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THE AMERICAN FETICH.

Republican! Democratic! What a spell these names throw over an adherent when attached to his organization. They are his political fetich. How he hates the one and loves the other. How he canonizes and views with alarm.

Party success has been too long the object in holding elections. Men have fought for that instead of good government.

Party regularity has been too long a criterion for political virtue.

Party leaders, while honoring Gladstone as the greatest English statesman, notwithstanding he scarcely knew one campaign what party he would lead the next, yet heap execration on those independent enough to challenge wrongful acts in their party.

Party regularity has been long synonymous with spoils, but bears no true relation to principle. Thoughtful persons are coming to see that. As prejudicial scales fall from their eyes they incline more to the advocacy of principle than to party fealty.

The present crisis in the republican party is but the result of a wise awakening and augurs well for the future.

Party principles change with the ever-shifting control of political organizations. That which exemplified virtue last year becomes the tool of corruption this. Spoils has displaced principle.

Why should the average citizen, having interest only in good government, cling to that which no longer serves the ends of justice?

"The world does move." The hour demands that the old party fetich be destroyed. It is no longer suited to the changing needs of a progressive republic.

TWO ROOSEVELT PRINCIPLES.

There are two great principles involved in the coming campaign.

First: Shall the people have the right to rule, and, therefore, in the exercise of their deliberate judgment to control their government and their governmental agents?

The old line politicians oppose this issue because in its exercise there is no use of place for them. The politicians have learned to rule through party nominations and organization, and ruling have controlled the government and governmental agents in their own interest. Through such control special privileges have been granted and exercised by the ruling class for the ruling class. The people as a whole have been discriminated against in the interest of the few.

Under the representative system and universal ballot the people may rule. The question is, will they do it? If so, it will only be by destroying the system by which the politicians have been allowed to usurp the prerogative of the people.

Second: So to rule as to bring about not only political but social and industrial justice.

Theoretically the functions of government are to maintain equity and justice among the people. When the system has been so revised as to allow every individual in the government to have the same power in controlling governmental agents the only incentive in directing the government will be the execution of its proper functions.

THE DEAF TELEPHONE.

If anybody told you that deaf mutes are now enjoying long telephone conversations about nothing in particular, like the rest of us, would you believe it? It's a fact, though. They press buttons that flash an electric alphabet at the other end of the line and get the message rather better than ordinary folk. We can do about anything these days.

THE ISSUES.

One of the foremost, if not the foremost, plank in the national republican platform four years ago was a declaration for tariff revision. It was somewhat ambiguous. Some contended that a revision of the tariff meant nothing unless it was definitely stated whether the revision should be up or down. The party and the candidate for a time were silent on that point. As the campaign progressed an insistent demand arose for the elucidation of that plank. It was apparent the rank and file of the party demanded revision downward and would be satisfied with nothing less. When it was sure that the success of the ticket depended upon a plain official interpretation of the tariff declaration, Mr. Taft stated in his campaign speeches that to him "revision" meant revision downward. Thereupon the rank and file of republicans acquiesced and advocated the election of Mr. Taft.

In the judgment of the writer there is no question but that Mr. Taft would have been defeated but for his timely interpretation of the tariff plank. The people took him at his word and elected him.

The next session of congress took up the matter of tariff revision and adopted the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill. It failed to express the wish of the party for revision downward—it offered a shell instead of a substance—and the progressive republican element waited silently in the hope that Mr. Taft would veto it. He lacked courage, or disposition, and approved the bill.

The national platform declared that tariff revision should be based upon the difference between American and European labor plus "a reasonable profit to American manufacturers." The Payne-Aldrich bill provided, on the woolen schedule, a tariff of 48 per cent. An investigation showed that the difference between American and European wages in the manufacture of woolen goods was about 18 per cent in favor of the European manufacturer. The tariff of 48 per cent gave to American labor 18 per cent protection and added to the protection of the manufacturer 30 per cent. The American people believed that the woolen manufacturers had grown strong enough to compete with European manufacturers on profitable terms if protection enough was afforded them to offset the difference between the cost of American and European labor. They believed that whatever protection was provided for the manufacturer above that would be levied against the consumer and be added to the profits of the manufacturer. They considered 30 per cent too much, unnecessary and unjust.

