

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FH 5280

ELECTION SONGS

Of The United States

SUNG BY OSCAR BRAND

ACCOMPANIED ON GUITAR AND BANJO BY BILLY FAIER

NOTES BY IRWIN SILBER

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE



Fair and Free Elections (circa 1800)
 Jefferson and Liberty (1800)
 Hunters of Kentucky (Jackson—1828)
 Van Buren (1836)
 Tyler and Tippecanoe (1840)
 Clay and Frelinghuysen (1844)
 Come Raise the Banner (Polk—1844)
 The Fremont Train (1856)
 The Union Wagon (Fillmore—1856)
 Rally Round the Cause Boys (Lincoln—1864)
 Little Mac Shall Be Restored (McClellan—1864)
 Hurrah for Grant (1868)
 The Boys in Blue (Hayes—1876)
 Victoria's Banner (Woman Suffrage)
 For Victory Again (Blaine—1884)
 His Grandfather's Hat (Harrison—1888)

FOLKWAYS SONGS

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

When Grover's Term Comes To an End (1888)
 Shout McKinley (1896)
 Then and Now (Prohibition—1900)
 Roosevelt the Cry (1904)
 Al Smith (1928)
 He's Good Enough for Lindy (Hoover—1928)
 Cactus Jack and Franklin D. (Roosevelt—1932)
 We Want Willkie (1940)
 I've Got a Ballot (Wallace—1948)
 Song of the Presidents

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OUR PRESIDENTS

An engraving from the time of the Administration of Benjamin Harrison.

Election Songs of the United States

When Adam delved and Eve span

Who was then the gentleman?

With this couplet the peasantry in 13th Century England baldly stated an early political philosophy of egalitarianism. Four centuries later, English Protestants won a notable political victory over Catholic James II, singing:

There was an old prophecy found in a bog,
Lilli burlero, bullen a-la,
Ireland shall be ruled by an ass and a dog,
Lilli burlero, bullen a-la, etc.

And now this prophecy is come to pass,
Lilli burlero, etc.
For Talbot's the dog and James is the ass,
Lilli burlero, etc.

The political song enjoys a long and honorable history in the affairs of men and nations. In colonial America, propaganda songs played a notable role in fanning the flames of Independence. Throughout American history, songs have been utilized as extremely important propaganda weapons by every movement for political reform. Abolitionists, woman suffragists, prohibitionists, Populists, "wobblies," and many others have left us a rich legacy of musical propaganda.

Despite an outpouring of musical political commentary in the first years of the Republic, American elections were not marked by campaign songs until

SUNG BY OSCAR BRAND

**BANJO & GUITAR
ACCOMPANIMENTS
BY BILLY FAIER**

**NOTES ON THE SONGS
BY IRWIN SILBER**

1840. That year, which saw the first modern election campaign complete with mass meetings, torchlight parades and all the other outward trappings of the electoral process, provided us with the first widespread use of the campaign song. The whole nation, it seemed, was singing "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too" in 1840 -- and William Henry Harrison and John Tyler were swept into office on a wave of popular enthusiasm.

The campaign song, as a significant political weapon, retained its prominence throughout the 19th Century, gradually diminishing in importance in the period immediately preceding World War I. In the years since 1918, the political campaign song has all but vanished from the propaganda arsenal unleashed on the electorate every four years. It was revived successfully only once, by Henry Wallace's ill-fated Progressive Party in 1948 in an old-fashioned singing campaign which vainly tried to substitute a zeal borne on the wings of song for popular electoral support.

The songs in this album are, by definition, period pieces -- insights into the spirit and idiom of other years. No attempt has been made to represent every candidate or every election. But the songs here, taken as a whole, do provide us with a fairly representative picture of this colorful and significant aspect of our democratic heritage.

FAIR AND FREE ELECTIONS

tune: "Yankee Doodle"

The exact date of this early American election song is uncertain. It has been dated from 1798 to 1848 by various authorities. Proponents of the earlier year believe that it was a popular expression of protest against the notorious Alien and Sedition Acts of the John Adams administration. Others believe that the language, imagery and poetic style are of a later period. In any event, the song is an appropriate statement of purpose for American democracy and a most apt opening theme for this record album of American election songs.

While some on rights and some on wrongs
Prefer their own reflections,
The people's rights demand our song --
The right of free elections.

For government and order's sake
And law's important sections,
Let's all stand by the ballot box
For freedom of elections.

Refrain:

Law and order be the stake
With freedom and protection,
Let all stand by the ballot box
For fair and free elections.

Each town and county's wealth and peace
Its trade and all connections,
With science, arts must all increase
By fair and free elections.

OSCAR BRAND is known throughout the country for his recordings, books, concerts, radio programs and night club appearances. His New York "Folk Song Festival" broadcast for 15 years over radio station WNYC has become an honored institution. Canadian-born, Oscar Brand is the author of two folk song collections, "Singing Holidays" and "Bawdy Songs and Backroom Ballads." He also may be heard on the Folkways Album FA2428 Town Hall Concert with Jean Ritchie and Dave Sear.

IRWIN SILBER is the editor of the folk song magazine, SING OUT and the author of "Songs of the Civil War" (Columbia University Press). He has provided background notes for other Folkways albums including FH5251 American Industrial Ballads, FH5281 Songs of the Suffragettes, FN2501 Gazette, and FH5717 Songs of the Civil War.

