

Bandon Recorder

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THURSDAY, November 12, 1908

Much harsh criticism of the "corrupt practices" law, passed by the people last June, has been indulged in by organs that are opposed to all reforms in political life, of whatever nature. Some of the provisions of this law may be unreasonably restrictive, and if so these can be eliminated later, but the object and general scope of the law are good, as the result of its observance will be. By election day voters have made up their minds how they will vote, or can decide without the help of political touters and hired or interested pleaders. The scenes at the polling places yesterday were in a very pleasing contrast to those of a few years ago, when the voter was harassed with a line of fellows with tickets and interrupted with appeals to vote thus and so—to say nothing of the practice not so many years ago of buying votes by the wholesale for from \$2 to \$5. The same organs that are complaining so loudly now about the corrupt practices act were also opposed to the Australia ballot system, and ridiculed it in much the same style. They were, and still are, opposed to the initiative and referendum, and to election of senators by the people, and to everything making for cleaner and purer politics. This law probably goes a little too far in some particulars, but that is no reason for condemning it as a whole, or disapproving its general tenor and purpose.—Journal.

This is Thanksgiving month the month sacred to pumpkin pie and roast turkey with cranberry sauce fixings. Have we not all some thing to give thanks for? On the whole it has been a good year. Our barns and storehouses are well filled. We have cozy, comfortable homes, and the dear faces surround the evening lamp while the log crackles and sputters on the hearth. Some of us may be light in pocket, but there is no reason why we should not be all light in heart. If we have done some soul a kindness, and helped some stumbling burden bearer over a hard place, we are certain to have that singing in our hearts which makes us think of the angel chorus.—Farm Journal.

ONE freak of some voters is shown by the varying totals of presidential electors of the same party. Thus while in Multnomah county 17,819 votes were cast for J. D. Lee, a Taft elector, a difference of 221 votes. Yet these electors are only figure-heads; their duties are purely formal; and to the average man it is an absurd freak to vote for one, two or three of them and not for all four. Similar discrepancies show in the votes for other candidates. Strong personal friendship or antipathy, or else dense ignorance, is the only explanation of such freak voting.—Journal.

THERE is universal satisfaction over the re-election of Governor Hughes. It would have been better had New York shown more emphatic appreciation of the worth of this man; but considering that within the confines of that state reside the greatest number of least desirable citizens, and bearing in mind the issues on which these combined or the defeat of Governor Hughes,

there is no fault to find.

Governor Hughes' faith in his people is once more vindicated. He has taken the high ground that it is vindicated. He has taken the high ground that it is possible to accomplish moral reform by the agency of government, even when that reform touches the interests and inclinations of those who are powerful in politics. The Hughes' policy is a simple policy—insistence upon what is lawfully right and the strictest insistence where legality and morality are combined.

In administration of public affairs along these lines, the Governor of New York has been earnest and forceful. Stepping into an atmosphere of machine politics, he has ignored the machine politician and all his demands. Service of the people has been his sole and controlling motive, and on the record of that service he appealed to the people for re-election that his work might be more nearly completed. It is a credit to the state of New York that the appeal was successful, and at the same time the highest sort of a compliment to Governor Hughes.

The moral effect of Governor Hughes' service in New York State is of value to the rest of the country. This has already been demonstrated in the manifest movement against racetrack gambling which has developed in other sections of the country, until the final eradication of the evil seems to be certain. The Hughes' character is of National dimensions.—Telegram.

THE Miller-Cleaver Business College at North Bend has a change of ad in this issue. This is an excellent institution and worthy of the patronage of every young person in Coos county who desires a business education. Up to the present time the management has succeeded in getting positions for every one of their graduates, and the demand is now greater than the supply. Every young man or young woman who is thinking of attending a business college will do well to investigate the Miller-Cleaver Business College at North Bend.

Now that the election is over and all the uncertainties accompanying a presidential election are settled, it is quite probable that business will be more steady and there will be a gradual increase along all lines and the prosperity wave will roll more rapidly than it has for some time. Since the election there has been a big advance in prices of securities, factories and railroads have called for more men, and have announced an increase of wages. The Pittsburgh Glass Co. alone has called for 20,000 more men, while the New England Cotton Yarn Co. announces that its operations will be immediately increased to a normal full capacity. This mill has only been running 30 per cent to 75 per cent of its full capacity. Railroads are calling for more men at increased wages, and many other large firms are announcing an increase of force and wages. While this is probably due to a certain extent, to the way the election went, yet it cannot all be attributed to that. Even if Bryan had been successful there is

no doubt that in many cases business would have resumed its normal condition, but there seems to be a general feeling that the result is better as it is. The sweeping majority by which Taft carried the country was a surprise to everyone. Not even his most staunch supporters ever believed that he would carry the country by so great a majority. The three other tickets, namely, Socialist, Prohibitionist and Independence, seem to have been lost in the shuffle and they have come out much further behind than was thought. The Socialist motto was "one million for Debs" but the returns seem to indicate little more than half that number, and it looks from the face of the returns that Taft has a substantial majority over all other candidates combined. However that may be it is immaterial, as Mr. Taft has been chosen president by a decisive vote, and will be in the White House, unless some unforeseen tragedy occurs. There is one thing that now becomes the duty of every American citizen and that is to lay aside political prejudices and work in harmony for the general interests of the country.

WHILE the Democratic National ticket was overwhelmingly defeated, yet the party made gains in minor offices in many places. They gained a number of congressmen, although the house is still Republican by over forty majority. While Taft carried Ohio by 70,000, Judson Harmon was elected governor by 20,000, and Marshall, Democrat is also elected governor of Indiana. Missouri, however has elected a Republican governor for the first time. All this goes to show that the voters of the country are throwing off the old party affiliations and voting independently, doing their own thinking and asking odds of no man. In New York, Governor Hughes was re-elected by nearly 75,000 although all the gamblers, bosses and money were lined up against him. This goes to show that New York people want clean government.

For most of those who deliberately seek to learn to write, words seem generally to be felt as of less importance than the art of arranging them. It is thus that the learner in writing tends to become the devoted student of grammar and syntax. This is indeed a tendency which always increases. Civilization develops with a constant adhesion to formal order, and the writer—writing by fashion or by ambition, and not by divine right of creative instinct—follows the course of civilization. It is an unfortunate tendency, for those whom it affects conquer by their number. As we know, writing that is real is not learned that way. Just as the solar system was not made in accordance with the astronomer's laws, so writing is not made by the laws of grammar. Astronomer and grammarian alike can only come in at the end to give a generalized description of what usually happens in the respective fields it pleases them to explore. When a new comet, cosmic or literary, enters their sky, it is their descriptions which have to be readjusted and not the comet. There seems to be no more pronounced mark of the decadence of a people and its literature than a servile and rigid subservient to rule. It can only make ossification, for ankylosis, for petrification, all the milestones on the road of death. In every age of democratic plebianism, where each man thinks he is as good a writer as the others, and takes his laws from the others, having no laws of his own

nature, it is down this steep path that men, in a flock inevitably run.—Havelock Ellis.

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