

**Old Party Political Predictions:
Interview with the *Terre Haute Star*
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Taft and Roosevelt were once the warmest of friends. Whenever there was a delicate foreign mission to be performed, Taft was the man picked to do the work. When Roosevelt cast about for someone to succeed him, he forced a Republican convention to nominate his own choice, one of the boldest plays in political history. Then came the trip to Europe. When Roosevelt emerged from the jungle, he was the man of the hour. One of the first things he learned was of the Pinchot-Ballinger trouble, Ballinger protecting the interests and Pinchot fighting for conservation. Soon after he returned from Oyster Bay he conferred with Senator LaFollette.

The great New York newspapers sent their best men down there to see what was going on, to see if they could get an inkling of what happened in that interview. When LaFollette departed the only thing he would say was, "Boys, he's the greatest man on earth." From that moment on I have thought less of LaFollette, a man whom I personally liked.

There was a time when Roosevelt was a popular idol. He had admirers on every hand, who applauded when he cried "liar" to some individual who happened to place him in a bad light before the people. It is known that the big interests in the East subscribed hundreds of thousands of dollars to his campaign fund; that he sent Belammy Storer to Rome to secure a cardinalship for Archbishop Ireland, that Harriman was invited to call on him and help him prepare his message to Congress, and yet when these facts came to light, Roosevelt in an effort to keep himself straight with the people, cried "liar" and, figuratively speaking, shoved the accusers off the White House steps.

After all, Roosevelt is only about six inches out of the jungle. His snarl is too much like that of an animal to disbelieve that. I want to make this prediction, and see if it doesn't come true: At the next Republican national convention LaFollette will have a very robust minority. Taft will have a big majority, but the leaders of the party will see that he can not be elected. Someone will suggest Roosevelt as the man of the hour, and he will be nominated.

Of course, Roosevelt will deny this. He does not want to be put in the position of being an office seeker. It tickles his vanity to have the office come to the man. For that reason the plans are being carefully concealed. When the time comes, LaFollette, who in the meantime is leading an insurgent movement with a view of becoming president, will step back and permit Roosevelt to be nominated without a struggle.

LaFollette will do this and will stick to the party believing that he will be able to land the nomination four years from now with Roosevelt's help. Bryan will support Harmon for the same reason. There is no doubt in my mind that the Democratic forces have determined that Harmon shall be their nominee. If this proves true, Bryan will find himself in the same position he was in when Alton Parker was the nominee. But Bryan is more "seasoned" now. He will support Harmon if it comes to a show-down for the reason that he, too, has become thoroughly inoculated with the idea that someday he will be president. For that reason he will refuse to break away from the party.

Bryan missed his chance four years ago by not forsaking the old regime. Had he come forth frankly and said to the public, "I have fought here for things I believed to be right, but from now on I am going to fight over there," and had joined the Socialist Party he would have been one of the biggest men in the world today.

Bryan says he is against "capitalism," but he doesn't go far enough. There would still be trusts under the present system even if all the capitalists were dead.

What about President Taft, Mr. Debs?

Oh, Taft is a good representative of the present order of things.

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