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EDITORIAL

DIX AND WILSON.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE contiguous States of New York and New Jersey have, respectively, for their chief executives John A. Dix and Woodrow Wilson—both Democrats, and both candidates for {the} Democratic presidential nomination.

In the efforts of these two gentlemen to reach the exalted goal for which they strive they present a contrast worthy of note.

The election of both Wilson and Dix, together with Democratic Legislatures, was the signal for a spirited Senatorial contest in both States.

In New York, where no Federal Senator had been elected for many a year, Tammany Hall set the full machinery of its powers in immediate motion to encompass the election of a discredited politician of the olden days, Sheehan. The situation was similar in New Jersey. Ex-Senator Smith, a Democratic politician of much influence in Essex County, and of undesirable reputation as agent of the Sugar Trust, immediately started to pull all the wires he knew and could to land himself.

Sheehan's and Smith's manoeuvres presented to both Dix and Wilson the identical and their first opportunity to show the metal they were made of.

Each used the opportunity in different manner—each according to his genius.

Wilson took the stump against Smith and kept it. Undeterred by all the howls about professional etiquette, Wilson held that the election of Smith would be a breach of faith against the Democratic voters of New Jersey, and against Democratic aspirations throughout the land, the Democracy being expected "to put its best foot forward." Smith was defeated: Martine elected.

As to Dix he hid himself behind a cloud of theories concerning "limitations of the functions" that a Governor was justified to exercise. All appeals from what may be called the "decent" portion of the State and National Democracy notwithstanding, Dix kept his hands off, and left it wholly for the Legislature to save the Democ-

racy from the obloquy of a Sheehan elected to the Federal Senate as the first act of the New York State Democracy, now triumphant after so many years of defeat. Sheehan went down.

As was to be expected, Wilson incurred the undying hatred of a powerful political boss in his own party—Smith. Just as was to be expected Dix earned the love and affection of Tammany.

Last election day was to reveal the effect of this hatred in one place, love and affection in the other.

In both New York and New Jersey the lower branch of the Legislature was to be re-elected.

Wilson, of course, desired to preserve the Legislature Democratic. Consequently, Smith's Essex County machine put up candidates after its own heart. Here was Wilson's second test. Take the stump for men whom he had denounced as reprobates, and thereby secure a Democratic lower House? He firmly refused. The consequence was sufficient Republican lower House victories to turn the lower House Republican.

Dix, of course, also desired to preserve the lower House Democratic. The Democratic candidates were to the liking of Tammany, and Dix fraternized with them. This notwithstanding, the lower House was lost to the Democrats in New York.

Dix's pliability netted him no more than Wilson's fortitude netted him in the late election. They both lost the lower House—but one lost it with disgrace, the other with honor.

And now, Dix, defeated in the Assembly, despite his truculence, virtually drops out of the presidential race, utterly discredited as a man of putty; whereas Wilson, despite his defeat, keeps his place as a leading presidential possibility.

Dix and Wilson, lo two examples—one to be avoided, the other to be emulated. The times call for men of character. Men of putty are straws in the gale.

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