

DR. E. M. LONG  
DENTIST  
Over White & Burchard's Drug  
Store, Union City, Tenn.  
Telephones—  
Office 144-2, Residence 144-3

# THE COMMERCIAL

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## A POSSIBLE PRESIDENT

(LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL)

The Governor of New Jersey, who spoke to the Kentucky Bar Association at Lexington yesterday, is a fine illustration of the truth so often suggested in these columns that in American politics no man can tell what a day may bring forth, the rule of more than half a century having been that it was the unexpected that happened. A short twelve months ago Dr. Wilson was President of the University of Princeton, quite out of the line of politics and political promotion. To-day, Governor Wilson, of New Jersey, is regarded all over the continent as quite in line for Presidency of the United States.

From Polk, in 1844, to Roosevelt, in 1900, there were only three actual Chief Magistrates who were so much as thought of for the Chief Magistracy two years in advance of their nomination. The list, beginning with Polk, includes Taylor, Pierce, Lincoln, Hayes, Garfield, Cleveland and Harrison, the exceptions being Buchanan, Grant and McKinley. Even the Vice Presidents who succeeded to the Presidency, like Arthur and Roosevelt, seemed impossible.

Woodrow Wilson stands before the people to-day as that rarest of phenomena, a public man who, elevated to office, faithfully keeps his pre-election promises.

When he indicated his willingness to resign the presidency of Princeton and lead his party as a candidate for Governor of New Jersey he was looked upon as an interesting but mistaken gentleman; when he appeared "on the stump" in effective speeches and met the wiles of his opponents with political sagacity, he became a factor seriously to be considered; when he won the election, he took rank as a national character; and since he has put on the robes of office, has displayed qualities that reveal his equipment for a part in public affairs for which no other man in the nation seems equally fitted.

It must be borne in mind that the achievements of Woodrow Wilson have been forced over a Republican State Senate and at the outset over an unwilling Democratic House. Behind the measures proposed by this real leader there has lain a philosophy. He has acted not in response to a vague sentiment that corporations are wicked, and that workmen deserve sympathy, but in consequence of his perception that a new day has dawned upon the world and that new laws must state the readjustment in which men have come to live. He holds that such laws as exist regarding the relations of employer and employe are out at elbow. The fundamental need of the day is, he believes, that the character, rights and duties of the composite industrial and commercial entity which we call "the corporation" must be thoroughly overhauled and better ascertained.

"A corporation," he says, "exists, not by any natural right. The State creates the corporation, and the State is responsible for what it creates. The State, therefore, must oversee the corporations, and must safeguard the public against fraudulent companies or companies which practice methods which in any way violate justice or fair dealing or the principles of honest industry. In order to do this there must be authoritative inspection and full publicity. This conclusion is most obvious in a case of public utility corporations. Their regulation, therefore, will be the best beginning of general corporation control."

One of the best measures urged by Gov. Wilson requires the inspection and regulation of cold storage warehouses. Half the food supply of New York City is kept in storage across the river in Jersey, awaiting the market, and meanwhile deteriorating. The new law proposed a storage limit of six months. The warehouse owners argued that the limit named was too low. They were especially persistent in citing the case of cheese, which they argued might be kept several years, and still be considered good.

"Yes," remarked the Governor suavely, "I am aware that cheese has its own standard of respectability." But the chief measure, the fundamental proposition of Woodrow Wilson's system of reform is the Direct Primary and Election Bill.

"Back of all reform," said the Governor, "lie the means of getting it. Back of the question what you want, is the question how are you going to get it. We are all pretty well agreed, I take it, that certain reforms are needed. But we find that the first necessary reform is one that will render us able to get reform."

