REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

Wood, Harding and Lowden Avowed Possibilities in the Presidential Campaign, With Some Dark Horses in Background

CONTRASTS that portend a momentous struggle within the party stand out in a comparison of the relative strength of the three most prominent aspirants for the Republican nomination for the Presidency—Major Gen. Leonard Wood, Governor Frank O. Lowden of Illinois, and Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio. The deeper significance in the contrasts is that there is a double basis of comparison: First, concerning the personalities and achievements of the three men; second, a comparison, striking down deeper than the personalities represented, which concerns the two wings of the party.

First, on the basis of personality and achievements, take Governor Lowden. In the beginning his advantages will be pointed out, then disadvantages. He has an excellent record as administrator and reformer of the Illinois State Government. Qualities he has shown there are among those in demand for the President in the period of reconstruction that faces the country. When he was elected Governor in 1916 there were 128 State commissions, overlapping in wastefulness and inefficiency. These were consolidated into nine departments and an effective budget system was introduced. In his first year the tax rate was 90 cents; the second year, by the practice of economies that deprived no needed agency, he brought the rate down to 75 cents; this year a cut to 60 cents is expected. These achievements have not only strongly impressed the people of Illinois, but they have drawn to him the attention of the Middle West.

Courage as a public man is another asset. He led the way among Governors in vigilant policy against disloyalty and sedition. When Mayor Thompson failed to interfere with the meeting of the "People's Council of America for Democracy and Terms of Peace," charged with being pro-German, Governor Lowden called out the troops to prevent the meeting. He denounced Socialists as obstructors of the Government and arraigned the Bolsheviks as destroyers of the home and the Church. He was prompt to defend the law at the time of the Praeger lynching by calling out the troops.

In the more recent troubles between labor and capital he has acted with equal boldness, declaring that compulsory arbitration was the only alternative, if no other way could be found, to prevent the cutting off of such a necessity to the life and well-being of the people as coal. This is from a statement by him on the strike of the coal miners:

"Whenever any organization, whether capital or labor, becomes so powerful as to be able to give or to withhold from the public the necessities of life, such an organization must come under the control of the Government. Otherwise the part becomes greater than the whole. If the only alternative to a strike or a lockout by such an organization is the compulsory arbitration of differences between employers and employees engaged in such vital undertaking, compulsory arbitration to that extent will have to come. Those leaders who meet such a suggestion with the threat of a general strike do not help the cause of labor. A general strike would mean, in effect, an effort to substitute Soviets for the duly constituted authority of the

Senator Warren G. Harding.

Frank O. Lowden, Governor of Illinois.
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an advocate of the Government ownership of railroads, and, before his uncompromising fight against the League of Nations absorbed all his energies, was demanding the withdrawal of our troops from Russia when Bolshevism, opponents asserted, was threatening to overrun surrounding countries. If in the development of General Wood’s campaign it is shown that he holds and can hold the main part of the Progressive wing of the party, the old Roosevelt men, against the efforts of Johnson, then his nomination would become almost a foregone conclusion. His name would go before the convention as that of the logical candidate, for while his political program will be forward-looking in general accord, it is expected, with the Roosevelt ideas they at the same time will be marked with a moderation, it is indicated, to which the conservative wing when forced to compromise on some one other than a favorite leader of the Old Guard could find no serious objection.

Old liners questioned profess that they have nothing against Wood, but that they are going to put him to the test of proving that there is a deep and extensive demand for him by Republicans. They say that they are not going to have the Hughes case repeated; that the Hughes boomers made it appear that he was the man to win with and that the demand for him was insistent and nation-wide, but that when he got into the race this strength did not show itself.

That means a real fight, and thus, back of the personalities of the candidates, the two wings of the party move in position for a contest for supremacy, as in Roosevelt’s time; and in a contest he looked forward to with the greatest zest the influence of his name and his ideas are at least to be a factor in determining who is to be the next standard bearer of the Republican Party.

All the Democratic candidates are in the dark horse class. Those who have been mentioned include McAdoo, Baker, Marshall, Palmer, and Pomerene, with Woodrow Wilson as a third-term possibility. General Pershing or Herbert Hoover may be named, but their politics is in doubt.

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