

MEREDITH IS GAINING

HARDING FORCES FRIGHTENED BECAUSE OF GENERAL DEFECTION IN PARTY.

EFFORT TO BE MADE TO GET OUT VOTE

Republican Organization to Make Effort to Induce "Straight" Voting - Absence of Cummins and Clarke at Conference Significant - Traveling Men For Meredith.

Special to Times-Republican. Des Moines, Oct. 2.—With only five weeks left in which to line up the republican voters to vote the ticket straight Lieutenant Governor Harding is asking republican leaders to rally all factions to his support.

This has been the purpose of the visits of Republican Chairman C. A. Rawson to the various districts over the state and of the conference held in Des Moines Saturday. A big effort is being made to overcome the defection to Meredith.

More and more the comment is heard here that Meredith is gaining in the closing weeks of the campaign and Harding is losing. Few are predicting that Meredith will gain enough to win the election because of the big odds against him but many are saying that his straight from the shoulder campaign, his speeches over the state the past few weeks in which he comes out square toed on the vital issues, are winning him friends and making him votes.

It was noticeable in the conference held in Des Moines Saturday that neither Senator Cummins nor Governor Clarke was present at the conference although both were in the city. Ernest R. Moore, of Cedar Rapids, Harding's running mate, was present. So was Horace M. Havner, of Marengo, candidate for attorney general.

Two republican congressmen were in the city on Saturday, Burton E. Sweet, of Waverly, and C. W. Ramseyer, of Bloomfield, but they did not stay for the conference. Frank S. Shaw, candidate for re-election as state auditor, and W. C. Brown, out for re-election as state treasurer, were present. The main thing discussed was the getting out of the biggest united republican vote possible Nov. 7.

Governor Clarke is taking no part in the party fights this fall. The governor expects to retire from political life at the end of this year and go back to his law practice in Adel and

as there is no vital issue in the present campaign in his judgment he is devoting his spare time to speaking at consolidated school meetings, at college reunions and booster meetings and to affairs of that sort.

Already the question is being asked as to when Senator Kenyon is to get into the campaign. He has said he is going to speak for Harding but as yet has made no speeches. He is also expected to go out for the national ticket. Senator Cummins expects to get into the national campaign about the second week in October. He has announced that he will attack the eight-hour law passed during the closing sessions of congress. He takes the position that this is only a makeshift measure which sooner or later will involve the country in serious trouble.

Traveling Men For Meredith. Two Iowa traveling men were comparing political notes at a Des Moines hotel last night. One was for Harding the other for Meredith.

The Harding man who calls on furniture dealers, said with a mild mannered little oath that he couldn't understand it at all, but it was a fact that 90 per cent of the business men on whom he called, most of them republicans were for Meredith.

His companion in turn said he had taken pains to size up the situation this past week, and had found that out of seventeen dealers in seventeen different towns—all republicans—fifteen were for Meredith. He couldn't say definitely, but his impression was that the two who admitted that they were supporters of Harding took that position largely because they were in sympathy with his wet views, the fact that he happens to be the republican candidate may have some influence.

Tide is Turning. Another traveling man, who is prominently identified with the U. C. T. and has a wide acquaintance among the traveling salesmen of Iowa, declared that fully 75 per cent of the commercial travelers are for Meredith. He insisted that is a conservative estimate.

These are just straws indicating the way the tide has been running in Iowa during the past two weeks.

Similar information from many different sources and all sections of the state is coming in daily.

A Des Moines man who is in close touch with the farmers of central Iowa and who calls on them in their homes said yesterday that the huge clouds of dust thrown up in the fake road issue was apparently having no effect.

He also expressed the opinion that the Taxpayers' League is confined to the little group of men who meet every month at the Savery Hotel. "At least," he added, "I have found only one member during my travels among the farmers of Iowa this summer. Not Fooling Farmers. "The truth is," he continued, "Iowa farmers are not so easily fooled as some people imagine. Most of them are for better roads, and they know perfectly well that it is possible to get better roads without increasing the present rate of taxation."

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