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VOTING STANDARDS

Charles V. Stanton

President Eisenhower's proposal that 18-year-olds be given the right to vote has created considerable editorial stir. Opinion of editors, as is usually the case, is widely divided.

Actually, the only people concerned with the matter seem to be editors and politicians. We haven't heard of 18-year-olds in any great number demanding the right to vote. We doubt if very many have much concern, one way or the other, about the privilege. But the issue makes an excellent political football.

By way of background, the *East Oregonian*, Pendleton, says:

Twenty-one as the voting age is the Anglo-Saxon world (it is 18 in the Soviet Union and much of Latin America) goes back many centuries. It was a provision of feudal law in England a man must have reached 21 to become a landholder by service as a knight. If 18 years had been the voting age in the U. S. in 1950, it would have increased the number of potential voters by about 6,500,000, or seven per cent.

Proponents of the plan to lower the voting age point out that if an 18-year-old is old enough to fight he is old enough to vote. That's a pretty piece of sentiment, but it deserves some examination.

Voter Qualification Needed

The sentimental position is accepted by the *Coos Bay Times* which argues as follows:

We would argue also that there is a direct relation between the fighting ability of today's soldier sailor or airman and his ability to reason. The serviceman of today must be a highly trained technician. There are intelligence requirements set up for servicemen—there are none for voters. Modern warfare is a complex science. Even the ordinary infantryman must be able to use and understand the workings of complex weapons; he has to be able to read maps, comprehend the tactical situations, have a smattering of foreign language, direct mortar fire, use radio equipment, and a hundred and one other things essential to the very important business of keeping alive.

The *Coos Bay Times* contends that "The 18-year-old of today is infinitely better qualified as a citizen than was the 21-year-old of a generation ago." We can agree with that statement. But the 18-year-old gets intensive training for military service, while virtually no training is given in preparation for citizenship. If every voter could be given as thorough training for his service as is the soldier, we would have far better government.

Citizenship Preparation Poor

Peter Edson points out that the Army is preparing to release 20,000 men whose intelligence quota is too low to permit effective training for military service. These 20,000, we imagine, represent a fairly average cross section of our whole population. While it is a minor fraction, it is, nonetheless, something to be considered.

It represents a group of people, of all ages, below the normal mental level, yet having the right to determine national and international policies. We demand that a person pass tests before he can drive an automobile, but we let him help guide the destiny of our nation with no question of his ability to perform such a duty.

We believe the voting privilege should be more restrictive; that standards should be raised rather than lowered. That does not necessarily mean we believe 18-year-olds to be any less qualified for the voting privilege than adults.

But before we go about lowering the voting age we would like to see some provision to test the ability of voters of all ages and certain standards provided as prerequisite to the voting privilege. Furthermore, we would like some evidence that 18-year-olds as a whole are actually interested in franchise and are willing to assume the responsibility politicians are trying to thrust upon them.

Hal Boyle

WASHINGTON (AP) — This isn't a town where they keep live men on pedestals. They start looking for the clay in the feet.

President Eisenhower has met this fate. The military hero that everybody knew has become after a year in office the man in the White House that nobody seems quite sure about.

What do they say about Ike now in America's leading whispering gallery? He has both supporters and opponents puzzled.

Here is a sampling of the kind of remarks you hear about him: "He's a fine man," commented a veteran Democratic legislator, "but he's in the wrong field."

"The old politicians here are still jealous of him because they don't like to see someone they think of as an amateur hit the jackpot," remarked another.

"Eisenhower still has the people behind him," said a Republican supporter, "but he hasn't used his strength. Most of the Republicans here rode back into office on his coattails—and they know it. It is time to let them know he is aware of that fact, too, and start knocking their heads together instead of making concessions."

But it isn't easy to knock together the heads of senators or congressmen. And no President who has done it ever managed to make them like it.

Eisenhower, the military leader, welded in war an Allied unity above partisanship. He has passionately sought to find a formula for national political unity in peace.

