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Other Papers Say:

THE UNDEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL COLLEGE

It is not widely recognized that it is possible for a candidate for the presidency to poll a popular majority, and yet to be defeated. This results from the peculiarities of our electoral college system, under which the result is decided, not by popular votes, but by state blocks or electoral votes.

This actually has happened twice in our history. In the disputed election of 1876, Samuel J. Tilden was finally credited with 4,294,885 popular votes and Rutherford B. Hayes with 4,033,559; yet the electoral votes stood: Tilden 184, Hayes 185. There was no dispute after the election of 1888, but the candidate receiving the greatest number of popular votes was defeated. He was Grover Cleveland, who polled 5,538,221 votes, a plurality of 98,017 over Benjamin Harrison, who had 5,440,216. The electoral votes, 168 to 233, gave no inkling of how close the struggle was.

The same thing came within 300,000 votes of happening in 1916. Wilson's plurality over Hughes was only 591,365 votes, and this change of 295,693 votes from Democratic to Republican would have given Hughes a popular majority. Wilson could have secured 318,000 votes in two states alone of the solid south, Georgia and Texas, and still have had enough left to win their electoral votes and the election.

For the sake of hypothesis, let us suppose the unlikely event that, in next month's election, one candidate carries the 12 larger states (California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Massachusetts, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin) by a margin of 1,000 in each. He would have 277 electoral votes, or 11 more than necessary to elect, and could concede his opponent a majority of any number up to their total vote, about 13,500,000. In the remaining 36 states. Thus the latter would find himself overwhelmingly elected by the people, but defeated by their delegated electors.

By no stretch of imagination can a system that offers such a chance for miscarriage of the citizenry will be called democratic, yet it exists as the method of choosing the chief executive of what we fondly consider the world's foremost democracy.

The unrepresentative character of the electoral system is further shown in how far it falls short of reflecting the way the voting goes. In 1928, for instance, Smith received 41 per cent of the popular vote and only 16 per cent of the electoral vote. The 1912 election gave Roosevelt 28 per cent of the popular vote and 18 per cent of the electoral, while Taft had 23 and 14 per cent, respectively.

The electoral college entered our system as a means of relieving the people from the responsibility, considered too great for them, of choosing their ruler. In the constitutional convention of 1787, the smaller states opposed popular election of the executive, because they feared their influence would be outweighed by that of the larger states. Also, the majority of delegates were distrustful of pure democracy. George Mason of Virginia expressed the prevailing opinion: "It would be as unnatural to refer the choice of a proper character for chief magistrate to the people as it would be to refer a trial of colors to a blind man."

So far as it concerns setting up a body of wise men to deliberate freely on the presidential candidates, as the founding fathers intended, the usage has been an empty ceremony virtually from the start. What it has done is to shut off the election returns into 48 compartments, from which the world results already mentioned become possible. It is somewhat as if a baseball game were decided, not by the total score, but by the number of innings captured by one team.

Since 1889, 54 joint resolutions have been introduced in congress to abolish the system and a concerted movement against it, led by Senator Norris, now is under way. Plus the other objections, Mr. Norris points out that it is virtually impossible for a third party to perfect the machinery necessary to get its electors on the ballots of all the states.

As a useless archaism, there are plenty of good grounds for shelving the electoral college. But in the fact that it has twice and may again misrepresent the will of the people as to their choice of president, lies an important reason for abolishing it at the earliest possible moment. — St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

AGE OF OPPORTUNITY
The young chap who is just starting out to make his way in the world these days faces a pretty tough prospect. But before he gets through he is likely to find that he couldn't have picked a better time to make a beginning.

So, at any rate, says Charles M. Schwab, who seems to feel that since there isn't any place for things to go but up, the lad who begins at the bottom now will find all kinds of opportunities opening in front of him in the near future.

Writing in the current issue of the Editorial Review, Mr. Schwab points out that even though the depression has been long and hard, the world isn't going to come to an end any day after tomorrow, after all. America is not suffering from a shortage of food and supplies; potentially it is just as rich as ever. Sooner or later, American energy and intelligence will bring us back to times even better than we have had before.

This little song, to be sure, has been sung before. But Mr. Schwab learned about the opportunities that exist in a depression from one of the greatest industrialists that ever lived — Andrew Carnegie; for it was always Carnegie's custom to use a depression as a time for expansion, a time for getting ready for a future boom.

In the panic of the '70's, when most industrialists were busy at the walling wall, Carnegie kept hard at work building new plants and getting ready to do a bigger business than ever before. It was the same when the depression of the '90's came along. Always, Carnegie knew that there would be an upswing; always he used hard

times as a period of preparation. The result, of course, was that Carnegie became the world's greatest steel master—and, in the end, was able to die rich after giving away \$25,000,000. And the young men who found peace with him during those bygone years of depression are not going hungry today. Mr. Schwab, incidentally, is one of them.

