

PASTOR RUSSELL



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MOSS SEES BRYAN AND GETS A NOTE

To McReynolds Asking for the Appointment of His Friend Anderson.

(Charles Brooks Smith.)
 WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 29—No individual man who confesses himself a disciple of the principles advocated by the Republican party has received a position under the administration of Woodrow Wilson, not even if he sought it by way of the competitive examination system as laid down by the civil service commission, no matter how high and creditable his average. It always happens that the appointee is a Democrat, and it almost always happens that he is of that particular species of the breed known as "a Bryan Democrat." At a rough guess, seventy-five per cent of the appointments made belong to that class, which goes to show that the grape juice diplomat from the Platte is most certainly and assuredly on the job.

The fact that J. Robert Anderson, a lawyer of Parkersburg, is a Bryan Democrat dating back from the first time he ever heard of Bryan, had a lot to do with his getting an appointment as an assistant to the attorney general of the United States. But the fact that he had a good friend in Congressman Hunter Moss probably helped it along just as much. For, the fact is, it was Moss who made the fight, who brought Anderson to the attention of Bryan, and managed the thing right along until Anderson got the job.

There is not a case to parallel it in this administration, thus far. Congressman Moss, more or less non-plussed at the success of his venture, frankly ascribes it to "my supreme gall." We will not quarrel with him as to that. It was as pretty piece of work as we have seen pulled off, and there isn't a Republican congressional representative or otherwise connected with this regime, who can match it.

Understand, of course, that there is no chance for a Republican to get a job under this administration. Not a chance. So, when a Democrat friend happens along who hangers for a place at the patronage trough, the Republicans in position try to do what they can to boost him along. Not that it helps very much, for it does not, only in this one rare, remarkable and unusual case which we have started out to tell about and which we are leisurely proceeding on the way to the narrative. In this case almost all the credit is due to a Republican for landing a Democrat—and a worthy and deserving one—in a congenial and remunerative position. He does not get a job that displaces a Republican, so Congressman Moss has no excuses to make to his partisans. It is a new job and it pays something like \$1,000.

When Congressman Moss took up the case of his personal friend, J. Robert Anderson, he did not have one idea in one million that he could do Anderson any good. But he was willing to try. He studied his man and the case and finally struck upon a plan. Anderson had a brother-in-law who was a pastor of a Presbyterian church in Washington at which Bryan worshipped. Bryan and the pastor were close friends. That was a good start. So with that to go on, Moss sought an interview with Bryan. It was short, but proved to be successful. Bryan knew the clerical brother-in-law, of course, he remembered Mr. Anderson. Knew all about his years of Bryan loyalty, in fact. Congressman Moss assured Secretary Bryan that Anderson was a man of high personal character and fine legal ability. As Moss described the splendors of his Democratic friend, Bryan wrote. When he concluded, which was about the same time that Moss stopped for breath, and to observe what effect his remarks were having, the secretary of state handed Moss this note:

November 5.
 "My dear McReynolds:
 "I would like to go as far as I can (without violating the cabinet rule), in urging a favorable consideration of the claims of Mr. Anderson for an assistant attorney general. I believe he is an excellent man for the place."
 "W. J. BRYAN."

When Congressman Moss had that note handed to him, ready of speech as he always is, he was as dumb for

a few seconds as a student at the Romney deaf mute institute. It was a poser. He finally managed to stammer out, as he backed out of the office: "And this man, this Mr. Anderson, is what is known as a Bryan Democrat, Mr. Secretary, and I suppose you know what that is."
 Bryan did not say. He just smiled. And Congressman Moss found himself out in halls and corridors that in one hand and the note to McReynolds in the other, bowing to negro messengers, elevator conductors and gaping tourists. He did not come to until he got outside in the open air, and then he gave a whoop of joy, and streaked it from the department of state to the department of justice.

In the latter place he found Solicitor General John W. Davis, whose services were easily enlisted. Davis knew Anderson and knew he was a good man for a job. Assistant Attorney General Tobb was called into conference. He, too, soon enlisted under the Anderson banner. Everything was certainly coming easy for Moss—so easy, in fact, that he had to pinch himself, as it were, to wake up to the fact that was not a Democrat trying to get another Democrat a job, instead of a rank protection Republican trying to get a Bryan Democrat a place. It was agreed that the matter should be placed before the attorney general at once, but, in the meantime, it was thought advisable to advise Senator Chilton of what was going on. This was done. Chilton said he would approve the appointment, if made. Then the case went to Attorney General McReynolds, and in brief time than it takes to write it down here, Anderson was appointed. He was telegraphed for and came on to Washington at once. He will be stationed here.

Mr. Anderson is fitted for any job in the department of justice. He is one of Parkersburg's most prominent citizens. He is a fine public speaker as well.

But, notwithstanding all that, and other things, Congressman Moss is still in a daze how it was possible for him to play such an important part in securing Anderson a job. He can not explain it other than to say, "it was one chance in a million and I guess we won."

PASTOR RUSSELL

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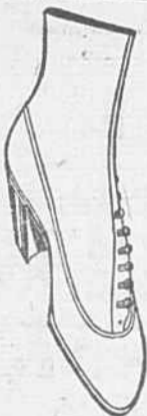
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