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EDITORIAL

On the Eve of Election.

The last word before election should be no hysterical appeal or any other kind of appeal. Argument and advice are in order. Then if the result is right, there is cause for gratification, which should extend to the voters who have unknowingly opposed the right. Should the result be wrong those who would have averted it have less cause for chagrin than those who must bear the responsibility for bringing it about.

S. D.



Robins' Endorsement of Wilson's Peace Policy.

Raymond Robins belongs to the democratic wing of the Progressive party that does not share the jingo views of Theodore Roosevelt. That he is clearly in accord with the peace policy of the administration he made known in addressing the mass meeting at the Chicago Coliseum on October 19. His words are well worth quoting:

The most skillful, the most courageous, the greatest statesmanship of the last two years in this world was the manner in which Wilson averted war between this country and Mexico. The reason that the blood of American men—sons of our homes—is not today reddening the hot sands of Mexico, to serve the interests of a few corporation magnates and speculators, is due more to the courage and constancy of Woodrow Wilson than to any other factor in American life. I would count myself poor and small indeed if I were not able to recognize wisdom, courage and public service, even if it had been shown by the chief of an opposing party.

That it required courage as well as breadth of mind to so speak is evident on noting not only that this stand is diametrically opposed to the one taken by Roosevelt, but that the speech was made at a meeting where Roosevelt was a leading speaker.

S. D.



Democracy's Future.

The closing of the present session of Congress gives the country an opportunity of making an

estimate of the worth of the Democratic party. The first striking feature is that this has been a working Congress. Notwithstanding its unusual length little of its time has been wasted. To its credit may be placed the Tariff bill, the Federal Reserve act, Anti-trust legislation, the Trade Commission, repeal of Panama toll exemption, Alaska railroad, American registry for foreign-built ships, leasing of Alaska coal lands, and the war tax measure. Any of these measures may be criticised by the captious critic, but they are all so much better than the work of the Democratic Fifty-third Congress under Cleveland that one cannot but be grateful for what has been done.



This fact is very apparent, however: If the tariff bill and the anti-trust measures are intended to be considered in any sense final, or if Congress feels for a moment that the legislative program, constructively considered, has been completed, then the party will make a failure as signal as it did under President Cleveland. What Congress has done had to be done; and possibly it has been done as well as circumstances permitted; but these measures are in the nature of palliatives, they are not fundamental, and they do not in any sense solve the problem. Unless the leaders of the party recognize them as such, and prepare to go on to the fundamental principles underlying our economic troubles, they will soon find themselves as much out of harmony with the spirit of the age as the Republican party was two years ago.



The Democratic party need expect little gratitude from the country for what it has done, for nothing less would have satisfied the people of its good faith. Nor is this evidence even now any too reassuring. The difficulty with which the Donkey has been kept in the traces by the best driver it has ever had will not soon be forgotten. Had the reins been in hands less steady the possibilities of mischief are appalling; and the unanimity with which the party now points to the record made by Mr. Wilson as a reason why the party should receive the endorsement of the people has in it as much weakness as strength. The party should be endorsed at the coming election because it gives promise of doing more for the people than any other party in the field. But that endorsement will be conditional. It will be given less in gratitude for what it has done than with hope for what it will do.



Many disillusiones have followed the advent of

the Democratic party to power. Clearly the leaders and the rank and file in Congress are men clothed with all the frailties of the race. They cried out against the rulings of "Czar" Reed, only to adopt them when entrusted with power. They rebelled against Cannonism, but used similar methods themselves. They protested loud and long against Republican extravagance, yet have outdone them in voting away money. The River and Harbor bill alone gave the lie to all their professions of economy; and the passage of the war tax—particularly at this time—instead of trimming appropriations, indicates keener interest in securing easy money for constituents than for lightening the burden of the tax payer. Nevertheless, the work of the party as a whole has been constructive, and all voters of democratic inclinations should endorse it at the coming election, except where unworthy men have been put on the ticket. Give the party the benefit of the doubt, but let not party allegiance descend to fetish worship. Let every candidate understand that he is supported because he is expected to carry out democratic principles, and not because he is on the Democratic ticket.

S. C.



Support of Sullivan Means Opposition to Wilson.

With one exception the prominent Democrats from outside of Illinois, who have made a show of trying to help Roger Sullivan, are identified with the element opposed to Wilson's democratic policies. Dudley Malone is a conspicuous example. A leader of that element of New York Democracy headed by his father-in-law, Senator O'Gorman, it is not surprising that he should find in Sullivan a kindred spirit. O'Gorman's opposition to the repeal of tolls exemption is a matter of recent history. That is the kind of "support of Wilson" to be expected of Sullivan. The one exception to this anti-Wilson element is Postmaster General Burleson. It may be that Mr. Burleson clings to the fallacy that a party nomination regularly obtained makes an acceptable candidate of the most unworthy and objectionable individual. That is the least discreditable explanation, that is at all plausible, of his endeavor to convince the people of Illinois that such an enemy of Wilson's democratic policies is a friend of the administration. Mr. Burleson cannot be ignorant of Sullivan's record, in view of the recent denunciation of him by Secretary of State William J. Bryan, in view of the fact that Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carl Vrooman is supporting