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GOV. DEVINE REPLIES TO THE 'OPTIC'S' ARTICLE

Discusses Who and What Makes a Good Republican—It's Good Reading.

Governor Devine responds to the several articles which have appeared in the Minot Optic, in which that paper has numbered him with the so-called Reformers, and placed him outside the pale of the Republican party. The article abounds with wholesome, thoughtful suggestions. He writes calmly about the party managers and he is eminently fair in all of his conclusions. Its such an article that party leaders should weigh carefully and the Independent believes that if his suggestions were followed out, on their part, there would be no danger or even talk of splits, or factions, either in the county or in the state.

The article in question was written to the Optic, but for satisfactory reasons that paper refused to publish it.

To the EDITOR OF THE OPTIC:

DEAR SIR—On several occasions my attention has been called to articles appearing in your paper, the reading of which creates the impression that you are laboring under the belief that in some way, not yet fully and definitely determined, I am attempting to organize, or that I am one of many that are attempting to organize within the state a so-called Reform Wing of the Republican party, which has for its especial purpose the dethroning of what is generally known and commonly designated as "The Old Gang," "Old Guard," or "The Machine,"—as to name you simply pay your money and take your choice. For some reason, for which I cannot account, or, perhaps, anyone else, in the mind of the Optic, I have lost my Republicanism, and have gotten beyond and outside of the breastworks of the Republican party of this state. The Optic evidently watches with exceeding great care the press exchanges, and when they run across an article that gives tendency to this belief with reference to myself the paper takes great pleasure to publish it, with more or less additional comment, as one of its leading editorials. Naturally and logically its readers are more or less led to believe and accept the statements as being Simon Pure stuff. I do not know whether it is the object of the Optic or not to lead me into a controversy relative to the management pro and con of the Republican party in this state. Certainly I would take such a step with the greatest possible reluctance; but, nevertheless, if that is the motive which prompts the publishing of these articles, then all I can say is, the Optic can be accommodated, and while, as a matter of fact, it would neither be a pleasant nor desirable duty, still, in sheer self-defense I might possibly be crowded into the necessity of replying.

These quotations and editorial comment team with the statement that J. M. Devine is sore; that he seeks to be a party leader; that he is basely ungrateful, etc., all of which is absolutely misleading, pure rot, and is as far from the truth as is the East from the West, to anyone and everyone who may know me, or cares to know and are capable to pass intelligently upon my attitude towards the Republican party, its principles and my connection with it.

I certainly have every reason to believe that the Optic knows that there never was a battle fought by the Republican party in this state; never was a platform written, National or State, that did not find me on the firing line, and where the stress of battle was the greatest, giving my time and as good service as I was capable of giving, to the defense of the party and its principles. I certainly never dodged a fight, never ran from an enemy, never deserted the cause, and when platforms were made and tickets nominated did my best to defend, on the one hand, and elect on the other, by personal effort, and in every campaign in this state. Does that record place me beyond the dead-line of party affiliation? Certainly the Optic is not in position, neither is any other paper within the state, to say as much for quite a number of the present party leaders, about whom and for whom it seems so eagerly anxious to guard, protect and defend.

As regards my state of mind, I am not sore now nor at any other time; neither am I ungrateful. I believe the Republican party has been exceedingly good to me, and to a greater extent than usually falls to the lot of any one man, and I was and am very grateful for the recognition assigned me, and I knew then and know now of no better way to show my gratitude, for the honors bestowed upon me, than to give to the party and the people of the state the best service that I was or am able to render. Would you turn me out for that?

I was a state official for six years, and during that time, occupied the position of Lieutenant Governor, Governor and State Superintendent of Schools. I went into office with the belief that a public office was a public trust, that I was to render to the people an account of my stewardship, and I came out with that same belief. In the six years that I held office I never had the doubtful compliment of being invited to a party conference at the Merchant's Hotel, at St. Paul; never had the exquisite pleasure of sitting at the feet of McKenzie, and the small coterie of politicians who constitute North Dakota's political Sanhedrin. I certainly never had a conversation with McKenzie as regards how to direct the affairs of the different positions which I held during the above mentioned six years, and, to do him exact justice, he gave me the right-of-way, without hint or suggestion. The duties, therefore, I met as best I could, and as they presented themselves day by day, giving the best judgment I could bring to bear on the questions at issue, always having in mind what I deemed to be the best interests of the party and the people, and let it go at that.

My Messages to two Legislative Assemblies will show that I took a definite and advanced position upon all questions that came up irrespective of what may have been the views of party leaders, and in every single instance, so far as I know, tried to carry out the pledge of state platforms, and what I believed to be the needs, demands and best interests of the whole people of this state. Would you count me out for that?

