

The Public

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The Sleeper Awakes.

"You're a liar," said the Colonel; and then they knew that consciousness had returned.

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Governor Wilson of New Jersey.

Governor Wilson smiles genially at the thought that he should ever have been regarded as the Wall street candidate for the Presidency. So, no doubt, *did* the Wall street men who thrust him forward, though *they* smile no longer.

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It was about the middle of the early half of last July, that inspired newspaper dispatches went westward from New York (vol. xiii, p. 662) reporting plans to nominate Dr. Wilson for Governor of New Jersey with a view to securing him the Presidency in 1912, the persons named in connection with the movement being Roger C. Sullivan of Illinois, George Harvey of New York and ex-United States Senator Smith of New Jersey. Not less than two of those men doubtless had designs upon Dr. Wilson's civic conscience or his political sagacity. Against one of them Gov. Wilson now testifies positively, circumstantially and convincingly.

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Later dispatches were to the effect that (vol. xiii, p. 674) Dr. Wilson's nomination for Governor was decided upon at a conference between

him and a dozen or more prominent New Jersey Democrats at the Lawyers' Club in New York. We took occasion at that time, in commenting upon the later dispatches, to say that "when a dozen prominent Democrats of New Jersey meet in New York to adjust a political program, the event is likely to mean much the same thing to the public interest, though in enormously greater degree, that a midnight meeting of prominent connoisseurs of poultry under a henroost would mean to the owner of the hens." In the light of subsequent events, such is precisely what that meeting did mean.

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Governor Wilson is sure that his friends in Wall street never supposed for a moment that he would be serviceable to any interest opposed to the people and to the country at large. We agree with him heartily, but with a reservation. We do not believe that they supposed he would be untrue to the public interest consciously. He thinks he is not now surprising them, but only such persons as did not understand him. Again we agree, with a reservation. Although we think he is now surprising only such persons as did not understand him; we include among those persons, some at least of the Wall street group that grasped the strings at the New York Lawyers' Club last July for his nomination for Governor of New Jersey.

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It is altogether probable that among those promoters of Governor Wilson's New Jersey candidacy, some had friendly and honorable expectations of making his election a stepping stone to the Presidency. It is probable, also, that none had any expectation of "using" him after his election as Governor or as President. The "crooks" wanted him in politics, not as a tool of the Interests, but as a stalking horse *for* the Interests.

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It was as their stalking horse that they secured Dr. Wilson's nomination for Governor, and a right fine stalking horse did he make for them during the campaign, after they had assured him that he wasn't a stalking horse. In the trail of his popularity the New Jersey legislature was packed with obedient tools of the Interests, packed so full that ex-Senator Smith, who had assured Dr. Wilson that he would not be a candidate for the Senate, was so surprised by his popularity in the legislature after the election, that he changed his mind! But Governor Wilson has turned out to be an unruly stalking horse. Having secured the confidence of the people of his

State, he refuses to be silent, like Governor Dix of New York, while the Interests that used his popularity to pack the legislature work their will with it. Even if he has no legal power to interfere, he has the ear of the people to expose, and this he is doing (vol. xiii, p. 1179) with a sense of political honor, a degree of political sagacity, and in a spirit of genuine democracy, that are lifting him in public estimation everywhere to a high level as a Democrat of national size and of the democratic variety.

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It is impossible to follow the course of Governor Wilson since his nomination without a growing confidence in his political astuteness and democratic genuineness. His campaign speeches, though they rang true, were open of course to the criticism that they might be only glittering generalities. There was nothing concrete with which to test them. But since his election he has been subjected to the testiest kind of a test—a square issue and a bitter fight between the democratic Democracy, represented by Martine, and the Interests, represented by Smith. On that test the following quotation from Gov. Wilson's speech at Newark on the 14th leaves nothing to be desired:

The issue is perfectly plain. It is between two systems of government. Under the one, party managers privately arrange both election to office and the course of legislation. Because they make these arrangements in private they make them in alliance with whom they please, serving such interests as it is profitable to serve. In recent times this system of private management has included nothing more conspicuous than the selection of United States senators. A glance at the newspapers will show what the ignoble results have been. Under the other system of government, the system we are striving to restore, everything is done in public and everything is done through the action of the people themselves. This is the system which we once had but have lost, and which we must regain, whatever the cost to individuals or to such interests as set themselves against it. In this particular case we must ask ourselves whom Mr. Smith represents. No one will contend that he represents the people of New Jersey. He does not even represent a State machine. He represents, I do not know how many persons, let us say 1,000 at a liberal guess, and over against these are set the 200,000 and more Democrats who voted at the polls and who insist upon genuine representation in the conduct of the government. I am not presuming to suggest a man for Senator. I am supporting the popular choice; and the popular choice has fallen upon a genuine man of the people.

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The New Jersey Senatorship.

It makes no difference, as Gov. Wilson truly says, whether the Interests are represented in the