

GOV. JOHNSON'S KEYNOTE

Renders an Account of His Stewardship.

PAYS RESPECTS TO OPENING ADDRESS OF MR. JACOBSON

Acknowledges Co-operation of the Attorney General and Republican Legislators.

"We Have Fulfilled Every Promise Made." "Do You Want a Continuance of the Stewardship?"

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: Four years ago I was nominated by the Democratic party for the office of governor of Minnesota and my choice was ratified by the people of the state. After an administration of two years I was again nominated for this exalted position, and in the succeeding election this nomination was ratified by the greatest non-partisan vote in the history of American politics. Again I have been nominated and for the third time appear as a candidate for the office of governor.

I think no one will dispute me when I say that this nomination came to me unasked. I can go further and say that it came despite my emphatic protest. I felt that the people of Minnesota had greatly honored me and I had no desire to appeal to them for another term. However, the convention unanimously nominated me and adjourned without giving me an opportunity to decline the nomination, leaving me with no alternative other than to accept the result and abide by the verdict of the convention.

Momentous Political Campaign.

We are now in the midst of one of the most momentous political campaigns in the history of our country, made so by reason of new political alignments, by reason of differences in the various political organizations, and because of the peculiar situation with regard to platforms and candidates. The Democracy of the nation and state come to you in this campaign with a platform and candidates which need no apology. As a matter of fact, we come to you with a national platform and candidates which, in our judgment, challenge comparison.

It will not be my purpose on this occasion to discuss national questions, other than to say that in my judgment political organizations are necessary vehicles to good government in the nation. I believe that every citizen ought to identify himself with one or the other of the political organizations of the country; not because others have done so; not because this or that organization may be more popular or more safely entrenched in power; but because political organizations give to him the opportunity to express his ideals of government as he can express them in no other way.

Party Platforms Compared.

However, I fully believe that every American citizen affiliating himself with a political organization should do so as the result of earnest study of the platforms, of the principles, tenets and doctrines of that organization; and, assuming that the American people will in this contest, more than in any previous contest, enter the platform, I sincerely invite you to compare the platforms adopted at Chicago and at Denver.

- If you believe in a high tariff
- If policy and a high tariff system as being best for the agricultural districts, there can be no doubt as to your place in this political contest.
- If you believe it is contrary to the interests of the American people to establish railroad rates upon physical valuations of the railroad properties, then there can be no doubt as to your place.
- If you believe that the auditor and governor should be elected by yourselves if you believe in better security of your bank deposits, if you believe in the right of trial by jury, if you believe in greater progress in legislation for the laboring man if you believe that corporations ought not to be given the same freedom to contribute to great political organizations as in the past, then there certainly can be no doubt as to your position.

Republicans Repudiate La Follette.

It is my judgment that there never has been in the history of American politics so wide a division in the matter of political declarations as that which exists between those of the Chicago and Denver conventions. I am quite satisfied in my own mind that the study of these platforms will mean converts to the cause of Democracy generally. The great difference between the two was most decidedly emphasized by the attempt of Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin, in furtherance of his presidential candidacy, to give to the American people a platform proposed by Mr. Cooper in that convention, which declared for the rights of the people of the great Northwest and Middle West, yes, the people of the nation, as arrayed against the predatory interests of the country. The humiliating spectacle of the almost unanimous refusal to accept and grant any of the propositions offered by Mr. La Follette illustrates the wide difference between the Chicago platform and the interests of the people of America.

Tribute to Bryan.

In contradistinction to that platform adopted, we ask you to consider the platform adopted by the Democratic party at Denver—a platform which has not been challenged successfully by any of the great newspaper organs of the opposition; and, proud as we are of our platform, we

come to you with just as much pride in our national leader—Hon. William J. Bryan—as you must admit the purity of his life, the earnestness of his purpose and the dominant fact that he has stood for what he believes to be for the good of the masses generally.