SMITH WELCOMED WITH CHEERS IN BOSTON THURSDAY

(Continued From Page One)

The Chicago convention, "Pretty Frank"

Smith said he felt he had come "home" that his audience was "sitting around his table" and he said he was going "to be pretty frank."

"I was not satisfied with that Chicago convention," he said, "and I know that you were not satisfied with it. But listen, we'll settle these troubles in our party. We don't want any advice, and above everything else we want no sympathy from Senator Moses or his Republican cohorts."

Referring to what he termed "administration failures" Smith said: "If I were to be asked tonight what in my opinion was the greatest failure of the existing administration, I would be impelled to say that they left the people of this country entirely in the dark with regard to all important functions of government—the final adjust of our financial condition. There is no doubt that they will be able to explain it, but the explanation was not in their favor, and it was therefore withheld."

The crowd roared its mightiest as he said: "Every successful and progressive president of the United States during my time has been a former governor of a state—Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge."

And even as they roared, a few hoos were heard at the mention of Coolidge's name. Smith frowned and shouted:

"Can that, can that—I'm talking of successful presidents." Of President Hoover, Smith said: "The trouble is that he lacks the power of leadership, even over the members of his own party, and what is more he lacks the power to appeal to the people themselves."

Smith spoke of the bonus army incident in Washington and said the president should have explained the situation of the finances of the country with respect to the claims the bonus army members were making. "Instead," he said, "they (the bonus army members) were encouraged to remain in Washington until sanitary conditions became so bad they had to be driven away from Washington by armed forces of the United States and the secretary of war went out trying to explain why it should have been done."

The Garden

HOW TO PLANT BULBS

While bulbs are the nearest to fool-proof plant material there is, and unless buried so deep they can never reach the surface, a crop of bloom is sure to result, proper planting means a great deal in the quality and quantity of bloom. A few general principles should be observed.

First of all, bulbs need good drainage. This is a prime factor, and if the soil is heavy and not well drained raise the beds six inches above the surrounding soil level to give the necessary drainage.

Plant the bulbs deep enough. With very few exceptions it is better to err on the side of depth than of shallowness. The two notable exceptions are crown imperial and candidum lilies. These two bulbs, although of large size, suggesting that they should be set down at least six inches as needed for other bulbs of their size, should not be covered with more than two inches of soil.

Tulips will burrow to 18 inches or more and come up regularly and bloom if left to themselves, but from five to six inches from the top of the bulb is their proper planting depth.

Narcissus need the same depth from the top of the bulb, but owing to the different shape and sometimes the

much larger size, the base of the bulbs is usually an inch deeper than the tulips. Snowdrops and scillas should go down about two and one-half to three inches. Crocuses should have two inches of soil above them. The erythroniums need about four inches to cover. So do the checkered lilies, fritillaria meleagris. The anemones for cold frame planting need only an inch of soil to cover them.

The lilies need the deepest planting and they can go as deep as a foot down for the account of my speech results. The distance apart is rather elastic but in general five inches is the closest any of them should be planted. They should not have any barnyard manure as fertilizer. Bone meal is the only safe fertilizer to dig in the soil, with potash salts or wood ashes an excellent dressing upon the surface.

Sibylline Books

In the traditional history of the Roman kings, the Cumaean sibyl sold to Tarquin the Proud the Sibylline books. Tradition says that the books were preserved in a stone chest in the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus and were destroyed by the fire that consumed the temple in the year 83 B. C.

Within six years the planting of winter legume seed in Jefferson county, Alabama, has increased from 1000 to 75,000 pounds per year.

THE OPEN COURT

CORRESPONDENTS MUST SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO THE EDITOR IF THEY DESIRE LETTERS PRINTED.

Oct. 27, 1932

Editor, The Observer, La Grande, Ore.

My dear Sir:

I wish to thank the Observer and the very careful and competent reporter for the account of my speech delivered in La Grande Monday evening, Oct. 24th.

I evidently made a slip in substituting one of the national leaders for another and ask you to correct that for me, also another slight misconception of what I intended to say on the tariff.

When I mentioned the possibility of a privately owned bank covering the United States, similar to the one crushed 100 years ago by President Jackson, not Alexander Hamilton.

The other place where I failed to state my position clearly was on the wool tariff. I am in favor of the tariff on wool. It does somewhat aid the wool grower, because we import one-third of the wool used in the country, and we should receive the foreign price plus the tariff. The foreign price has never been lower than five cents a pound. The tariff is

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eleven cents, hence the price here should never have been less than 16 cents a pound.