Then thwart the schemes of fighting lands
And traitor disaffections,
Stand up with willing heart and hands
For fair and free elections.

Refrain

Should enemies beset us round
Of foreign fierce complexions,
Undaunted we can stand our ground
Upheld by free elections.

Elections are to make us laws
For trade, peace and protection,
Who fails to vote forsakes the cause
Of fair and free elections.

Refrain

JEFFERSON AND LIBERTY

tune: "Alistair MacAlistair"

(Election of 1800 - Thomas Jefferson)

The political witch-hunts of 1798, summed up legislatively by the "Alien and Sedition Acts" of that year, provided the direct inspiration for this Jefferson song in the election of 1800. The Sedition Act was one of the earliest attempts ever made to counter-act the Bill of Rights. It forbade "False, scandalous and malicious" criticisms of the government, Congress or the President. Jefferson, who was Vice-President during the Adam administration, secretly organized opposition to the Acts and was instrumental in promoting the famed Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions which declared the Acts unconstitutional.

Perhaps this song was written as part of the post-election jubilation over Jefferson's victory rather than as a campaign song. The opening stanza would seem to imply that this was the case.

The gloomy night before us flies
The reign of terror now is o'er
No gags, inquisitors and spies
The herds of harpies are no more

Rejoice, Columbia's sons, rejoice,
To tyrants never bend the knee
But join with heart with soul and voice
For Jefferson and Liberty

No lordlings here with gorging jaws
Shall wring from industry the food
No bigots with their holy laws
Lay waste our fields and streets in blood

Here strangers from a thousand shores
Compelled by tyranny to roam
Shall find amidst abundant stores,
A nobler and a happier home

THE HUNTERS OF KENTUCKY

tune: "Unfortunate Miss Bailey"

(Election of 1828 - Andrew Jackson)

After narrowly missing victory in the Presidential campaign of 1824 (won by John Quincy Adams in the House of Representatives), Andrew Jackson swept to a popular electoral triumph four years later. The hero of New Orleans represented a new kind of man in the leadership of American democracy. The genteel line of Presidents, from Washington through the second Adams, had suddenly come to an end. Here was the new American man, straight from the frontier. The campaign, the most vitriolic and partisan up until that time, was marked by violence, vituperation and an unchecked spirit of vengeance.

This boastful ballad of the famous American triumph at the Battle of New Orleans under the generalship of "Old Hickory," was employed by Jackson partisans throughout the campaign. The song itself was written by Samuel Woodworth and first appeared in print in 1826.

Ye gentlemen and ladies fair
That grace this famous city
Come listen if you've time to spare
While I rehearse this ditty
And for the opportunity consider yourself lucky
It is not often that you see a hunter from Kentucky
OH KENTUCKY, THE HUNTERS OF KENTUCKY

Now you all did read in public prints how Packenham
attempted
To make our Hickory Jackson wince
But soon his scheme repented
For Jackson he was wide awake
And wasn't scared at trifles
And well he knew what aim we take
With our Kentucky rifles
OH KENTUCKY, THE HUNTERS OF KENTUCKY

Well, bank was raised to hide our breasts
Not that we thought of dying
But that we always like to rest
Unless our game is flying
Behind it stood our little band
None wished it to be greater
Every man was half a horse and half an alligator
OH KENTUCKY, THE HUNTERS OF KENTUCKY

Well, the British found 'twas vain to fight
Where lead was all their booty
And so they wisely took to flight
And left us all this beauty
And so, if danger e'er annoys
Remember what our trade is
Send for us Kentucky boys
And we'll protect you, ladies
OH KENTUCKY, THE HUNTERS OF KENTUCKY

TYLER AND TIPPECANOE

tune: "Rosin the Beau"

(Election of 1840; William Henry Harrison and John Tyler; Whig)

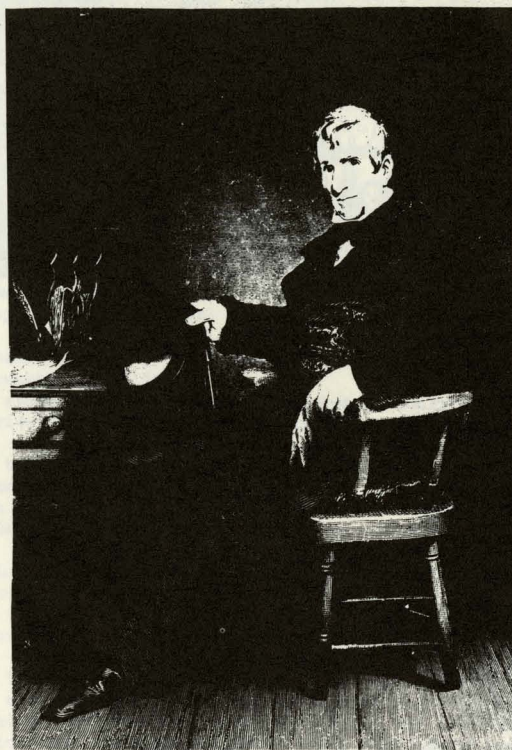
The election of 1840 provided the nation with the outward trappings of the American electoral process which would set the pattern for the rest of the 19th Century. Martin van Buren, successor to the popular Andrew Jackson, was nominated by the Democrats for a second term. But the Whigs sensed victory in the air. The financial panic of 1837 had shaken up the country and, as usual, the party in power, was blamed. After a bitter convention battle, the Whigs by-passed their leading political spokesman, Henry Clay, and nominated a war hero whose political background was sufficiently undistinguished to guarantee that he had few enemies in the land, William Henry Harrison.