Many an oldtime politician here feels that quest stamps him as a hopeless amateur in politics, which they feel is a patchwork art, compromise more often than it is a man on a white horse leading an army to a direct objective.

There is a deepening cynicism among them over whether Eisenhower will be able to establish as firm a beachhead on Capitol Hill as he did in Normandy. It isn't the same kind of war, they say, and it takes a different kind of man. Ike's supporters say, "Wait and see."

But there is little doubt in most minds that this is the big political

Another Heartbreak Ridge



BOOM TOWN, PA.

City Uses Facts, Statistics To Interest New Prospects

By A. ROBERT SMITH
News-Review Correspondent
(last in a series)

YORK, Pa. — How can a town put its best foot forward to attract new industry, through ballyhoo or just cold facts?

When this question was debated a few years ago in York, the merchants of Chamber of Commerce contended that intensive newspaper and magazine advertising was the better approach. And industrialists in the York Manufacturers Assn. argued that industry was interested only in getting the facts about York.

Not an act was placed. Won a brochure was distributed. And new industry came and stayed. But York didn't just sit and wait. It bundled off to Washington copies of "The York Plan," which the Manufacturers Assn. will send to anyone requesting a copy. This included an up-to-date list of all the city's machine tool facilities, which was in turn circulated throughout the country by the small business division of the National Production Authority of the federal government — a neat, effective bit of advertising of a unique variety.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Metropolitan Edison Co. then detailed a man each to become experts on the pertinent data industrial prospects would need; and they were ready at all times thereafter to meet anyone interested in York, to show them the city's possibilities, and to find out what kind of outfit the town was dealing with.

York, it must be noted, doesn't encourage even the best of comes down the pike. If a firm, for example, is trying to run away from a union in another town by transferring its operations to York, this city isn't interested.

THE EXPLANATION for this attitude came from John F. Padden, executive director of the C.I.O., the A.F. of L. and independent unions represented. But disputes shutting down production have been infrequent. The union leaders are considered rather conservative.

Not all shops are organized here, but many of them are. With the C.I.O., the A.F. of L. and independent unions represented. But disputes shutting down production have been infrequent. The union leaders are considered rather conservative.

York also encourages diversified industry, if possible, and is careful not to overtax these community facilities that suffer quickest from a great influx of new workers, such as hospitals, schools, sewage disposal and other utilities. Avoiding the heavy strains on facilities keeps community problems to a minimum.

The thing that stuck in my mind after the conference was the way Eisenhower, replying to a question about his legislative program, had said for them to make no mistake about it he was going to work for the enactment of what he thought was good for the country. Then he clamped his jaw, and thrust out his chin. It is a fighting man's chin.

When I remarked on this to a veteran reporter who had attended the conference, he said: "That is what everybody here is wondering—how far he'll stick out his chin for his own program."

A number of political futures seem to depend upon it.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

...ia) have asked their governments at home for new instructions.

Well, talking is cheaper than shooting — and we hire our diplomats by the year, anyway.

Note for the realistic thinker: General Matthew Ridgway, our former commander in the Far East and now army chief of staff, tells the senate foreign relations committee that he sees no signs that the reds intend to renew the fighting in Korea.

On the home front, the Oregon highway commission announces that in about a couple of weeks it will start putting up new highway signs. They will be red, with white lettering. It is part of a new national program to bring about uniformity in all states. It will take Oregon about five years to get all the signs changed.

It's a good idea. In a nation where everybody travels everywhere, highway signs should follow the same pattern everywhere. I do wish that while they're at it our highway people would change our distance signs. Nearly all of them are now parallel to the highway, and it's practically impossible to read them at average road speeds. If you crane your neck and try to, you're apt to wind up at the bottom of a ditch or a grade so badly cracked up that you no longer care where you're going or how far it is.

In most states, the distance signs are set crosswise to the line of traffic so they can be read at a glance. That system is much better than ours.

