

The Madras Pioneer

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PRESIDENT TAFT

Another sweeping Republican victory and the election of Hon. William Howard Taft to the Presidency insures to the country, for four years at least, a continuation of those policies and conditions under which the nation has prospered. It was distinctly a victory for Republican policies, and the result of the election shows conclusively that the country does not trust Bryan and Bryanism, and will have none of it. For, unquestionably, the controlling factor in the election was this distrust of democratic doctrines, and the fear that under democratic rule the country would again experience the disaster which made memorable the second Cleveland administration. Business interests everywhere, and the farming population, the backbone of the country, fought the battle for the continuation of the Republican administration; and victory was certain, although the size of it has been a surprise to even the most sanguine of Mr. Taft's supporters. It was a great battle and a great victory.

Mr. Taft, the successful candidate for the Presidency, is fitted by temperament and training to become a great President. His years of distinguished service on the bench and his no less distinguished service to the country as Governor of the Philippines and later as Secretary of War, have given him that judicial frame of mind and the training in public affairs which pre-eminently fit him for the great task which confronts him as President of these United States. That he will meet all the great questions of the day fairly and squarely and deal with them impartially, is a tribute which even his political opponents must pay him. That he has the full confidence of President Roosevelt and was the latter's choice for President is sufficient guarantee, if any were needed, that he will carry on the fight of the people against predatory wealth, and continue those policies which have made Mr. Roosevelt the idol of the American people.

Hurrah for Taft! And may he bring to full fruition all those hopes the American people have in him.

THE CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT

The Corrupt Practices Act, one of the initiative measures passed at the June election, is one of those laws which by the very absurdity of its provisions becomes a dead letter law the day it is passed. The disregard in which it was held at last Tuesday's election, which was the first opportunity to try it out, marks it as one of the laws whose principal use is to cumber the statute-books. Many of the provisions of the act were as entirely ignored as though there were no such law upon the statute-books, and if the breach of the law happened to be mentioned, it provoked a laugh from the by-standers.

Among the heinous crimes against which the corrupt practices act provides are the following: Political parties cannot use carriages or automobiles for carrying voters to the polls; political badges or but-

tons cannot be worn in the vicinity of the voting booths; it is unlawful for any person to "electioneer" on election day, or to solicit a vote for or against any person or measure; it is unlawful to print or circulate on election day, any poster or circular relating to any election or candidate; which offenses are punishable by a fine of from \$5 to \$100 for the first offense, or imprisonment and fine for a second offense. Such are some of the wise provisions of the law in which the "dear peepul" so joyfully took a hand in the making last June.

There is no question of the need of a law to preserve the sanctity of the ballot by preventing fraud and coercion, but the law should be free from provisions which cannot or will not be enforced, and from absurdities which serve only to bring the law into ridicule. Since the first days of the republic the people have been accustomed to wear some insignia of their political faith, or to express their opinions of parties and candidates, and these time-honored customs cannot be converted into crimes by the passage of a dozen Acts. The "dear peepul" made the law, but they just as surely have repealed it by the disregard if not contempt in which they held it last election day.

TYPHOID IS PREVENTABLE
 Oregonian

For reasons economic, if for no other, strenuous means should be taken to guard against typhoid infection. Dr. R. C. Yenney read a paper before the State Board of Health at a meeting in Roseburg recently, in which the cause and prevention of typhoid fever, and its cost in individual cases and in aggregate, without considering the fatal cases, were set out in detail. Typhoid, as is well understood, is a preventable disease. Its germs are water-borne, or perhaps it should be said liquid borne, since milk is one of its less common carriers. By far the greater number of cases result from drinking water that has been contaminated by human waste. A number of cases in Oregon City within recent weeks were traced to the water of a spring which to all appearances was pure, yet which upon examination was found to be infected, though the source of the infection was not traced.

Medical science has camped persistently upon the trail of typhoid fever for years. It has found that in all cases the disease arises from a pre-existing case, and that the infection from the pre-existing case comes from human excreta. Disgusting, even revolting, is this statement, and yet sufficient care is not taken to prevent its verification in something less than 400 or 500 cases per year in this state.

When a case of typhoid fever arises, says Dr. Yenney, it may be said without fear of contradiction that in practically every instance the afflicted person had been drinking water contaminated by a previous patient. This is plain and to the point—and yet the old well at the farm house, the spring on the hillside above or below the village, and the creek or millrace that is at best but an open sewer, continue to furnish drinking water for the thoughtless, regardless of the fact that a patient is slowly recovering from typhoid, or perhaps a victim has died from it in the vicinity of the water supply.

As an economic question the prevention of typhoid fever commands the attention of the thrifty; as a humane question it asks the consideration of the humanitarian; as a medical aid

sanitary question it is being persistently pursued by bacteriologists and sanitarians. Yet all of these forces combined have been unable to arrest the individual carelessness that makes it possible to pass this scourge on through a family or a neighborhood.

Local supporters of Bryan indicated Tuesday that they have mastered the art of "claiming" quite as well as have their brothers in the democratic national headquarters. During the day and even after the polls were closed the best concession you could get out of a Democrat was that it would be very close in this precinct. When the votes were counted it was found that Taft had 108 and Bryan 58. Either the Democrats are poor guessers, or they have a queer idea of "close."

WORK FOR THE SHERIFF

Bend Bulletin
 From the number of "drunks" that have been bothering people in Bend during the past week or two, it would seem that there is a good opportunity here for Sheriff Elkins to do some good work. Somebody is disposing of liquor, and whoever it is should be attended to. The prohibition law will certainly be a failure if the citizens and officers do not insist upon its strict enforcement.

FRANK OSBORN
U. S. COMMISSIONER
 Near Green Hotel
 MADRAS OREGON

NOTICE For Publication.—Soldier's Additional Homestead Entry, Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, Sept. 11, 1908.
 Notice is hereby given that Nathan H. Pinkerton, of Pendleton, Oregon, has filed in this office his application to make soldier's additional homestead entry, as assignee of Daniel Lyles, by mesne, under the provisions of Sec. 2306 of the revised statutes of the United States, for the adjacent sec 27, T. 10 S., R. 13 W., and all persons claiming adversely the lands described or desiring to object because of the mineral character of the land, or for any other reason, to the disposal of applicant, should file their affidavits of protest in this office on or before October 27, 1908.
 C. W. MOORE, Register.

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