John Tyler, a Democrat turned Whig, was given the vice-presidential nomination as a sop to the Henry Clay supporters.

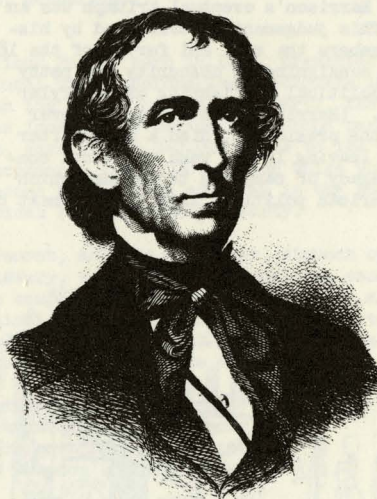
There then ensued one of the most riotous and colorful election campaigns in American history. Perhaps because the issues dividing the candidates were not terribly clear-cut (the Whigs were so divided they did not even adopt a platform for the campaign), the emphasis during the campaign was on the form rather than the substance of the election.

The Harrison camp was, apparently, aided by a crew of early high-powered public relations men who helped to organize mass meetings and torch-light parades, who coined slogans and wrote songs, who distributed pictures and artifacts of the candidates, and who -- in short -- did everything essential to a political campaign except discuss the issues.

For the first time in an American political cam-



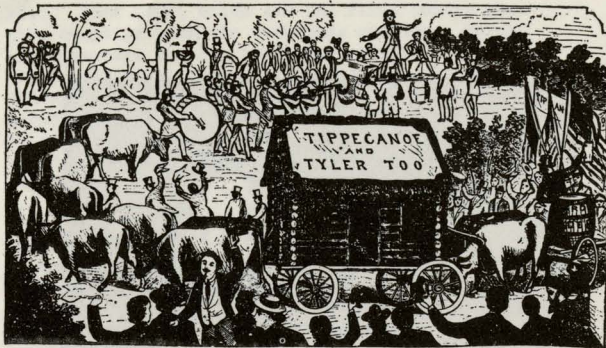
TIPPECANOE



AND TYLER TOO!

paign, songs played a significant role in whipping up popular enthusiasm. Campaign songbooks were issued, a step without precedent in the relatively unmusical elections heretofore. Bands, choral societies, glee clubs, etc. all contributed to the melodic campaign.

Early in the campaign, an unfortunate editorial writer for a pro-Democratic Baltimore newspaper suggested that Harrison be given "a barrel of hard cider and a pension of two thousand a year, and, our word for it, he will sit the remainder



Courtesy Indiana Historical Society Library

of his days in a log cabin by the side of a "sea coal" fire and study moral philosophy."

The alert Harrison managers immediately seized upon the statement to proclaim their man "the log cabin, hard cider candidate," the worthy inheritor of Jackson's mantle as the political voice of the common man.

The Harrison campaign songbook in which this song, "Tyler and Tippecanoe," appears, was aptly titled "Log Cabin and Hard Cider Melodies." The title page for the modest little volume reads:

"To the friends of Harrison and Tyler, the advocates of National Reform; of a sound and uniform currency -- of enterprise, prosperity and well-rewarded industry; to those who repel with scorn the Tory sneers that an illustrious and gallant citizen lives in a log cabin and drinks hard cider -- this little work is respectfully dedicated."

Matching the "log cabin and hard cider" theme was that most euphonious of all American election campaign slogans, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." "Tippecanoe" was a reference to the famous Battle of Tippecanoe in which Harrison defeated a band of Indians on the Tippecanoe River in Indiana in 1811.

With all this, Harrison's eventual triumph was an anti-climax. This judgement is confirmed by history which remembers the zeal and fervor of the 1840 campaign while consigning to obscurity the petty bickering and political in-fighting of the Tyler administration. (Harrison, the oldest man ever nominated for the presidency, died a month after taking office, leaving in his wake political confusion and a legacy of campaign techniques which would color American political life for the next century.)

Now the Whigs at the coming election
Will carry our candidates through,
They've made the judicious selection
Of Tyler and Tippecanoe.

They say that he lives in a cabin
And that he drinks hard cider too
Well what if he does, I am certain
He's the hero of Tippecanoe.

The spoilsmen are leaving their party
Where prospect for office is blue
Not wishing to stick by poor Marty
They'll change for old Tippecanoe.

Again and again fill your glasses
Bid Martin Van Buren adieu
We'll now please ourselves and our lasses
And we'll vote for old Tippecanoe.

So let us be up and a doing
And cling to our cause brave and true
I'll bet you a fortune we'll beat them
With the Hero of Tippecanoe.

VAN BUREN

tune: "The Right Man"

(Election of 1840; William Henry Harrison and John Tyler; Whig.)

