

ILLINOIS FOR WILSON, SAY G. O. P. LEADERS— CLAIM VICTORY FOR STATE TICKET

BY GILSON GARDNER

That Illinois would go for Wilson if the election were held today is frankly admitted by the Republican managers in charge of the state campaign. At the same time they claim the state for the Republican state ticket and express a hope that the coming three weeks may turn the tide of sentiment to Hughes.

To tell the truth, I was amazed at this open admission at Republican state headquarters. I would not have had the courage to claim Illinois for Wilson. There are too many influences at work on the Republican side and too great a normal Republican majority to be overcome. But when the Republican managers themselves tell me it will go for Wilson I can do nothing but accept their judgment.

The state and national campaign are being handled separately. The state headquarters are in the Great Northern hotel, while the national headquarters are in the Conway building. At national headquarters western chairman Tobe Hert is still claiming Illinois and a hundred superfluous votes in the electoral college for Hughes.

The truth is Hughes has been thrown overboard by the state managers in the hope that by so lightening the ship its crew may get to shore.

The state ticket is headed by Frank O. Lowden, formerly congressman from one of the central districts of the state, and has on it Medill McCormick, the first Bull Mooser to gig-back into the "party of his fathers." He should have said father-in-law. Mrs. McCormick is a daughter of Mark Hanna, while McCormick's mother was a daughter of Joseph Medill of the Chicago Tribune. The Hanna estate and the Tribune estate are helping defray the expenses of the state campaign,

while the Pullman palace car estate—Lowden married one of the three Pullman daughters—is likewise helping to underwrite the state activities.

It's a fine, rich, strong, disinterested campaign, and now that Candidate C. E. Hughes has been sewed up in a bag and fed to the whale, there is a right good prospect that "Colonel" (by courtesy) Lowden will be elected governor by a hundred (more or less) thousand majority, and that Medill McCormick, perhaps, may come to Washington to render disinterested service for the party of Lincoln, Hanna and Penrose.

The women of Illinois, it seems, are going to elect Wilson. Incidentally, Mrs. McCormick claims much credit for getting for the Illinois women the right to vote—a right which does not extend to the state ticket and members of congress. Now the women by the first exercise of that privilege may elect a Democratic president, and, if they are not careful to keep their pacifism away from their husbands, brothers and sons, may defeat her husband for congress.

Approximately a million Illinois women are to cast their votes for the first time for presidential electors. A few early canvasses showed these women were almost overwhelmingly for Wilson, because "he kept the country out of war." This tremendous vote, plus the male pacifists, plus the commercially content, plus the disgruntled Progressives, plus the railroad employees, plus the organized labor vote, plus the social worker vote, plus the anti-hyphen vote, plus the Jewish vote, plus the semi-radical vote, plus the anti-machine vote, plus the anti-Wall street vote, and so-forth and so-forth, made it quite evident that Wilson would get the electoral vote of Illinois.

The normal Republican majority in Illinois is very large. The com-