

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2 1884

AS IT GOES.

WELL: the great contest is only two days off, and by the time this issue reaches some of our suburban readers the presidential election of 1884 will have been decided. It has been a curious campaign. The issues have been the bloody shirt, the tariff, the private lives of the candidates and the question of a change. In all these which have been fought with vigor and persistence the Democrats have had the worst of it; in the fight next Tuesday they have the best of it as far as odds are concerned. They need 48 votes: the Republicans need 201. The question is where they are coming from. If the Democrats get New York and Indiana they've captured the works and will inaugurate Cleveland. If the Republicans carry New Jersey, Connecticut, Indiana and Nevada they can let the Empire state cast her vote for the Democratic candidate and still seat Blaine next March.

It is an interesting fight to us here in the webfoot state, for we are, in a measure, lookers on. Oregon will give Blaine a handsome majority, the battle is to be decided mainly in the east and to that section all eyes are turned.

The presidential vote in this country as it has increased in volume has shown a tendency to be equally distributed between the two great parties. This was first noticeable in 1876, when the Democrats had a popular majority of a quarter of a million.

At the last presidential election in this country, four years ago, there were cast for the Republican candidate 4,437,345 votes; for the Democratic candidate, 4,435,015 votes. The most casual glance will show how equally the political opinions of the country were divided. And that is just as it should be. When two great political parties are so close to a majority it insures good government; neither one can hope to be otherwise than honest, if it wants to insure probability of retention or restoration. This is a government of checks and balances; it takes one party to watch the other, and an overwhelming majority on either side is the signal for fraud and corruption to arise. Both parties are alike in this respect. In the church, power creates intolerance; in politics, power creates corruption. Just so long as the Republicans and Democrats are as nearly equal as at present there is no stock in trade for those who prophesy political evil.

This campaign has been pre-eminently disreputable. Never in the history of the country has there been so much spleen, venom, falsehood and nastiness uttered as has been said and sung during the last four months. In some quarters there has been much angry passion aroused, and many personal encounters. It is amusing, in the abstract, to see men get "hot" about politics, or about that which they call politics. There is very little in this world worth getting angry about, and politics is certainly not one of them. Brown is a Republican, and he knows he is right; Jones is a Democrat, and he is certain he is right. Brown and Jones have a discussion and presently because neither is willing to concede to the other the consistency that he claims for himself, Brown is carving Jones' anatomy, or Jones is disfiguring the genial countenance of Brown. One has as good a right to be a Republican as the other has to be a Democrat, and each has a right to be wrong if he wants to.

Some carping souls there are who look with affected dread upon the political clubs; in every torch they see a rifle, in every cape and cap they see the uniform of a soldier. They say "these things should not be." They belong chiefly to that class who are only happy when they have something to growl about. If man was perfect and the earth an Eden, they would die of disappointment in their inability to find something to carp at.

It is a splendid sight to see a continent of active men; to see from the Atlantic to our own sea girt city (which boasts the farthest west of any two political clubs on the continent), millions of men who take interest enough in the election to turn out rain, or dust, or storm, with their caps, and torches and flags. Nothing is so killing to liberty as apathy and indifference, and it is one of the most hopeful signs of the times to note the extraordinary interest manifested in every quarter as to "how it will go."

Figuring on the probabilities of a presidential election is one of the easiest and hardest things to do in or out of a newspaper office. It is so easy to set down in the column for your candidate the electoral vote of a state; it is so hard for one to separate his cool, sober judgment from his wish in the matter and be candid enough to admit a possibility of defeat.

Purely as a matter of speculation the following is made up from the tables of the electoral vote as, in the judgment of the writer, a fair esti-

Table of electoral college probabilities for Blaine and Cleveland across various states.

IN DOUBT. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, West Virginia.

In the above there is not the slightest claim to intimate knowledge justifying the placing of any state in the Democratic or Republican column. Doubt may be expressed regarding the placing of Indiana and Nevada in the Republican column. We consider them certain for Blaine. Of the four states placed in the doubtful column, anyone would give Blaine the needful majority; he is more likely to get Connecticut than New York, more likely to get New York than New Jersey, more likely to get New Jersey than West Virginia. In that state the Republicans may squeeze through. Stranger things have happened—in 1876, for instance.

The Democrats need 48 northern electoral votes. The Republicans require 201. The probability is they will get them and a few to spare.

The New York Times of the 31st ult. says: Betting men say they never knew an election at which it is so difficult to predict the result as that now approaching. One of the best known betting men in the city said last evening: "Things are worse mixed up than I ever saw them. No man can predict with any certainty how things are going. As far as betting is concerned, very little has been done during the last two or three days. As a rule, the odds on the general result are in favor of Blaine, at the rate of \$100 to \$80, and everywhere in favor of Cleveland in this state, in the same ratio, in other states. There does not seem to be any betting here at all."

The Philadelphia Times says the talk that Tammany hall has made its bargain in the interest of Blaine increases daily. It looks as if the Kelly crowd were going to knife Cleveland. Kelly's paper, the Star, has a double headed editorial charging that the county Democracy were going to sell out to the Republicans, for the purpose of electing Grace mayor. This is construed as preparing the public to see a greatly reduced Democratic vote in New York, and to afford cover for the Tammany deal.

The Cincinnati Times-Star of the 30th ult. says: W. S. Howell arrived in this city from Indianapolis. He traveled as far as Shelbyville with Hendricks. Hendricks said in a conversation with him: "I have given up all hopes of carrying Indiana. I still think we shall carry New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. This will elect the ticket." Howell's word is good. No doubt Hendricks was feeling blue.

PROHIBITION tickets to the number of fifty thousand have been sent to every part of the state. The pious zeal displayed by the state Democratic committee in thus advancing the cause will constitute one of the most touching reminiscences of the campaign.

KEEP your eye on the election returns from West Virginia along about the latter part of this week.

Two hundred and thirty thousand men will vote in New York city next Tuesday.

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