Here is another song from the 1840 campaign. This one concentrates on the opposition, and in an age more outspoken than our own appropriately consigns Martin Van Buren to the nether regions. Van Buren, a political leader from New York before his rise in national politics, was known as "The Little Magician."

Who never did a noble deed -
Who of the people took no heed -
Who is the worst of tyrant's breed -
VAN BUREN!

Who rules us with an iron rod -
Who moves at Satan's beck and nod -
Who heeds not man, who heeds not God -
Van Buren!

Who would his friends his country sell -
Do other deeds too base to tell -
Deserves the lowest place in Hell -
Van Buren!



Whig Election Parade down Broadway in New York City in 1844. Note one banner reading "Justice to Harry of the West" -- Henry Clay.

And when November comes around;
Who then shall hear the fateful sound -
Magician, thou art wanting found -
VAN BUREN!



CLAY AND FRELINGHUYSEN

tune: "Old Dan Tucker"

(Election of 1844; Henry Clay and Theodore Frelinghuysen; Whig.)

Defeated for the nomination in 1840 by William Henry Harrison, Henry Clay started organizing his campaign for the Presidency in 1842. Clay planned well winning nomination on the first ballot at the 1844 whig convention. Senator Theodore Frelinghuysen of New Jersey won the Whig vice-presidential nomination.

The musical spirit engendered by the campaign of 1840 continued -- and the political songsmiths showed that they were made of stern stuff indeed by coming up with a hatful of rhymes for the apparently jawbreaking Whig ticket. (You try rhyming Frelinghuysen.)

But campaign songs to the contrary, Clay had missed his golden opportunity. The relatively obscure James K. Polk, the Democratic nominee, rode into office on a program of westward expansion which eventually led to the Mexican War.

Clay's a patriot through and through
And so is Frelinghuysen too
They are men of truth and candor,
Who can't be hurt by loco slander.

CHORUS:

Hurrah, hurrah, the country's risin'
Henry Clay and Frelinghuysen.
Hurrah, hurrah, the country's risin'
Henry Clay and Frelinghuysen.

No better two names that can be found
Although you search the country round,
More power to that clan comprising
Than Harry Clay and Frelinghuysen.

The locos they'd rather hear us groan
But that we'll leave to them alone;
With good Clay and Frelinghuysen
The way we'll beat them is surprising.

COME RAISE THE BANNER

tune: "Yankee Doodle"

(Election of 1844; James K. Polk and George M. Dallas; Democrat.)

By 1844, the Democrats had learned their lesson. Defeated by "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" four years earlier, the Democrats realized that they had allowed the opposition to take over the image of the "common man," once their most cherished possession. So in 1844, they discarded Van Buren in favor of a "dark horse" Tennessee Democrat, James K. Polk, whose campaign was conducted in the shadow of Andrew Jackson. The symbol of

the campaign became the Democratic hickory pole as a tangible reminder of "Old Hickory."

The Democrats also realized the importance of campaign accessories, such as songs, so successfully exploited by the Whigs in 1840. By 1844, Democrats were answering song for song the Whig onslaught. Here is one example of Democratic musical propaganda from that campaign.

Come raise the banner, raise it high,
Ye Democrats so handy;
Let songs of triumph rend the sky
For "Yankee Doodle Dandy";

Clear the track boys, how they run,
The Whigs we're just surprisin',
Soon we'll send to "Kingdom come"
H. Clay and Frelinghuysen!

Then raise on high your Hickory poles
And Freeman do not tarry,
We'll start the Whigs from out their holes
And drive them to "Old Harry!"

Clear the track boys, in this song,
We mean to be quite civil,
But in our old vernacular tongue,
"Old Harry" means the Divil!

Then let our glorious standard wave
Let sturdy hearts attend her,
It is the banner of the Brave,
By George we will defend her!

Clear the track boys, three times three,
Three cheers my noble fellows;
Hurrah! hurrah! for Tennessee!
Old Hickory -- POLK AND DALLAS!



JAMES K. POLK

THE FREMONT TRAIN

tune: "Old Dan Tucker"

(Election of 1856; John C. Fremont and William L. Dayton; Republican.)

The Republican Party, born in 1854, presented its first national ticket before the electorate in 1856. With the demise of the Whig Party, the Republicans immediately became the second party of the nation, garnering 1,340,000 votes to the victorious Buchanan's 1,830,000. Those Whigs who did not become Republicans wound up in the short-lived American ("Know-Nothing") Party.

John C. Fremont, soldier, explorer, staunch opponent of slavery, was the first Republican candidate. The campaign was heated and excited, and an evangelical fervor gripped Fremont supporters which resulted in an outburst of song reminiscent of the high musical tide of 1840.

The Fremont Train has got along,
Just jump aboard ye foes of wrong,
Our train is bound for Washington
It carries Freedom's bravest son.

CHORUS:

Clear the track, filibusters,
Now's no time for threats and blusters,
Clear the track (or) ere you dream on't,
You'll be 'neath the car of Fremont.

Now don't you see we've just the man
To meet the foe? -- for he who can
Brave torrents wild and mountain snows
Will fear no Brooks nor Southern blows.

CHORUS:

So jump aboard the Fremont train
And soon the Capital we'll gain;
Then we'll rejoice there's one in power
Who never will to slavery cower.

