POSTSCRIPT

Since this story was closed the Twenty-fifth Democratic National Convention has been held. Party conditions, sectional and emotional influences, pre-convention mutterings and threats in 1928 were very similar to the sectionalism and dissension rampant in 1896. But the temper and course of action pursued at Houston were in direct contrast to those of the Charleston meeting.

Probably the most distinguished phenomena of the Houston convention were the demonstration of the silent strength of liberalism in the South and the exhibition of rational political judgment by the whole representative body of Democracy. That the convention correctly represented the real sense of the party is evidenced by the fact that practically every statesman and functioning leader of the party in the South and in the other sections of the country are supporting the convention's decisions.

The platform adopted made no departure from Democratic principles, but did make advances to meet current conditions, progression not dissimilar to such as was made under Jefferson, Madison, Jackson, Polk, Cleveland and Wilson.

Grover Cleveland himself might have written the tariff plank. It is the Cleveland tariff policy of 1888, in effect. That practical-minded statesman dealt with conditions, not mere theories.

The historical aspect of the nominations is particularly interesting. Governor Smith exhibits a remarkable combination of the careers and the qualities of the two New York Governors who have reached the Presidency.

For a long period he has led the New York Democracy, as Van Buren did, holding the up-state and the Tammany elements in harmonious working order, the director and leader of both, the tool or subserver of neither. His political leadership has equalled Van Buren's in effectiveness and continuance.

Yet his manner and method have been in striking contrast to Van Buren's. His most fatuous critic has never accused him of non-committalism; political tact, diplomacy, conciliation, have
not characterized him. Yet he has been notably successful as an adjuster of differences, but like Jackson, more convincing than persuasive, he has used the force of popular will with irresistible effect.

His procedures have exhibited rather the downright directness of Cleveland; his leadership has the Cleveland dominance; his honesty has the Cleveland bluntness. "What shall we do to meet these charges?" Cleveland's managers asked him. "Tell the truth," was the instant reply. "Have you changed your views on prohibition?" was inquired of Smith. "I have not," was the immediate and incisive answer. There are other similarities.

Senator Robinson brings to the ticket much of what Allen G. Thurman brought to the Democratic ticket in 1888—a nationwide reputation for honesty and courage of the highest type coupled with long experience and distinguished ability in Congress, and also a geographic and economic representational balance.

Cleveland and Thurman, although the most corrupt campaign in our history was waged against them, received nearly half a million more votes than their Republican opponents. The Corrupt Practices law and other changed conditions preclude a repetition of such a perversion of popular judgment as occurred in 1888. In that particular, assuredly, history will not repeat itself.

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