

Standpat Republicans Oil Up the Old Steam Roller for Big Drive Against the "Insurgents"

By JAY LOVESTONE.

The standpatters of the Republican Party are on the job. They are preparing for a big fight at the coming Republican National Convention.

While LaFollette, the acknowledged leader of the progressive wing in the Republican Party, is busying himself with a study of the conditions in Vienna; while Magnus Johnson, the over-advertised "dirt farmer" from Minnesota, is spreading the propaganda of doubt and evasion as to meeting the issue squarely in 1924; while Senator Brookhart is maneuvering to fall in line with Judge Kenyon, who was elevated to a Federal judgeship from the Senate, because of his service in getting Congress to accept the Packers' bill, written by the Beef Trust; and while Borah is head over heels engaged in mending his own fences in the State of Idaho, the reactionary Republican leaders, at the throttle of the Republican machine, are working overtime to insure their riding rough shod over all insurgent forces at the 1924 national convention.

Big Business Sees Coolidge.

Last week a group of select representatives of the highest business interests of the country called at Cal Coolidge's office and had a long session with him over the 1924 campaign. These leaders of finance and industry came to assure the President that he would be their choice next year and that they would go the limit financially in backing him for the 1924 nomination.

Among these "insiders" were the following big capitalists: Edward T. Stotesbury, of the firm of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., 23 Wall Street, New York, and Drexel & Co., bankers, Philadelphia, Pa. Mr. Stotesbury is one of the most hidebound reactionaries and is an officer of at least 24 coal, railway, power, banking, insurance and public utility corporations that have been in the forefront of the attack against organized labor. One need but mention the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co., the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Co., the Temple Iron Co., Coxey Bros. & Co. coal magnates and the Highland Coal Co.

James H. Stanley, a Denver capitalist and power king, William Wrigley, the Chicago chewing gum king and multi-millionaire, and Fred W. Upham, party treasurer, who have both given \$10,000 to the 1922 Republican campaign fund, and Frank Stearns, Coolidge's "Colonel House," a New England textile baron and banker, kept Mr. Stotesbury company.

G. H. Huston, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and Ex-Governor Sproul of Pennsylvania, in whose regime the Black Cossacks of the State Constabulary perpetrated the indescribable criminal outrages against striking steel workers, were also present at this little confab to insure the Coolidge brand of stability for the coming four years.

Getting Ready for the Convention.

In anticipation of difficulties at the coming national convention, the Republican leaders have set about reapportioning the delegations allotted to each state in such a manner as to give unwarrantable strength to those states which will send vest-pocket delegations for Coolidge and slashing the representation of states where the "insurgents" have strength or where there is a "native son" to contend with.

On the basis of the Republican National Committee's plans for 1924 Coolidge is, at this date, assured of 408 delegates for his nomination. That this number of delegates has been obtained by the most overt acts of gerrymandering is plainly seen from an analysis of the allotted state delegations to the Republican National Convention, to be held in a few months.

"Sure" States Get Big Delegations.

In apportioning the state delegations the reactionary elements controlling the Republican party machinery have made it their business, without exception, to give undue representation to those states which will unquestionably line up for Coolidge. Thus the southern states are to be over-represented in the coming convention. Alabama, for instance, on the basis of actual Republican strength, is entitled only to five delegates. Yet it will be given fourteen delegates to the National Convention. Applying the same principle Arizona, which is entitled to two delegates, will be given eight, Arkansas, entitled to four, will be given thirteen, Florida, entitled to three, will be given ten, Georgia, entitled to two, will be given nineteen, Louisiana, entitled to two, will be given nine, Mississippi's delegation will be raised from one to four, New Mexico will be given eight instead of four, North Carolina twenty-two instead of fifteen, the same for Oklahoma, South Carolina will be allotted four delegates instead of one, Tennessee twenty-six instead of fourteen, Texas seventeen instead of seven, and Virginia seven instead of five.