But it is not my purpose to discuss national questions upon this occasion. I am before you as a candidate for a state office, as I have been in two preceding campaigns and elections. During those campaigns I made certain pledges to the people of the State of Minnesota. I promised that if elected I should establish, if possible, the majesty of the law in this state. It gives me a great deal of pleasure on this occasion to be able to say that today, in every department of the state government, the only rule of conduct is the rule of the law laid down by the representatives of the people in their legislative assemblies. We promised you a better system of business methods than had been in vogue in this state in the past. We come to you now, proud of the fact that there has been much improvement in our business conditions in the state. In brief, we have fulfilled every promise we made, and we have kept faith with the people.

Jacobson's Speech Answered.

Later during this address I shall give a summary of the account of my stewardship as governor of the State of Minnesota. Before I proceed to the details of my stewardship I wish to pay my respects somewhat briefly to the opening address of my opponent in this campaign, Mr. J. F. Jacobson, delivered in the city of Duluth on Thursday, August 6th, last.

Mr. Jacobson, a member of the legislature from Lac qui Parle county. For many years he was regarded by the people of Minnesota as an able and fearless champion of the rights of the common people. Since his nomination as a candidate for the office of state auditor, it was his contention, and the contention of his friends after his defeat for the nomination, that he was defeated for the nomination at the Republican state convention by the interests who had been affected by his legislative actions. Two years ago he was a candidate for the nomination for the office of governor. It was his contention throughout the campaign that he was defeated again by the predatory wealth of the state and by the liquor, lumber, iron and railroad interests of Minnesota.

The Jacobson of Yesterday.

Again he became a candidate for the exalted position. Great changes have taken place in the state in Minnesota during the past two years. Where two years ago Mr. Jacobson's candidacy was opposed by these interests, as he himself declared in his address, he is now generally charged and almost universally conceded that the very interests which defeated him for the office of state auditor and secured his nomination in the recent Republican state convention.

Color is lent to this charge by the fact that throughout the entire season, and up to the time of the preparation of this address, Mr. Jacobson has never raised his voice in any of the great issues which now engross the attention of the public. In his speech at Duluth he was painfully silent upon the question of railroad regulation; he was painfully silent upon the question of timber trespass; he was painfully silent upon the question of taxation, of great interest in this state.

Award by Steel Trust.

As a matter of fact, at that particular meeting in the city of Duluth, Mr. Jacobson was surrounded by the representatives of the great steel corporation, who joined in predicting his election as governor. In the presence of that peculiar hospitality he never raised his voice in the matter of taxation of the state of Minnesota. As a matter of fact, his only reference to that great section and to those great interests was when he said:

"There has been a suspicion that I have been stated that I have said that Duluth has been receiving too much and that I would not give it anything. This is a great city and the entire state is proud of it; the western part of the state is proud of Duluth and its glories in its increases and prosperity, West, yes, the people of the nation, as arrayed against the predatory interests of the country. The humiliating spectacle of the almost unanimous refusal to accept and grant any of the propositions offered by Mr. La Follette illustrates the wide difference between the Chicago platform and the interests of the people of America."

How different are these utterances from the resonant, reverberating tones which proceeded from Mr. Jacobson as a member of the House of Representatives? Why this wonderful change in this man, who now desires to be governor of the great state of Minnesota, and asks the people, the voters generally, of Minnesota, to take him into their confidence and honor him with their suffrages in this campaign?

In my judgment the key to the situation is in the fact that Mr. E. T. Young, Attorney General of this state, was one of the leading candidates for that nomination. During his three and

a half years of official service in that office there has been the most complete co-operation between himself and myself as governor of this state. We were in perfect harmony in the prosecution and collection of damages for timber trespasses in Minnesota; we had insisted upon the collection of back taxes from railroads; we had insisted on a better system of taxation of the iron mines.

Interests Fight Young.

It was only natural that the great predatory interests of Minnesota should recognize the service of Mr. Young, as attorney general, in behalf of the people, and that he should have earned their enmity. It is also natural that they should have turned to any man with whom they might make terms of peace, even though obliged to surrender some things which they held dear. And it is because of this, possibly, that Mr. Young himself has declared that the great interests of Minnesota were fighting, not only for his defeat, but for the nomination of his leading competitor. Over his own signature, Mr. Young, in a letter to the public on the 9th of April, said:

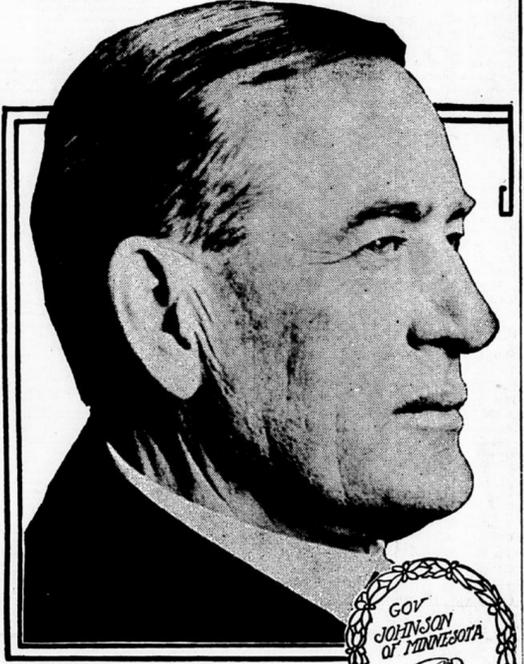
Young Tells the Truth.

"I have had to fight these interests and many others for the last three years in court, trying to uphold the rights of the people, and I am not afraid to fight

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Appeal to Higher Ideals.

My worthy opponent forgets that the paramount duty of the voter of this republic and our commonwealth is to his country and state, rather than to some party in it, or some faction of a party. The citizen's oath of allegiance is to support the constitution and laws and highest public welfare of his state and nation, and not merely to obey the dictates of a party machine. My opponent holds



them again in a Republican convention, instead of the fight for the gubernatorial nomination being over. It has only just begun. The fact that the liquor and corporate interests are opposing my candidacy has been known to me and to every one in the capital for some time. An attorney general, who has made the saloons obey the law as to closing nights and on Sunday, I have diligently prosecuted the timber trespassers and have recovered many judgments against them, recently one in the amount of \$16,000. James J. Hill is reported to have said recently, in a speech in Minneapolis, that I had injured the state by interfering with his efforts to hold the stocks. The opposition, therefore, of those interests and of the group of politicians and newspaper editors who are habitually controlled by them, was to be expected. It is known that they have all united in this campaign, and that Bob Dunn, the patron and favorite of Tom Shevlin and the timber interests, had been appointed their general agent to take charge of the campaign against me. He has openly declared that he was going to 'win' me.

The Deal Consummated.

And yet, Mr. Jacobson, the candidate selected by Mr. Robert C. Dunn, was finally unanimously nominated by that convention. He must be the man who answers the description given by Mr. Young in his most terrific arraignment and indictment. I leave it to the people of the state of Minnesota, who have twice voted for Mr. Young as attorney general, and who certainly are satisfied with the record he has maintained in his office, whether he, for any personal reason, would have made a statement of this kind if he truly believed and did not know it to be true.

And so I leave Mr. Jacobson and the method of his nomination with the people of this great state and I shall content myself with answering some of the charges preferred by him at his celebrated Belshazzar feast in the city of Duluth, participated in by members of the steel company and other corporations.

Jacobson Assails Independent Voter.

In that speech my opponent takes issue with the large and growing element of Minnesota voters because they vote, as he says, for 'the best man,' regardless of party lines, and he condemns the large, independent element of his party who sided in my election for governor in 1904 and so strongly endorsed my administration by re-election in 1906. He says that the action of the state nominating conventions should be final and binding upon every voter of the party. The great revolt of 1904, which gave Minnesota a Democratic government, and the same polls which went 160,000 plurality for Mr. Roosevelt, the further endorsement of this revolt in 1906, by the largest vote and the heaviest plurality ever given a Minnesota governor, he looks upon as a great mistake and disaster. In his speech he says:

"There are a number of Republicans in this state who have fallen into the habit of thinking that they are not enjoying their full privileges unless they scratch the Republican ticket. But every time they do so, they manage to scratch the cross in the wrong place. They tell you, 'I am a Republican, but I'll vote for the best man.' They believe their judgment as to who is the best man is far better than the judgment of the great political organization of the state, which represents many thousands of people, who have carefully looked over the field before making the selection."

Independence Is Patriotism.

Mr. Jacobson has done me great honor and I shall not take issue with him in his very delightful compli-

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