Why do we not get the full benefit of the tariff on wool? If given a commission to go to con-

press, on Nov. 8th, I propose to find the reason why we wool producers do not profit to the full extent we should by reason of the tariff wall. Very sincerely yours, Walter M. Pierce.

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.—Psalm 99: 5.

POWER AMENDMENT

Some time ago in this column we explained the significance of the State Water Power and Hydro-electric Constitutional Amendment, and recommended that it be defeated because of the enormous bonded indebtedness it would involve if passed.

Since that time we have heard a few persons express themselves as intending to vote for the amendment because it would result in state owned power systems and cheaper light and power service.

We wish to call attention right now to the fact that the state already has the power to take over all water power sites and any improvements thereon by paying a reasonable price for the improvements; and the state already has the right to regulate rates whenever they become unfair; and that the only possible reason for the passing of this new legislation would be to create a commission of three men who would be authorized to go ahead and spend \$60,000,000 and charge it to the taxpayers of the state.

If the taxpayers of Oregon think that their taxes are not yet high enough, let them vote "Yes" on this measure November 8, and their craving for greater indebtedness and higher taxes will be promptly gratified. But if they expect any benefit in the way of lower rates on light and power service, they had better prepare for disappointment right now. Any possible lowering of rates would be more than offset by the huge expense of acquiring, constructing, maintaining, and operating hydro-electric power plants and transmission lines, as authorized by the proposed amendment.

Reduction of taxation is one of the greatest problems of national, state, and local governments today. It is extremely difficult to find methods of lowering taxes without seriously affecting present services of government; and when officials are struggling to secure a reduction under such circumstances, the people would be insane to undo those efforts by voting an increase, and especially an unnecessary increase! Vote "NO" on the State Water Power and Hydro-electric Constitutional Amendment!

EDUCATION APPROPRIATION

Another measure which should be voted down on November 8 is the "Higher Education Appropriation Bill—Purpose: To appropriate an amount of money originally fixed at \$1,181,173, of which \$500,000 was vetoed by the governor, leaving a balance of \$681,173, from the general fund of the state, to be expended under the direction of the State Board of Higher Education for the Oregon State Agricultural college, the University of Oregon, and the three state normal schools during the years 1931 and 1932."

The budgets of the various educational institutions have been reduced to such an extent that this appropriation is no longer necessary, so there is really no argument on this question. We quote from an editorial in the Eugene News which explains the situation.

"This appropriation bill has been used to considerable extent to befog the issues in the campaign to put over the school-moving bill. Time and again the Zorn-Macpherson cohorts have quoted the \$1,181,173 figure as hanging over the voters of the state, whereas the total was reduced to \$681,173 by Governor Meier without the firing of a single publicity blast. The governor also opened the way for invoking of the referendum by vetoing the emergency clause of the appropriation bill, thereby giving time for preparation and filing of petitions.

"The governor's action was looked upon with dismay for a time. The various administrations of the schools believed they would almost be forced to close. The state board of higher education was not yet ready with its unification plan and it was a case for the individual schools to work out their own salvations. This they went to work to do. In many cases work that was considered necessary was done. Some of the economies, such as use of building and depreciation funds, elimination of book and magazine purchases, reduction of amounts expended for repairs and the like, were considered expensive in the long run. But the economies were made.

"One example of the strenuous measures to keep all work going forward in the face of reduced funds was the arrangement made to provide for the university medical school. Most voters have not realized that the medical school is entirely dependent upon legislative appropriation. With the appropriation bill tied up, it was necessary to take funds coming originally to the Eugene campus and divert them to the medical school. No one who has watched events at the university will deny that the process of readjustment was painful. Undoubtedly some of the saving was poor economy and will mean greater expenditure some time in the future, but drastic need often forces drastic action.

"The big points are that the economies have already been effected and the state board's unification plan is now in effect. Assurance is given by even a cursory survey of the board's plan that savings before the end of the biennium will be vastly greater than the \$681,173 which remains of the appropriation bill. As a result, it would seem ridiculous to vote the appropriation now. The obvious thing to do is to vote 311 X No and kill an expenditure for which there is no longer any need."

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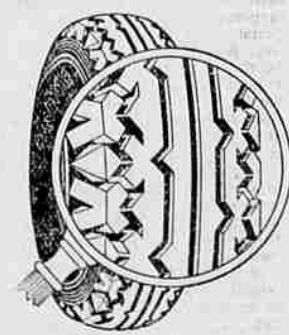
Ride with the safety only Firestone Tires can give you. Glen Schultz recently set a new world's record in climbing Pike's Peak. His car was equipped with Firestone Non-Skid Tires—making six consecutive years

Firestone has been on the winning car in this hazardous mountain race, where a skid or tire failure meant death.

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