When the time came for me to step down and out, and I knew that time would and should necessarily come, I put aside official duties with a sense of relieved satisfaction, left the Capitol City, without a single unkind thought, with no bitterness rankling in my heart toward any living man within the borders of the state. I believed then and I still believe that the political honors which had been conferred upon me were greater than I could reasonably expect. Up to date I have made no complaint, have told no lies, have thrown no mud. As far as I know I have met every duty devolving upon me as a Republican and citizen, and shall continue to do so as long as the

principles of the Republican party meet, as I believe they do, the best interests of the people of this country. Now does that attitude place me outside the pale of the Republican party?

It is interesting, however, to recall that not a very great while ago, quite a number of the men who now constitute what is called "The Machine," and who hold within their keeping the direction of party affairs within this state had deserted the colors, fled from their posts; some had taken to the woods, others were on the fence, still others were bushwacking and a few—now bright and shining lights—were doing their best to scuttle the ship, disrupt the party by shouting themselves hoarse for Free and Unlimited Coinage of Silver, 16 to 1. And this, permit me to say, was taking place, at a period in the party's greatest need, and in her hour of greatest trial. At that time, and in that hour of conflict, I was writing Gold Planks and speaking anywhere and everywhere to the people of this state, for and in the interests of the Republican party, William McKinley, Protection and the Gold Standard. Would you read me out of the party for that? Or, to put it in another form, are these men better Republicans than I am?

Still, judging from the tone of the articles appearing, I am not entitled to be admitted into the vestibule of the Republican tabernacle, and for the previous offense of not having kissed the hem of the garment of North Dakota's political boss; still I am sufficiently near to catch the inspiration of Lincoln, Grant and Blaine; still sufficiently close to believe that I am under the Republican standard of protection and progress, and to all whom it may concern, permit me to say, I am going to stay there. It will take more than "The Machine," or a dozen "Machines," or the Optic, to read me out. It is true I never bowed, whether in or out of office, to any clique, corporation or individual. I believe in Garfield, McKinley and Roosevelt; I believe in the Republican principles, as they have been handed down, a history of great men and great deeds, and which today makes such splendid history for children to read and men to ponder; to these I lift my hat, bow my head, acknowledge allegiance. I believe in getting my orders and general direction, as a Republican, from the White House, at Washington, D. C., and Oyster Bay, rather than the Merchants' Hotel, at St. Paul. I believe it wiser, and away and ahead better, Republicanism to follow humbly in the path blazed by Roosevelt, than to take orders from and carry out the "ipse dixit" of McKenzie, and "The Machine." Would you turn me out of the party for that?

As a private citizen I have my own personal views as to party leadership, and party management, and shall not hesitate—if the exigency exists and the best interests of the party and the people demand it—to express them, but I shall do so always within and not without the party. Is that Republicanism or not?

If not believing in "The Old Guard" methods, and particularly in the methods employed at the last session of the Legislature marks the difference between one who is a Republican and one who is not, then I am far from being a Republican. If the small body of men who make up what is the so-called "Machine," and from their headquarters at St. Paul, issue their edicts, and to obey them implicitly and without question makes a "good" Republican, then I am not a "good" one. For instance, I believe the party managers made a serious mistake, when they used their official power and personal influence to reduce a three-fourths majority in the House for a Primary Election Bill covering the whole state, to a miserable minority. Many of the members of that body had been instructed by their county conventions to support a measure of this kind, and, in my judgment, it would have been party wisdom, good leadership, to have aided rather than retarded these men from delivering the goods, which their constituency had demanded. I also believe that a serious mistake was made when under the same influence, and by the same methods there was passed the Capitol Commission Bill, a measure that had no public sentiment behind it; for which no delegate had been instructed, and for which there was no more desire or need, at this time in this state, than a visitation of black rust in the Red River, or the spread of Russian cactus in the Jim River Valley. Does the expression of that personal belief make me less a Republican?

Permit me, in conclusion, to again repeat, I neither want nor am I seeking any office, and am not ungrateful. Alec McKenzie personally is a likeable man, and no one knows it better than myself. From every standpoint he measures immensely greater than the men who gather about him to do his bidding. Personally, I might add, that many, very many who today make up "The Machine" of the state, if not political, are at least personal friends. I have not now nor never had any unkind words for any of them: I am not so much against "The Machine," as a machine, as I am against the system in vogue, the methods employed and the results produced. I make this assertion not as a member of any clique within or without the party, or that I expect to be or, in fact, will be. I am out of office, and I am out of office to stay. I am devoting, and shall still continue to devote, all my energies to the upbuilding of an honest, legitimate business, and today would go much farther and would work much longer and harder to add to the extent and success of that business, than I would for votes or delegations, or the most honorable political office in the gift of the people. That's all there is of it, and to it, and in it.

I believe I know the people of this state and something of their needs. I know something of the evils and have my own personal views as to what should be the remedies. I believe in North Dakota and the people in it. I believe in Minot, and particularly do I believe in this Northwestern portion of North Dakota. As far as possible I want to help, to aid in the growth of this state, and this section along solid, substantial, durable lines, and as this growth continue I hope to secure a fair and equitable share of its opportunities and possibilities, but wholly within the lines of legitimate business.

