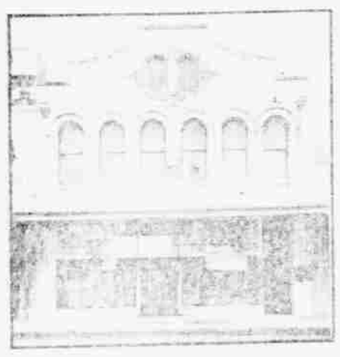

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WASHINGTON AGOG WITH INTEREST OVER THE BATTLE

"Feel" of Democratic Victory Has Passed--- Roosevelt and Rooseveltism a Prominent Feature.

By Ernest G. Walker.

[illegible]

WASHINGTON, [illegible] — [illegible] the eyes of all the States [illegible] Washington [illegible] Election Day [illegible] Washington [illegible] what the effect of the [illegible] will be [illegible]

There is one thing about it which [illegible] Washington [illegible] wonderful [illegible] would [illegible] the [illegible] while I [illegible] engine [illegible] the next hour. It is a situation of "nothing doing"—except watch for the campaign news. The dinner tables are reading the home papers and all the Metropolitan dailies they can afford to buy. They want to know how it is coming out November 8 next.

No such Washington interest in politics has been seen for decades, not even in a presidential campaign. The "feel" of a Democratic victory quite generally has stirred the voters of both parties, whose homes happen to be in the federal city. Whether they want a Democratic victory or not does not affect their interest.

But After All —

And after all, there is general wonderment whether it will be a Democratic victory. The Republicans are remarkable for their ability to win elections on the homestretch. In years gone by, there have been developments in the last few weeks, in close campaigns, which have turned the results. Will it be so this year? If the campaign were not so far gone just now, there would be more hope of some desired turn to Republican advantage. A lot of Washington [illegible] are still talking of a Democratic landslide. Those who put pen to paper to figure on the basis of past elections are more apt to say that a Democratic victory, if at all, will be by small margins.

There has been some "news" of Republican hope. Gains have been reported here and there. The rival leaders are pulling together a little better than a couple of weeks ago. The general attitude of indifference has been dispelled in some measure. The voters are waking up.

A Light Vote.

In a majority of States, however, the registration has been light. It seems certain that a small vote will be polled. The party leaders have been wrangling no mean about the sagacious of the registration, but, on the whole, it seems to be in favor of the minority party. It would be no surprise if the voting totals this year were fifteen or twenty per cent less than at the presidential election two years ago. That recalls the small voting totals of the big Cleveland years. Even in 1892, when Cleveland was elected for a second term by a majority, regarded as unprecedented, although small in comparison with the McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft majorities, there was a very great number of Republican stay at homes. As a matter of fact these stay at homes made the Democratic majorities possible in most States.

There is little or nothing to make the Democrats stay at home on Tuesday, November 8. For once in twenty years the party is well seated. In many States, like New York, Ohio, Indiana, New Jersey and Connecticut they have fairly strong candidates afield and are pretty well supplied with campaign funds. Then it has been in the air for six months that the Republicans were up for a licking.

The last session was full of the usual wrangling, which always discourages a large body of congressional voters. Then again the Republicans [illegible] their differences when they appeared in political campaigns. They have not done so this year. The insurgents never [illegible] Taft and Roosevelt have been [illegible] the fore. The [illegible] seemed [illegible] [illegible] Republicans [illegible] [illegible] Democrats [illegible] [illegible] Democratic [illegible] [illegible] Republicans [illegible] [illegible] Democratic victory [illegible] [illegible] Democrats