(CHORUS)

7



NYC ELECTION PARADE FOR TILDEN AND HENDRICKS

See emblazoned on our standard
Words of purest gold
Womankind shall not be fettered
Nor her birthright sold
Never yield to rank injustice
Alter evil laws,
Brothers, won't you stand beside us
In our righteous cause

THE BOYS IN BLUE

tune: "Wearing of the Green" ("Benny Havens, Oh"
(Election of 1876; Rutherford B. Hayes and William
A. Wheeler; Republican.)

The election of 1876 wound up with that most contradictory of American political anomalies, the election of a minority president. Samuel J. Tilden, the Democratic nominee, out-pollled his Republican rival, Rutherford B. Hayes, by more than 250,000 votes out of a total of under eight-and-a-half million ballots cast. But Hayes squeezed through the Electoral College by the margin of one vote -- 184 - 185 -- and even that triumph is clouded in a dispute over the actual results in two Southern states.

Main theme of the Hayes campaign was that "Copperheads" and pro-Southerners would return to power with a Democratic victory. Ironically enough, however, it was Hayes policy of "noninterference in the South" which allowed formed slave-owners and Confederate leaders to resume political control over the South and to install the discriminatory electoral system which has dominated Southern politics ever since -- much to the loss of the Republican Party.

Oh comrades dear and did you hear
The news that's going round?
They say the "Rebs" shall rule again
On free Columbia's ground.

Shall the Rebel Gray be put on guard
To rule the Boys in Blue?
No, never -- for the cry goes up,
"For Hayes, and Wheeler, too!"

CHORUS:

For Hayes and Wheeler too,
For Hayes and Wheeler too,
We'll cast our vote -- the Boys in Blue,
For Hayes and Wheeler too.

We want no worn out "Party hacks,"
But men of spotless worth,
Whose record shines out clean and clear
From the very day of birth.
No Tilden, Tweed or Morrissey
For the brave old Boys in Blue;
But every mother's son cries out
For Hayes and Wheeler too.

(CHORUS)

FOR VICTORY AGAIN

tune: "Marching Through Georgia"

(Election of 1884; James G. Blaine and John A.
Logan; Republican.)

Few American political campaigns exhibited the excitement and color of the Blaine-Cleveland contest of 1884, although, with the perspective of history, it is hard to determine what basic issues separated the candidates.

But if issues played but a small role, personalities dominated the political scene. Charges of fraud, chicanery, and bigotry swept the nation. It was a campaign of famous quotes, with one Republican partisan sanctimoniously defending his Party: "We are Republicans, and don't propose to leave our party and identify ourselves with the party whose antecedents have been rum, Romanism

and rebellion." Unfortunately for Blaine and the Republicans, New York Democrats seized on the remark to sow distrust among the New York Irish who, up until that time, were probably evenly divided between Blaine and Cleveland. When Blaine lost New York by the slim margin of 1,149 votes, the election was lost.

Blaine partisans, during the campaign, raked up a story of an early Cleveland indiscretion in which the candidate was charged with being the father of an illegitimate son in 1874. Republicans sang, "Ma, ma, Where's my Pa? Gone to the White House, ha, ha, ha!"

But despite the personal scandal, Cleveland won, the first Democratic Presidential triumph in 28 years.

Come once more, ye gallant boys,
And let us have a song,
Raise again the banner loud
While we march along;
Fling aloft our starry banner
Free from stain of wrong,
While we are singing for Blaine, boys.

CHORUS:
Hurrah! hurrah! for victory again!
Hurrah! hurrah! our Union to maintain!
So we join the chorus
And we shout the glad refrain.
Singing for Blaine and for Logan.

So raise again the chorus, boys,
And let no one be afraid,
Soon we'll see the Democrats
Beaten back dismayed,
Then our chosen men shall lead us
In their strength arrayed --
Noble Blaine and Logan.

(CHORUS)

HIS GRANDFATHER'S HAT

tune: "Grandfather's Clock"

(Election of 1888; Grover Cleveland and A. G. Thurman; Democrat.)

Attacks on the opposition dominated the electoral campaign of 1888. Democrats concentrated their fire on Benjamin Harrison, grand-son of "Old Tippecanoe" and an unexpected "dark horse" victor at the Democratic Convention. Cleveland, who had triumphed in 1884 with a scant 62,000 vote plurality, increased his popular margin to slightly better than 100,000. But to

no avail; Harrison triumphed in the Electoral College by 65 votes and won the Presidency.

His grandfather's hat is too big for his head
But Ben tries it on just the same
It fits him too quick which has oftentimes been said
With regard to his grandfather's fame
It was bought long ago and it makes a pretty show
In this jolly hard cider campaign
But it don't fit even a little bit
On Benjamin' Harrison's brain

WHEN GROVER'S TERM COMES TO AN END

tune: "When Johnny Comes Marching Home"

(Election of 1888; Benjamin Harrison and Levi P. Morton; Republican.)

As with the Democrats, Republicans concentrated on singing Cleveland out of office rather than singing Harrison in. Appeals to the soldier vote (Harrison was a Brigadier General for the Union during the Civil War) coupled with an undistinguished but blameless record restored the Republicans to the White House.

When Grover's term comes to an end, HURRAH HURRAH
It's Harrison the soldier's friend, HURRAH HURRAH
The vets will cheer, their sons will shout
The ladies corps will all turn out
And we'll all feel gay when Cleveland is going out.