This changing world note: The ghosts that haunt the state-ly homes in England are keeping up with the times. The newest one reported is a blonde who wears lipstick. The Birmingham psychic research society reports that she also appears in 3-D and full color.

More on this modern world: In San Antonio (Texas) the keeper of the city zoo complains that in the past few months 85 wild animals on the outside have been caught trying to GET INSIDE.

The yen for security is apparently spreading to the wild creatures.

Two Daughters File Suits Following Auto Accident

Two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight W. Coder have filed separate actions in circuit court for damages totaling \$11,334 for injuries received in a traffic accident on Rice Hill Sept. 23, 1953.

Bonnie Ann Coder, legal age, and Linda May Coder, by her guardian ad litem Dwight W. Coder, have filed the suits against Eugene Francis Smith and Frank G. Lower.

Both suits claim Smith and Lower were negligent in the accident in which Smith reportedly hit Lower's car, knocking it into the path of the Coder car.

Both daughters claim permanent injuries and mental anguish and shock. The suit by Bonnie Ann Coder seeks \$7,500 general and \$383.75 special damages; the other seeks \$3,834 general and \$40.25 special damages.

ROADS STOP GAME

Impassable road conditions on Sexton Mountain forced the postponement of the Glendale-Illinois Valley basketball game scheduled for Glendale Friday night. The schools hope to make up the game at another time although no definite date has been set.

WAREHOUSES BURNED

NEW YORK (AP) — A raging fire Friday consumed four historic warehouses. Twenty-one firemen were injured and the loss unofficially was estimated at three million dollars.

Bruce Bissat

Scientists' meeting in Boston recently felt compelled to digest some rather unflattering scientific findings:

That in business and in the rearing and educating of children, unscientific ways of training often achieve better results than scientific methods.

That nonscientists frequently do a better job than scientists in teaching people how to live and improve their lot in life.

This isn't easy stuff for the psychologists and other specialists to swallow.

For instance, they have found that many of our most successful businessmen ought — by their scientific tests — to have failed long ago. Conversely, other studies show that men who pass their leadership tests with high scores often do not attract business managers.

The scientists' somewhat sad conclusion was that the best way to pick a man for top business leadership is to ask his boss how good he is.

Some of the leaders haven't had any specific leadership training at all. On the other hand, the savants learned that carefully charted college educations frequently "breed leadership out of the men."

As if this bafflement were not enough, they have discovered also that lots of children appear to learn a good deal more from hit and miss outside activities than they do from school. And "unscientific" mothers who fondle their offspring get better results than mothers who cling to the rules of science.

In the face of these findings, the scientists evidently showed no particular humility. They continued to insist that this country and the world will be better places if they take the scholars' advice and use their measuring rods.

Certainly no case can fairly be made for abandoning the scientific knowledge and techniques. But it does suggest that their work in the human field has not gone nearly far enough.

Obviously they have not learned yet how to calculate the true

leadership factors, either in business or any other realm of endeavor. Their tests seem too concerned with mechanical, statistical and surface measurements of ability. They have not found nor discovered how to tap the inner springs of power and resourcefulness that make for genuine success.

By the same token they have not yet figured out the real key to the successful imparting of knowledge. When they do they will understand why hit-or-miss extracurricular things often surpass formalized training in educational effectiveness, and why students studying via television at Western Reserve University outstripped those taught on the campus.

There's nothing wrong with the scientific method. It's simply that, in its application to human behavior, it is still in its infancy.

Roseburg Choral Society Postpones Rehearsal

Contrary to previous announcement, Roseburg Choral Society will not rehearse on Monday night, Jan. 18, because of the Community Concert.

The choral group will resume weekly rehearsals Monday, Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Junior High School music room.

Director for the spring season will be Bob Robins, music instructor in the Roseburg school system. Practice will consist of choral numbers from popular operettas, to be presented in abbreviated form in the annual spring concert of the Choral Society.



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N. C. C.
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"Old-Fashioned Singing Convention"
2:00—8:30 P. M.
Pot-Luck at 5:45
VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS & GROUP MUSIC
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