

THE JOURNAL

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Take thy self-denials daily and cheerfully, and let the sunshine of thy gladness fall on dark things and bright alike like the sunshine of the Almighty.—James Freeman Clarke.

LET THE VOTERS DECIDE

In a published letter Hon. George H. Williams argues that it is as well or better for candidates for the legislature to subscribe to Statement No. 2 as Statement No. 1, saying:

"It seems to me that if the people, knowing, as they must, that the next legislature will elect a senator, elect a majority of Republicans, it is as fair an expression as can possibly be made that the people want the legislature to elect a Republican to the senate."

This is plausible, yet it avoids the main point of the issue. If a majority of the electors vote for a Democrat at the same time that they elect a Republican majority to the legislature, or vice versa, do they not thus negative by their specific act the very proposition which Mr. Williams advances? In a definite, discriminating way, and doubtless having the senatorship far more in mind than the complexion of the legislature, they elect a man of a different party from the legislature, and why should not their will be carried out in the one case as well as in the other? It may be supposed that the cases where this will happen will be rare, but in such a case it appears very plainly and positively that the voters have thoughtfully discriminated and thus emphasized their choice. This makes a clear and emphatic instruction to the contrary of that assumed by Judge Williams. How can his theory be successfully set up against the emphatic fact?

If there is to be election of senators by the people, instead of by the legislature—except as a ratifying formality to comply with the letter of the constitution, why not make it so absolutely and entirely, and without attaching conditions and restrictions? For many years the people have been clamoring for this change, and now that they have brought it about some of the politicians and leaders want to prescribe conditions and render the matter doubtful. Let the people have the whole say, the absolute decision.

FULTON ON ROOSEVELT

SENATOR FULTON may never have distinctly and definitely sided with the railroads and other interests, as against the people generally, as Mr. Heney has charged, but that his sympathies lean in that direction rather than toward the "Roosevelt policies" was indicated by a speech made by him Saturday evening. Speaker Cannon was the other principal speaker of the occasion, which he improved to sneer at reformers generally and Roosevelt in particular, whom he considers a revolutionary disturber, unsound and unsafe, and whom the country will soon be well rid of as president and party leader—or smasher. Affairs will then fall back into their accustomed grooves, said Cannon, in effect; the special interests would no longer be disturbed, but could again have their way and will, and all this reformatory fuss would pass away and be forgotten. He frankly admits that he desires no betterment of moral conditions, and has no sympathy with the president in his efforts to give the people justice and punish rich and powerful offenders against the laws. Indeed, Cannon's speech seemed to be a bid for the "interests" support of himself for president, and that he would suit them exactly there is no doubt.

Senator Fulton appeared to agree with the speaker in his contemptuous criticism of Roosevelt, but complained more specifically of his evident intent to control or influence the next Republican national convention so as to nominate his choice for his successor. Fulton charged the president with being a party dictator and wrecker, and said that the party was facing the greatest crisis of its history. This must be taken to mean, we suppose, that the party, if it is to survive and continue in power, must repudiate or at least refuse to follow Roosevelt, and must break with him at the convention and override his despotic rule. Not many Republican leaders have been so frankly outspoken as this, though beyond question many of them agree with Fulton and Cannon, and will follow the Oregon senator's advice if they can, and dare. But

not all of them have personal patronage grievances as Fulton has, and may be more timid, lest if they attempt to down Roosevelt he would yet become president for four years more. It is easy to rail at Roosevelt, when one has nothing to lose thereby, but some at least of the leaders are not blind to his great strength with the people. He may wreck or regenerate the party, but if the old leaders could successfully defy him would they not wreck the party worse? Isn't Roosevelt stronger than the party, among the rank and file?

It is very likely a crucial time with the Republican party. If it should follow Cannon, we have no doubt it would go down to at least temporary defeat, but if it follows and submits itself to Roosevelt will not the old-line leaders feel that they no longer have a party and act accordingly? And then, as for the awakened, progressive rank and file who are for Roosevelt, will they take up enthusiastically with even his choice?