His party then will cease to rule HURRAH HURRAH
Republicans they cannot fool HURRAH HURRAH
Our people knowing what is right
They'll put those Democrats to flight
And we'll all feel gay when Cleveland is going out.

SHOUT MCKINLEY

tune: "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp"

(Election of 1896; William McKinley and Garret A. Hobart; Republican.)

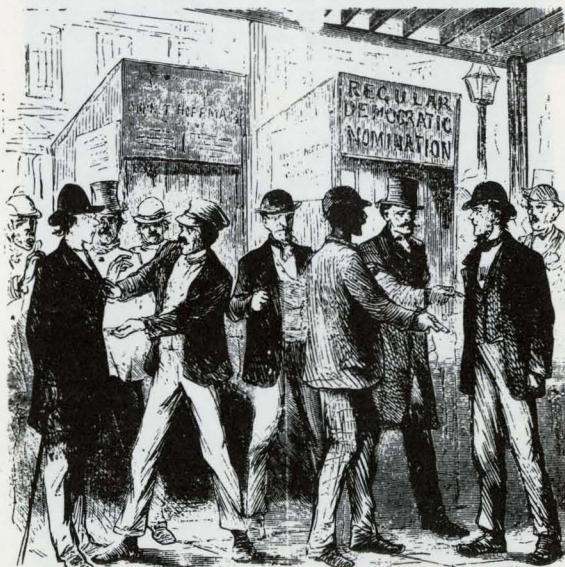
The great tariff battles of the post Civil War era reached their climax in the 1896 campaign. Democrats had traditionally opposed high tariffs as a drain on the economy and provoking of inflation and high prices. Republicans were known as the Party of Protection, favoring high tariffs as instruments of protection for domestic manufactures. The Panic of 1893 and the ensuing depression were exploited by Republicans as the direct result of the Democratic tariff policy. The issue of "protection" played a major role in the campaign, as evidenced in this song.

The most dramatic issue of the campaign, however, was the "gold standard" versus "free silver." It was on the basis of this issue that the Democrats nominated William Jennings Bryan, whose famous "cross of gold" speech stamped the Democratic Convention that year.

When he gets to Washington
Then the Democrats will run
For Republicans McKinley paves the way
And then we'll all rejoice
For McKinley is our choice
We'll all be there rejoicing on that day

Singing shout, shout, shout
Be up and doing
Shout McKinley as we go
Do not falter, or be slow
On our country to bestow
All the aid to gain protection that we know

What a glory that will be
When we beat old Grover C.
McKinley takes the road to Washington



What a welcome change there'll be
We'll regain prosperity
McKinley and protection marches on.

Shout, shout, shout etc.

THEN AND NOW

tune: "My Old Kentucky Home"

(Election of 1900; John G. Wooley and Henry B. Metcalf; Prohibition Party.)

The Prohibition Party first made its appearance on the American political scene in 1884, garnering a popular vote of some 150,000 for its presidential candidate, John P. St. John. But Prohibitionism had been an important issue in American politics for at least a half-century before.

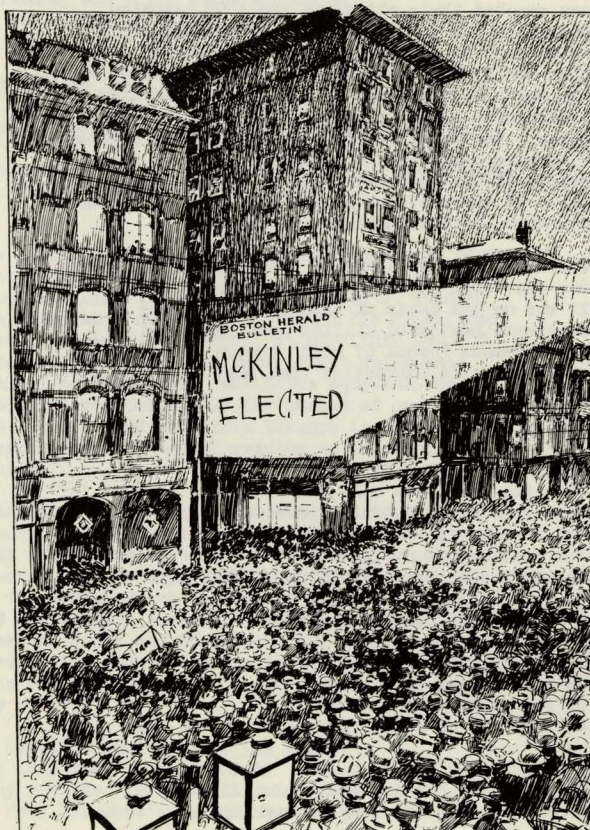
As with so many minor party reform movements, the influence of the Prohibitionists was much greater than their actual voting strength. As with Abolition, Woman's Suffrage, Populism, and, in later years, Socialism, the Prohibition Issue became a force in American politics. It resulted, eventually, in the adoption of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution -- subsequently repealed by the 21st Amendment.

The highest vote ever garnered by a Prohibition candidate was 264,133 ballots in the election of 1892. But what it lacked in electoral strength, the Prohibition movement more than made up in fervor and singleness of purpose -- a zeal which this campaign song reflects.