When Mr. Taft failed to disapprove the bill thousands of republicans concluded that he had gone over to the reactionary and privileged class, and when he declared the Payne-Aldrich bill the best tariff legislation ever adopted, millions of republicans parted from his way.

(We use the woolen schedule only as an example; many other schedules show the same tendency, and many other issues have arisen, vital, but which we do not here discuss.) So the party came to the forks of the tariff road some two years ago. Mr. Taft and his followers stood pat on the ground of high protection, while progressive republicans insisted that his position was untenable.

In the campaign just closed for republican presidential nomination eleven states expressed their sentiment through direct preferential primaries. They cast two million four hundred thousand republican votes. Eight hundred thousand of these were cast for Mr. Taft and his policies and one million six hundred thousand against him. Thus, wherever the republicans had an opportunity to express themselves, the verdict was two to one in favor of progressive principles and expressing the belief that Mr. Taft was a reactionary.

Notwithstanding that, party bosses forced his nomination by unfair and crooked methods. Through a corrupt organization and manipulation by the national committee—which in no sense represented the true sentiment of the majority, having been elected four years ago and prior to the inauguration of those progressive issues—a majority for progressive policies and a progressive candidate was inverted into a majority for reactionary policies and Mr. Taft. This manipulation was accomplished through naked theft and in contravention of the wishes of two-thirds of the party. If the results in the eleven states referred to can be taken as an index.

The thing now to be considered, and which is being generally considered by progressive republicans, is whether party success shall stand higher than principles. Mr. Roosevelt and his followers have said no.

and in so saying have effected a split in the republican organization.

Whatever view republicans may take of the ambitions of Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Taft—of the interestedness or disinterestedness of either—the fact remains that the party is split upon vital issues and that the severance is apparently complete.

The writer looks upon the immediate split in the convention as but a visible demonstration—or culmination—of a deflection that has been persistent and deep, growing stronger and more persistent each hour, since President Taft gave his approval to the last republican tariff measure. It is stronger now than Mr. Taft can successfully breast, and whether a third candidate is put in the field or the issue is left between the republican and democratic candidates, Mr. Taft will be defeated. It is an issue too vital to be overcome with a spiked flail or partisan-ship.

WHAT CAN PUBLICITY ACCOMPLISH?

Light is one of the strongest preventives of crime. Increasing the illumination will do more to reform a street than doubling the force of policemen. A light hung in front of a safe is better protection than a watchman, for all the passers-by are transformed into watchmen. So it is the obscurity with which the transaction of our great corporations are covered that allows those acts of which the citizen justly complains.

Aroused and informed public opinion is a force which is almost irresistible. As a witness before the senate committee aptly said, "No one except a fool disregards public opinion." It forced Elizabeth to revoke the charters of many monopolies she had granted, it brought on the Civil War, it forced the United States into war with Spain, it forced the settlement of the recent textile strike in New England.

There are hundreds, even thousands of such cases in history. Where the great mass of the people has had no direct voice in the government, wise rulers have always made concessions to public feeling. The influence of this force is shown in our everyday life. Many men lead decent lives from no higher motives than the desire for the approbation of their fellows. Other thousands abstain from open evil from fear of public censure alone. This has always been true of individuals and now the corporation has fallen into line. It also seeks to gain approbation and to avoid blame, and is showing a new deference to the opinion of its patrons.

Instances could be multiplied from the daily papers. A few years ago the Long Island Railroad wished to raise its rates. It bought columns of the newspapers to explain the financial reasons which made such action necessary. The same course was taken by the management of the Hudson river tubes, when the fare from New Jersey to New York was increased a few months ago. Twenty years ago similar corporations would never have dreamed of paying for advertising space to placate the public. Now nearly every great corporation has a publicity agent to spread all that is favorable, and to offer a plausible explanation of occurrences which might cause unfavorable comment.—From "Big Business and the Citizen," by Holland Thompson in the American Review of Reviews for July.

FIRE SEASON DELAYED.

Late Rains in Mountains Afford Forest Protection.

The fire season this year will be delayed considerably, according to M. L. Erickson, supervisor of the Crater national forest, owing to the large amount of moisture which has fallen this month. The season generally opens in earnest by July 1, but owing to rains in the mountains the season is not expected to open until July 15 and probably not to any degree until August.

Two years ago when the fires were bad the season opened about July 1, but at that time with a vengeance. They started in several parts of the forest at nearly the same time. Last year they started only occasionally and were controlled before they could spread over any considerable area. This year with more guards on the job the loss should be very small.