"We have been calling our Government a Republic, and we have been living under the delusion that it is a representative Government. That is the theory. But the fact is that we are not living under a representative Government; we are living under a Government of party bosses who in secret conference and for their private ends determine what we shall and shall not have. The first, the immediate thing that we have got to do is to restore representative Government. There has got to be a popular rebellion for the reconquest and re-assumption by the people of the rights of the people, too long surrendered. We have got to revolutionize our political machinery, first of all. I am a radical, and the first element of my radicalism is, let's get at the root of the whole thing and resume popular Government. Let's make possible the access of the people to the execution of their purposes."

The Courier-Journal cannot think of Woodrow Wilson without recalling Samuel J. Tilden. How much alike they seem, as doctrinaire Democrats;

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faithful and courageous party leaders; as practical and pre-eminent officials; how much they think alike, and talk alike, and write alike. How Tilden-esque the following:

" \* \* \* It is time that we served notice on the men who have grown up in the possession of privileges and bounties, that the existing order of things is to be changed. It is only fair that we warn them, for they should have time to adjust themselves to the change; but the change must come, nevertheless. And this change is not a revolution, let it be understood at once. It is merely a restoration. \* \* \* That is what the people of New Jersey have meant as they have flocked out, rain or shine, not to follow the Democratic party—we have stopped thinking about parties—to follow what they now know as the Democratic idea, the idea that the people are at last to be served.

"Do you know what the American people are waiting for, gentlemen? They are waiting to have their politics utterly simplified. They are realizing that our politics are full of secret conferences, that there are private arrangements, and they do not understand it. They want to concentrate their force somewhere. They are like an unorganized army saying the thing is wrong. Where shall we congregate? How shall we organize? Who are the captains? Where are the orders? Which is the direction? Where are the instruments of government? That is what they are waiting for. "It is an opportunity, and it is a terri-

able opportunity. Don't you know that some man without conscience, who did not care for the nation, could put this country into a flame? Don't you know that the people of this country from one end to the other all believe that something is wrong? What an opportunity it would be for some man without conscience, but with power, to spring up and say: 'This is the way, follow me,' and lead them in paths of destruction. How terrible it would be!

" \* \* \* I am accused of being radical. If to seek to go to the root is to be a radical, a radical I am. After all, everything that flowers in beauty in the air of heaven draws its fairness, its vigor, from its roots. Nothing living can blossom into fruitage unless through nourishing stalks deep-planted in the common soil. Up from the soil, up from the silent bosom of the earth, rise the currents of life and energy. Up from the common soil, up from the quiet heart of the people, rise joyously to-day streams of hope and determination bound to renew the face of the earth in glory.

"I tell you the so-called radicalism of our times is simply the effort of nature to release the generous energies of our people. This great American people is at bottom just, virtuous, and hopeful; the roots of its being are in the soil of what is lovely, pure and of good report; and the need of the hour is just that radicalism that will clear away for the realization of the aspirations of a sturdy race."

"No one can listen to Woodrow Wilson," says William Bayard Hale, "and see the emotions of the audiences of earnest men who hang upon his words, without feeling that he is witnessing the beginning of a political revolution, and that its prophet and captain stands before him. This is a new language—but one for which the people have an instinctive, Pentecostal understanding. It is a flame on the forehead and a shout on the lips, and it cannot be, I think—if this gift of speech is backed by the voucher of deeds such as he promises to do as Governor of New Jersey—but that this man will be hailed as the incontestable leader of Democracy, when next year his party comes to nominate a candidate for Presidency. The prime thing is that he is real—real all through, from top to bottom. There isn't a sham anywhere in his neighborhood. His mind is constitutionally incapable of tolerating unreality—it revolts against it like a nauseated stomach. Another thing is that he is good-humored. He is chock-full of energy; he likes action; he likes to be busy; he did remark at the end of one exciting day: 'After all, life doesn't consist in eternally running to a fire.' Conversation with him is a delight; his talk is rich in allusion, illustrated from broad personal acquaintance, marked by a wide-ranging sweep of interest and thought. Yet he likes a good story and an occasional emphatic word." Assuredly that is the kind of man for the times and the kind of man militant Democracy has long been looking for.



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