

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1892 NOV, 15-16

FOLDER NO.

JAMES J. HILL PAPERS

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New York Nov. 15th 1892.
(COPY)

Hon. John Sherman,

Mansfield, O.

My dear Sir:-

The serious defeat the Republican party has suffered at the recent elections, imposes the duty upon every lover of his country, whether or not he has supported the Republican party in the late campaign, to carefully study the situation, as it presents itself in the light of the late elections.

That the tariff has been the principal issue upon which the battle has been fought and lost by the Republican party needs no further argument. The party's campaign managers, willingly or unwillingly, permitted almost every other issue to be side-tracked and went through the campaign upon lines upon which, as became evident at an early period of the campaign to the unprejudiced observer, victory was almost impossible. The Chairman of the National Republican Committee had been advised at the start, that in this State at least the currency and financial question ought to be made paramount, but this advice was totally disregarded, and only a feeble discussion, entirely secondary to the tariff issue, was permitted upon this all-important problem. As a consequence, those who had given their support to the Republican party because

of their belief in its greater trustworthiness on financial questions, soon became luke-warm in their actual and moral support, and continued the same only in a passive manner.

Had the Republican party boldly forced the currency and silver question as one of the main issues and placed itself before the country as the champion of an honest standard, defeat might have, if not entirely avoided, become less crushing, and the party would have been certain to emerge from its defeat with greater credit and vitality than now remain.

As it is, it is well that the country has spoken in a voice of such unmistakable meaning. A narrow margin in favor of either party would have been nothing short of a calamity. Neither party would in such event have accepted the verdict as final, while the victors would, in all probability, have become unremitting in their efforts to strengthen their position by a palliating course. In this light the patriot, even in Republican ranks, should prefer the decisive Democratic victory to a narrow escape from defeat by his own party. The responsibility of the Democratic party and its leaders has now become so great and so weighty, that the fear need no longer exist, that Democratic ascendancy may become a threat to the prosperity of the country. Possibly and probably impending economic changes may, for a time create some depression, but this will rapidly pass away, especially if the Democratic leaders understand that it is incumbent upon their party to develop the

programme of its coming legislation with as little delay as practicable.

This fact the recent elections have established beyond dispute: that the Democratic party of old has ceased to exist. New elements in mighty numbers have entered it and are certain to control its councils, totally different from the Bourbon elements which for many years have been its controlling spirits. It is a subject for congratulation that the contest has been settled neither through the votes of the State of New York nor by the Solid South, but rather by the majorities obtained in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana.

As to the Republican party, its mission is by no means ended; if it correctly learns to understand the lesson of its defeat it will emerge rejuvenated from the disaster which has overtaken it, and again become an important factor in shaping the destinies of the nation. It should assume an attitude of constant watchfulness, aiding in and promoting the solution of the great problems with which we shall have immediately to deal, and placing itself in opposition to every dangerous measure which a possible over-confidence upon the part of the party in control may and no doubt will bring forward.

The most important problem, and one whose solution can hardly wait any longer, remains the silver question, and the various other questions dependent thereon. The American people, who

have just rejected with so mighty a voice the McKinley tariff, will never again accept a depreciated currency, and the party which, while in control of the government, should be wanting in the firmness to prevent a depreciation in the standard, will receive severer punishment at the hands of the people than those who, mistaking their mission, endeavored to foist an unjust and obnoxious tariff upon the nation.

Here the Republican minority can do invaluable service, and to it will belong the merit if it presses forward and hastens this momentous and difficult question to an immediate practical solution.

I thus address you, not alone because you are a deservedly honored chieftain of the Republican party, but more so because good citizens of whatever party will rejoice if you continue to aid with your wide experience and large influence in the curing of the serious and dangerous monetary situation in which the country has been placed by the legislation of recent years.

The real gainers in last week's contest will be they, who read aright its true meaning and the lessons it should teach, rather than those whom the recent election places into immediate power and who have now to assume the responsibility of government.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully,

(Signed) Jacob H. Schiff.

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Chicago, Nov 15 - 1897

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J. J. Hill

St Paul

Dear Sir

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of my removal to this city
when I trust I will have the
pleasure of meeting you and
Yours faithfully

If I can be of any
service to you in any way I
will be glad to do so

We carry a very large stock of
fancy gems which I would
be pleased to have you examine
when you are in this city

Very truly Yours

F. M. Frick

[WITH 11-15-92]

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