They sing sweet songs on the little village green
At evening when labor is done;
No fear of want, no thought of ill or wrong,
For there's plenty there for everyone;
But soon there comes to this lovely little spot
The drinkman with whiskey and beer,
And the song dies out, the drunken brawl begins
And there's pain and grief where once the cheer.

CHORUS:

Cast your vote, my brother,
Oh, cast your vote today,



That saloons must go with their poverty and woe
Cast your vote, my brother, while you may.

Yes, the drink-man rules for in caucus he is king,
His bidding the tipplers all do,
And good men vote with the party and the ring
So the drink-man's schemes are carried through.
The time comes fast when beneath the tyrant
The nation must bow as a slave,
Stand, patriots, then, for the cause of truth and right
And your colors fly, oh ye freemen brave.

(CHORUS)

ROOSEVELT THE CRY

tune: "Scots Wha' Hae"

(Election of 1904; Theodore Roosevelt and Charles W. Fairbanks; Republican.)

Few presidents enjoyed the general popularity of Theodore Roosevelt. Even in his unsuccessful bid for a third term in 1912, running on an independent Republican ticket, he out-pollled the regular Republican nominee by more than half a million votes.

In 1903, however, Roosevelt was unbeatable. He won election by the greatest popular majority since Grant defeated Greeley in 1872. The "Hill" of the 4th verse in this 1904 campaign song is David B. Hill of the Tammany Hall Democratic organization in New York State.

Hear the call throughout the land
Come and proudly take your stand
Now uphold your chieftain's hand
ROOSEVELT THE CRY

Blow the bugle, beat the drum
From the north and south they come
From the east and west they come
ROOSEVELT THE CRY

Lincoln's name McKinley's too
They traduced and they would anew
Trust them, I will not will you
ROOSEVELT THE CRY

Let the Democrat named Hill
All his evil venom spill
Yet he'll taste a bitter pill
ROOSEVELT THE CRY

History shall write his name
On the immortal scroll of fame
Then shall all his deeds proclaim
ROOSEVELT THE CRY

Roosevelt, the soldier true
Roosevelt, the statesman too
Sane for me and safe for you
ROOSEVELT THE CRY

AL SMITH

tune: "Sidewalks of New York"

(Election of 1928; Alfred E. Smith and Joseph T. Robinson; Democrat.)

With the emergence of the age of mass communication, the campaign song became a secondary piece of election paraphernalia, maintained, seemingly, more for tradition than for any vote-garnering qualities in the songs themselves. Songs began to identify the candidates and give them a personality.

It was only natural for Al Smith's campaign song to be set to the melody of "Sidewalks of New York." Four times Governor of the Empire State, Smith was literally a product of Gotham's teeming sidewalks. But eight years of Republican "prosperity" plus a virulent wave of hostile anti-Catholic sentiment, particularly in the South, sent "The Happy Warrior" down to defeat. He even lost his native New York State by more than 100,000 votes.

East west North South
Oh say can you see
Al Smith is in his glory
'Neath the presidential tree
Choice of all the people
Everybody's old pal
Three big cheers for our leader
Everybody loves our Al

IF HE'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR LINDY
(He's Good Enough for Me)

tune: "Good Enough for Me"

(Election of 1928; Herbert Hoover and Charles Curtis; Republican.)

In the year 1928 it would have been difficult to find a more valuable endorsement for a Presidential Candidate than that of Charles A. Lindbergh. A year earlier, "Lucky Lindy" had become a national idol with the first successful solo trans-Atlantic airplane flight. When Lindy came out for Herbert Hoover, the Republican nominee, the campaign song which follows was a natural.



Charles Linbergh flew his plane all the way to
France
Most of the way he flew by the seat of his pants
Good old American know how, that's the right way to
be
If he's good enough for Lindbergh he's good enough
for me

If he's good enough for Lindy he's good enough
for me (3)
Herbert Hoover is the only man to be our nation's
chief

Charles Lindbergh flew his plane to France to see
what he could see
Now that he's back he's looking at our old
country
And what he has to say stands out in bold relief
Herbert Hoover is the only man to be our nation's
chief

(CHORUS)

Now you all remember Hoover, back in the war
He saved us from the Kaiser now he'll give us
something more
He'll serve as the President of the land of the
free
If he's good enough for Lindby he's good enough
for me

(CHORUS)

CACTUS JACK AND FRANKLIN D.

tune: "Old Joe Clark"

(Election of 1932; Franklin Delano Roosevelt and
John Nance Garner; Democrat.)

In 1924 and 1928, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, former Assistant Secretary of the Navy and an unsuccessful Vice-Presidential Candidate in the 1920 campaign, had proposed Al Smith for the Democratic Presidential nomination. When Smith won the nomination in 1928, he prevailed upon Roosevelt to seek the Governorship of New York in order to bolster the ticket. Smith lost New York State and the election, but Roosevelt bucked the Republican tide of 1928 to win the New York Governorship. By 1932, Roosevelt had become the natural choice for the Democratic nomination for President. His main opposition came from -- Al Smith. But to no avail. Roosevelt won the nomination and, promising the American people a "New Deal" in answer to the fast-galloping depression, went on to an unprecedented four-time electoral triumph.