It is indeed a muddled condition of party affairs, but let it be asked what it matters about the party providing the Roosevelt reforms are carried on and the people are better served by their officials. There are people who talk only of party, who always place party foremost, but after all it is the welfare of the common people that is the important thing. If they are well and continually better served, what matter what the party's name or ancient record that does this? In some things the Republican party has been derelict in the performance of its legislative and administrative duties to the people, and a great many Republicans see this and are demanding better service, chiefly along the line of the Roosevelt policies. They want juster taxation, more equality of opportunity, higher ideals of public service, and more of the square deal. Hence, they like Roosevelt, in the main, and are not greatly concerned whether he is a Republican or, as is asserted, half a Democrat.

PORTLAND'S BRIGHT PROSPECTS

THE opening of such extensive offices and business headquarters in a new building by the Portland, Spokane & Seattle railroad, commonly called the north bank road, while not especially surprising, is significant of the rapidly approaching development of Portland, and its growing and widely recognized importance as a transportation and commercial center. Of course the coming of the Hill road to Portland is no new thing, but its great importance is perhaps not as fully realized as it ought to be, especially considering the Hill roads' extensive eastern connections, and the fact that the coming of this road breaks the grip here of the Harriman monopoly, which has tyrannized over this city and its tributary country so long. It is also possible, not to say probable, that the Hill line will be extended in the near future southwest and into California, thus affording this city and western Oregon a competing or at least an additional line, perhaps with lateral branches, in that direction. And even if Mr. Hill should make a terminus near the mouth of the Columbia, the main terminus and commercial headquarters would remain here, as the opening up of these extensive offices indicates.

Mr. Hill, senior, has always been a developer of the country his lines traversed. He has aided its settlement and cultivation, and so something of possible high freight charges and arbitrary management can be forgiven. The people are willing to give such a man large opportunities, and it may be reasonably expected that if Mr. Harriman does not get busy in developing his Oregon territory the Hill lines will be by long odds the favorite for all people who have the chance of choice.

Portland is all right, and is going to climb right along toward her great municipal destiny. The location here of the great packing plants was a big thing, as The Journal has repeatedly shown, and the very gratifying outcome of the recent bank failures put another large life feather in Portland's cap. Despite the money trouble last fall and the disturbance caused by politics, Portland is going to make a big and significant growth this year, and in succeeding years. Every resident should stick to it that it is the best city on the coast.

FAMILIAR OLD STORY

IT MAKES no difference whether it be a Democratic legislature or a Republican legislature. Election of federal senator by such bodies is subject to perversion and will be perverted. It is the same in Democratic Kentucky, that it was in Republican Oregon. Bosses will boss and politicians will intrigue. It is human nature to set personal interest above the public interest, and the opportunity offered by legislative elections for play of this principle will forever and everywhere pervert that system. It has done it in Oregon. It has done it in almost every state in the Union. It does it with Republican legislatures and it does it with Democratic legislatures. It is doing it in a Kentucky legislature today, and it is a Democratic legislature. As a consequence the Democratic party of that state is torn into ribbons and split

Small Change

Have you hoed your garden yet? Governor Hughes is evidently still willful. And still spring has the right of way in Oregon.

The time for candidates to come out grows short. Mr. Bourne nearly always did deal in large figures.

Perhaps Mrs. Longworth ordered Nick to make that speech. Poor delegates to the national convention. No passes this year.

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Called for Blood. From the Chicago Tribune. The two eminent scientists had differed in opinion concerning the morphology of certain gastropod mollusks, and the dispute had become bitter.

They began to indulge in personalities. "You larvivoracious chondropterygian!" exclaimed the distinguished savant with the concave-concave spectacles. "You supercavaceous anfractuosity!" retorted the equally distinguished pundit behind the monocle, trembling with rage.

Instantly they sprang at each other, and nothing but the quickest kind of interference on the part of the eminent authorities prevented a tragedy in high scientific circles.