CAMPAIGNING FROM PORCH AND STUMP: Campaigning From Porch and Stump
BY CHARLES WILLIS THOMPSON
Brown Bros.
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after the first Monday in November. The California progressives will be a

good deal more interested in Senator
Johnson's description of the Har-
ding-making caucus and its "ugly
nakedness" than in his enthusiastic
support of it solely on the ground
that it is against the League of Na-
tions.

Of course, it is not to be denied
that many of the Californians will
support Harding merely because
Johnson does so, without regard to
the reasons. Taking that fact into
full consideration, the fact remains
that California is a good deal more
than debatable for the Republicans
and that Cox ought to have a good
chance there. At present it is not
as good as Wilson's was in 1916, but
in that year Johnson carried the
State by 275,000 majority and
Hughes probably got a good many
votes from citizens who voted
straight Republican for Johnson's
sake. The charge that Johnson him-
self knifed the Hughes ticket is
merely political meanness on a low
scale. But his supporters did as
they had a right to do, and many of
them will do the same thing again—
more of them, perhaps, since Hughes
was at least a "liberal" with
Roosevelt support and Harding is an
out-and-out reactionary.

If Governor Cox does make the
record-breaking stump ing tour that
he plans, there should be a good
test of the relative merits of that
sort of campaigning and front-por-
cching. There was a similar test in
1896, when McKinley occupied the
front porch and Bryan made the
first "whirlwind campaign." Bryan
had to introduce himself to the coun-
dry, which knew McKinley very well.
Cox, however, is at least as well
known to the man in the street as
Harding is, so that the test is more
equal.

Besides, as I have said, this sort
of 1920 front-porching is different
from the McKinley kind. Harding
is seated on his front porch with a
gun, taking a shot at everything in
sight, and doing it with a shrewdness
and light-heartedness that did not
characterize his ponderous prede-
cessor in the practice of front-por-
cching. That again makes the test
more equal, especially as Harding
is planning to divagate from the
front porch occasionally in some
large city, as the need becomes evi-
dent.