

THE NOMINATION OF HARDING.

Upon a platform that has produced general dissatisfaction, the Chicago convention presents a candidate whose nomination will be received with astonishment and dismay by the party whose suffrages he invites. WARREN G. HARDING is a very respectable Ohio politician of the second class. He has never been a leader of men or a director of policies. For years a protégé of FORAKER, he rose to a subordinate office by favor of "Boss" Cox of Cincinnati. Beaten by JUDSON HARMON in the contest for the Governorship in 1910, he has never shown independent strength in his own State save when he was named for Senator in 1914, having a majority of a little more than 100,000 over his Democratic competitor; and outside of Ohio he has only such strength as he now derives from his place at the head of the Republican ticket. Senator HARDING's record at Washington has been faint and colorless. He was an undistinguished and indistinguishable unit in the ruck of Republican Senators who obediently followed Mr. LODGE in the twistings and turnings of that statesman's foray upon the Treaty and the Covenant.

The nomination of HARDING, for whose counterpart we must go back to FRANKLIN PIERCE if we would seek a President who measures down to his political stature, is the fine and perfect flower of the cowardice and imbecility of the Senatorial cabal that charged itself with the management of the Republican Convention, against whose control Governor BEECKMAN so vehemently protested. Rejecting LEONARD WOOD, probably the strongest candidate with the people the party could have chosen, because they knew he would never be dictated to by them, they favored Governor LOWDEN until BORAH served upon them his notice of a veto of that nomination. BORAH was commanding and truculent because he knew that he had to deal with a group of white-livered and incompetent politicians. If Republican leadership had not fallen into the hands of pigmies the chief men at Chicago would have told BORAH to bolt and be hanged, just as upon the issue of the League they would have defied JOHNSON to do his worst. But they ran like a frightened flock, surrendered everything, Mr. LODGE finally throwing off all disguises and standing out as the open foe of the Covenant of the League of Nations, even with his own reservations.

What has befallen the Republican Party of the early days, the party of sixty years ago, when it was possessed of moral purposes, or of forty and thirty years ago, when it could still profess to have them and find believers?

Where are its leaders that can be compared to MORRILL, SEWARD, HALE, PLATT of Connecticut, OLIVER P. MORTON, SUMNER, BLAINE, CONKLING and a dozen others who rose to high places in the party councils? And, if the question be not too unfeeling, where and what are its principles, if any it have? Party control, exercised by a group of Senators, is divided between LODGE on the one hand and BORAH and JOHNSON on the other. None of them, none of their accomplices in party degradation, would have come within hailing distance of the foremost rank of party chiefs in the brilliant days of Republicanism. And for principles, they have only hatred of Mr. WILSON and a ravening hunger for the offices.

Governor COOLIDGE for Vice President really shines by comparison with the head of the ticket. He at least is a man of achievement, he is known to the party and to the nation. When the police force of Boston went on strike he showed himself to be a man. He met that menace to the public safety with courage and determination, and the nation rang with praise of him. It is fortunate that not a word is to be said against the character of either candidate. They are irreproachable. But that does not compensate for the lack of achievement, for the colorlessness of the candidate for first place, or for the manner in which his nomination was brought about. It will be felt and said everywhere that the Democrats at San Francisco have received from their opponents at Chicago the gift of a splendid opportunity.