Mosquitoes invaded the churches of Vancouver, Wash., last Sunday in such numbers that in some instances the meetings had to be cut short.

During a storm Monday night, lightning entered the power house at the University of Oregon and damaged some of the machinery.

La Grande is to hold a Chautauque lasting ten days. One of the speakers will be John Mitchell, the labor leader.

The 3-cent fare proposition is again before the Portland city council.

The Tidings is for sale at W. M. Poley's Drug Store, 17 East Main St.

SALE OF INDULGENCES.

The Tidings editor has just had a profitable visit with our townsman, D. Perozzi. He talked about his visit to Switzerland, and compared some of the provisions of law there with the laws of the United States. The one we deal with here is that of immunity.

There are no cash fines in Switzerland. There is a jail penalty for every abrasion of law.

For example: Ashland has a speed law. From a certain point on Main street to a certain point on the Boulevard it is unlawful to run more than ten miles an hour. The law is established for the protection of life and limb. The other day a citizen violated the speed ordinance, was hailed up and compelled to pay five dollars for immunity from the law. In Switzerland he would have been sent to jail.

Five-dollar fines are inconsequential sums. Not enough to deter those inclined to do it from jeopardizing the life or limbs of citizens, who have equal rights to the streets with themselves.

The writer does not complain of the citizen who exceeded the speed limit, for he has done it himself, nor of the magistrate who administered the penalty. He but administered the law as set down in the ordinance.

It is likely if the minimum was about thirty or sixty days in jail, neither that citizen, nor the writer, nor any other citizen would violate the speed law.

If the law is necessary for the protection of life and limb, the penalty should be a sure deterrent against those inclined to violate it. A jail sentence would do that.

The main complaint Martin Luther had against the old church was its practice in the sale of indulgences. That was the foundation of protestantism. There should be no money license allowed for abrasion of church law.

This is a new view to us, we just now take it, but it does seem that cash fines are but a form of sale of indulgences.

Two years after a twenty-nine million dollar fine had been imposed on the Standard Oil Company, for a proven violation of the Sherman law, the penalty was set aside, and the abuse continues.

No doubt a two years' jail sentence for the officers responsible for the violation would have put a permanent check on the practice.

The cash sale of indulgences will never bring about civic virtue and justice.

That is our view at this writing. Think it over.

A proper presidential costume for next inauguration day would not be the customary silk hat, frock coat, etc., but a pugilist's fighting clip and tights.

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THE FARMER.

The farmer is the only member of the Ancient and Amalgamated Order of Coupon Clippers who works at the trade for any length of time. He is the only citizen of this republic who doesn't have to enter the bankruptcy court with \$14,000 in liabilities and assets consisting of a second-hand register and a Round Oak stove. The farmer lives longer than the editor, because his life is brightened by an occasional square meal. There are other differences also. The farmer can stand on the four corners and express his opinion of the new Methodist minister with perfect impunity, but if the editor suggests that the aforementioned minister is a victim of mental paralysis, an outraged congregation will make his subscription list look like a coal sieve. The old-fashioned farmer, who used to get up at 4 a. m. and guide the erring footsteps of a corn ploy until dark is now a painful reminiscence. Few farmers stay on the farm after they are fifty, preferring to move to town and loan money to the banks. They are thus able to look every man in the face, and invite him to seek a warm, moist climate in case an argument arises. The farmer used to vote the way his father did, but he is getting over it. He is also getting over the habit of throwing large rolls of currency into propositions that promise 100 per cent dividends the first year. The cartoonist who portrays the farmer in chin whiskers and cowhide boots ought to get off Main street once a year and wise up. The new brand of farmer rides around in an automobile, smokes 10-cent cigars and lives in a house that makes the ordinary town residence look like a portable corner. He is the real autocrat of this republic.

The citizens of Oregon City are to hold a meeting on Monday night to discuss the proposed new city charter.

If stealing cherries is a crime, "hooking" watermelons deserves capital punishment.

One-man power is exemplified at Baltimore and Mr. Bryan is the man.

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- Women's White Linen Suits, \$5.00 and \$6.00 values at... \$3.00
- Women's White Linen Suits, handsomely made cuffs and collars, trimmed, \$10.00 values at \$6.00
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