a state office below the governor. That there is ground for democratic hope in the gubernatorial race is generally recognized.

### Situation Summed Up.

To sum up: The republicans of Washington are a good deal less cocksure about carrying the state than they were a few weeks ago; the nomination of Senator Poindexter, whose tariff record and leanings toward democracy are distasteful to orthodox republicans, has caused a lot of unrest in the republican ranks; the democrats have hope of re-electing a governor, and republican women are continuing to say that "Wilson kept us out of war." The indications are that Washington will elect a solid republican delegation to the House of Representatives. At present one democrat in the House comes from this state. He is C. C. Dill of the fifth district. This year republicans and progressives are working together, and a republican is almost certain to succeed him. The other four districts are safely republican.



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