The reasons for this heavy padding of the Southern delegation are known to all students of politics. The Southern delegates are the by-products of patronage and fake prohibition enforcement and are in the main virtual appointees of the big fellows on top. All in all, the South will thus be given 112 delegates in excess of what it deserves on the basis of the real strength of the Republican Party.

Pursuing the same tactics for other "sure" regions, the reactionary group controlling the Republican machine is giving Connecticut 16 instead of 14, Maine 14 instead of 9, New Hampshire 10 instead of 6, Rhode

Island 12 instead of 7 and Vermont 10 instead of 3. Here we have an additional 22 delegates automatically registered for Coolidge, although they really don't represent any Republican voters.

In other "safe" states the multi-millionaire owners of the Republican party are adopting the same tactics. Thus Colorado will have its delegation raised from 10 to 14, Nevada from 1 to 8, Utah from 5 to 10, and Wyoming from 2 to 8. Here we have another 22 delegates, thrown into Coolidge's lap despite the fact that they don't represent any Republican voters.

When we add the five delegates given the territories in excess of their due quota we find that the Republican machine has thru this manoeuvre assured Coolidge 161 delegates who do not represent any existing voters of the Republican party.

"Doubtful" States Hard Hit.

The engineers of the wealthy Republican firm were also merciless in their slashing of the delegations allotted to the states that are likely to make trouble for the Old Guard at the coming convention. For instance, California which is entitled to 39 delegates is given only 28. The only reason for this slash lies in the fact that Hiram Johnson will most likely head the California delegation and Hiram Johnson as a potential opponent of Coolidge must be stripped as close to his skeleton as possible.

Illinois which will very likely stand for Lowden at the Republican convention is given only 60 delegates, though it is entitled to 89. Michigan entitled to 48 delegates is given only 32. Because of the unseating of Truman Newberry, who bought his seat in the Senate and because of the weird possibilities of a Ford boom in this state, Michigan is being hard hit. Minnesota, which has revolted against the Old Guard and elected two Farmer-Labor Party Senators, will be given 26 instead of 32 to which it is entitled. New York, which always has its own fat to fry in the political pan, will be given only 92 votes instead of the 117 it should have. Ohio a state noted for breeding dark horses in presidential races, is to be permitted to have only 50 delegates instead of the 74 to which it is entitled. Kentucky, a doubtful state, is to be given 26 instead of 28 votes at the national convention.

In this fashion the possible opponents of Coolidge are deprived of 118 delegates that should be seated in their ranks in a representative Republican Party Convention. Totalling the numbers added to the reactionary strength thru padding and the votes stolen from the opponents of Coolidge, one finds that 224 votes or their equivalent have thus been chalked up on the asset's side in the political ledger of the big business interests dominating the Republican machine and standing behind Coolidge.

Pity the Poor "Progressives."

Here we have the game in a nutshell. The reactionaries have the plan and the courage. The so-called progressives in the ranks of the capitalist Republican party, the so-called insurgents that have been making all the noise have neither the program nor the courage to carry them thru in the coming fight. They are accepting this high handed manoeuvre on the part of their reactionary opponents lying down. They are not doing a thing about it; and what is more they are not even talking about doing anything regarding this gross gerrymandering.

The workers and working farmers can learn one very significant lesson from this. The progressives and kind-hearted reformers living in the dens of the Democratic and Republican party business interests are not to be trusted, and not to be followed. Those progressives are devoid of political spine and don't have at this late date, even the slightest semblance of a program of action for the 1924 campaign.

The road to salvation for the workers and working farmers of America lies only in their own united and political economic strength.

TEN WORKERS SHOULD READ THIS COPY OF THE WORKER; KEEP IT IN CIRCULATION.

Buy Your Books of Every Kind

From the.

NEW WORKERS' BOOK STORE

Jimmie Higgins Book Shop

127 University Place

New York City.

Mail orders promptly filled

Elmer T. Allison, Manager