In place of belaboring individuals and misconstruing situations; in place of shooting at every head that dares to stick itself above the surface; in place of ignoring the fact that there is more or less restlessness and dissatisfaction among many good and time-honored Republicans regarding the present management of the Republican party, it seems to me it would be the part of wisdom and good leadership to ascertain if there is any genuine cause for this growing discontent, and if there is, to change front, to the extent at least of correcting mistakes or removing the evils—if such there exists—and in that way hold all the elements of the Republican party within the state united and facing the common enemy. Is it better Republicanism to ignore the wishes of the people; to gloss over and whitewash certain acts that everybody knows to be

LODGE OF MASONS INSTITUTED AT MOHALL

Imposing Ceremony Tuesday Evening, when Grand Master T. E. Fox, Installed Officers of Mohall Lodge, No. 73.

Mohall Lodge, No. 73, A. F. and A. M. was constituted Tuesday evening, T. E. Fox, Receiver of the Minot land office, acting as Grand Master. In the work, Mr. Fox was ably assisted by L. W. Gammons, who gave a most interesting address on Masonry, giving an account of its origin and following its course down to the present day. Mr. Gammons is especially fitted to give such an address, and the Mohall members were highly pleased with his effort. Other members of the Star in the West Lodge of this city, assisted in the services and in the installation of the following officers:

Henry Herbert Steele W. M. Chas. Lano, S. W. John S. Ferguson, Treas. Geo. Juergens, Sec. G. Gunderson, S. D. C. C. Mellinger, J. D. Fred S. Hall, S. S. J. D. Neist, J. S. John A. Flow, Tyler.

The Mohall members have been working under a dispensation for over a year,

but as the number of the members increased to thirty, a charter was recently granted.

After the impressive services has been concluded, the guests were taken to Hotel Bartz, where a bountiful lunch was served. A number of the bright and shining lights of masonry responded to toasts. L. W. Gammons acting as toast master.

Senator Robert Fox from Towner, brother to our land office receiver was present and assisted greatly in the work. The Master of the Mohall lodge, Senator H. H. Steele, is one of Mohall's most enthusiastic Masons and it is due to a great extent to him, that the lodge is in such a thriving condition. He is supported by the best of timber which insures prosperity for Mohall lodge, No. 73.

The following from Minot were present at the services: Presiding Elder Moore, L. W. Gammons, J. F. Wenzel, D. H. Kimball, J. W. Rode, L. A. Larson, T. E. Fox, and G. D. Colcord, besides Senator Fox from Towner and Mr. Ryerson from Sherwood.

MISS IRENE ANDERSON

The standing of the contest at this date is:

- Miss Irene Anderson, Sawyer, N. D., 14130 votes.
- Miss Elsie Abraham, Minot, N. D., 13870 votes.
- Miss Eva McGlynn, Ross, N. D., 8370 votes.
- Miss Kathryn O'Dell, Minot, N. D., 4300 votes.
- Miss Minnie Nixon Minot, N. D., 4000 votes.
- Miss Ethel Potter, Lynch, N. D., 1000 votes.
- Miss Lucy Finch, Glenburn, N. D., 815 votes.
- Miss May Hopkins, Rose Glen, N. D., 800 votes.

The time grows short for the Independent's popular contest. Your friends are watching your work and will soon come to your assistance. Now's the time to hustle. Week after week has slipped away in the Independent's contest until but four remain. The candidate that gets busy in the next four weeks, and

lets nothing stand in the way of her self and work, will have no reason to feel sorry. When you feel the most disheartened, remember that hundreds of eyes are on you, and your friends are all holding back awaiting the results of your own personal work. Therefore we simply say, don't give up. Go after the new as well as the old subscribers. Don't think that because you may be holding back, you are safe. Oh, no. The other candidate may be doing the same thing. Don't be afraid to show your strength.

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MINOT, N. D.

wrong, or to boldly point out the mistake and make an effort to remedy the error? Which?

It seems to me, if we must discuss party questions, then let it be in regard to the great questions that agitate the party throughout the country, viz: Railroad Rate Legislation, for which Roosevelt fights and the people desire; the revision of the tariff, a question upon which the east and the west have locked horns; bossism and graft in high places, and which has been so severely rebuked by Republican voters in New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The result in these states present an object lesson of more than passing moment, and I commend both the cause and the result to the most careful consideration of the man who leads and the man who votes.

But after all, at this stage of the game, it appears to me decidedly more profitable to be discussing the successful upbuilding of this section, rather than devoting so much time and space to local political problems. Let's talk and write about city improvements; better furnishing of the hospital; better system of fire protection; better sanitary conditions; in place of belaboring the real or imaginary Norwegian League, as the case may be, let us talk about schools, crops, emigration, bank deposits, and the home-building opportunities of this section; this, it seems to me, would be a more acceptable doctrine, first-class citizenship, and not at all bad Republicanism.

J. M. DEVINE.

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