CHORUS:

Get aboard the freedom car
Cast your vote for F.D.R.
Cactus Jack and Franklin D.
They're the ones for me

Now Hoover got too greedy
He wanted four years more
We're putting up a "vacant" sign
Above his White House door

(CHORUS)

The elephant is worried
We've got him in a net
We'll give him such a skinning
He'll wish he could forget

(CHORUS)

WE WANT WILLKIE

tune: "Glory Hallelujah"

(Election of 1940; Wendell L. Willkie & Charles L. McNary; Republican.)

The Republican Convention of 1940 was taken by storm by one of the few genuine "dark horse" candidates of modern times. Virtually unknown to the country at large until a few weeks before the Republican Convention, Wendell L. Willkie, a utilities magnate completely lacking in political experience, managed to mount a high-pressure publicity campaign which stole the nomination out from under the noses of Thomas E. Dewey and Robert Taft. High-point of the Willkie drive was the exciting climax in Philadelphia where packed Convention galleries set up the insistent clamor "WE WANT WILLKIE!"

Willkie won the nomination, but Franklin D. Roosevelt was successful in his bid for a third term, defeating the political novice by almost five million votes.

We want Willkie
We want Willkie
We want Willkie
We want Willkie

We want Willkie in the White House
He's the man, the finest in the land
We want Willkie in the White House
The people's president.

We want Willkie in the White House
He will win for we will put him in
We want Willkie in the White House
The people's President.

I'VE GOT A BALLOT

tune: "I've Got Six-Pence"

(Election of 1948; Henry A. Wallace and Glen H. Taylor; Progressive Party.)

Henry Agard Wallace, former Vice-President of the United States, one-time Secretary of Agriculture and later Secretary of Commerce under Harry Truman, made his bid for the Presidency in 1948 under the auspices of the newly-organized Progressive Party. Distressed with Truman's policy on the developing Cold War, Wallace won widespread support from many liberals and left-wingers who felt that Truman had swung the New Deal too far to the right.

A crusading fervor almost unique in modern political campaigns enveloped the Wallace movement -- erupting in a spate of election campaign songs the like of which had not been seen since the 19th Century. Firing with equal passion at both "old parties," the Progressives sang of "The Same Merry-Go-Round" and chanted the hymns of a "Gideon's Army." Professional song-writers lent their talents, with E. Y. "Yip" Harburg, librettist for "Finian's Rainbow" and author of the hit-song of the Depression, "Buddy, Can You Spare A Dime," penning these lyrics.

I've got a ballot a magic little ballot
I've got a ballot and it means my life
It means freedom from want
It means freedom from fear
And all the dreams we shared with F.D.R.

The Republicans they grieve me
The Democrats deceive me
But I've a brand new party, believe me
As we go rolling up the vote

Roll it up FOR WALLACE
Roll it up FOR TAYLOR
There is magic in that ballot
When you vo---o-o-o-te

Happy is the day when the people get their way
We'll go rolling up the vote

THE PRESIDENTS

tune: "Yankee Doodle"

This is an old-time school learning song, a teaching device particularly popular in the Ozark Country toward the end of the 19th Century. Vance Randolph ("Ozark Folksongs") reports a version which ends with Cleveland's second election in the present tense. Subsequent stanzas, as sung here, have been begged, borrowed, stolen and written by Oscar Brand.

George Washington, first president, by Adams was
succeeded,
Thomas Jefferson was next, the people's cause
he pleaded.
James Madison, he then came forth, to give John
Bull a peeling,
James Monroe was next to go in the era of good
feeling.

'Twas John Q. Adams then came in and, after, Andrew
Jackson,
He licked the British at New Orleans with much great
satisfaction,
Van Buren then was next to chair then Harrison and
Tyler --
The latter made the Whigs so mad they almost burst
their b'ilers.

We next elected James K. Polk, the worse that then
did vex us
Was, should we fight with Mexico and take in Lone
Star Texas.
Then Taylor was our leader, but he soon had to
forsake it,
For Millard Fillmore filled it more; Frank Pierce
then said, "I'll take it."

James Buchanan next popped right in and Lincoln
then was chosen,
He found the problems of the day were anything but
frozen.
And Johnson had a rougher time, the Senate would
impeach him,
But as it took a two-thirds vote, they lacked one
vote to reach him

And then we came to U.S. Grant, who made his name
at Shiloh,
Then Hayes, and Garfield, who got shot, and they
both hailed from Ohio.
Chet Arthur then the scepter held till Cleveland
took it over,
Ben Harrison got sandwiched in, and once more it
was Grover.

McKinley kindled Spain to war and Teddy Roosevelt
fought it.
Then Teddy took the White House key, till William
H. Taft sought it.
Next Wilson kept us out of war until we had to win
it;
He tried to get us in the League but we saw nothing
in it.

The next was Warren Harding with his Teapot Dome
a-boiling,
Till Coolidge took the kettle off, in silence
ever toiling.
The boom came in with Hoover, but it very soon got
busted,
And Franklin Roosevelt got the call and four times
was entrusted.

Then the Axis started World War Two and fought till
they got meager,
Then Roosevelt died and Truman came, tho he didn't
seem too eager.
But still he ran and fought against the Communistic
power,
Until the GOP came back and won with Eisenhower.