

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WITH PLenty of BACKBONE
BEDE & GRANT, Publishers ELBERT BEDE, Editor

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INTELLIGENT VOTING

The result of the recent vote on initiative and referendum measures leaves a wide field for discussion as to the intelligence of such vote, the intelligence shown depending in the main upon which side of the measures the person making the estimate happens to be.

It would be senseless to attempt to argue that the voters in any considerable number had familiarized themselves with the measures presented to them, but The Sentinel must confess that it feels more favorable to the initiative and referendum since election than it did before, and it feels that the system relieved of abuse would be highly successful. The voting on measures so fully understood as woman's suffrage, capital punishment and the majority amendments was without question intelligently done. The vote on single tax, while satisfactory to The Sentinel, can hardly be claimed as resulting from an intelligent understanding of the measures presented, although it is not to be presumed that a thorough study of them would have changed the result.

The intelligence of the vote may well be questioned in the failure of the millage tax bill—a peculiarly appropriate measure for such a question. The Sentinel never doubted for a moment but that it would pass with an overwhelming majority. In fact so certain was it of success of this measure that a prepared-in-advance editorial was printed last week on such assumption.

Although unexpected, it was not surprising that the measure was turned down by Cottage Grove voters, but other cities in the state with apparently no ill will towards the University City, were just as decisive in giving a negative vote. The returns show that even in Corvallis, the home of the Agricultural College, which had the long end of the tax, it was turned down.

The university is seriously crippled for want of funds. Nothing does more for the upbuilding of a state than its educational institutions. It is hard for The Sentinel to conceive that this negative vote was an intelligent one.

POLITICAL HYSTERIA

A great fault of the voter is that he is too easily carried away by high-sounding language, silver-tongued platitudes and magnetic personality.

As much as we dislike Colonel Roosevelt we must admit his adeptness in mouthing those phrases which result in a spontaneous, hysterical rally to his support. And not only the masses are caught by his raucous siren cry. Seasoned statesmen of recognized intellect and equipoise can not resist his clamor call to battle for the Lord and Teddy.

Church members who have sat in front pews for years are carried off their feet by the Colonel's interpretation of the decalog and sinners repent when that stenorian voice of his declares "Thou shalt not steal."

Roosevelt appeals to the emotional and would put Billy Sunday to shame at a revival meeting. In a short campaign he is well nigh invincible, but fortunately the wise men who arranged our methods of electing presidents provided against hysteria.

With preferential primaries, Roosevelt would have been the nominee at Chicago. An election a week after the Chicago convention might have put him in the presidential chair. Fortunately things

were otherwise, and instead of receiving an honor bestowed upon no other man, in place of being the public idol he once was, he goes down in history as an ingrate whose ambition wrecked the party which made him. It is a distinction borne by no other man. It is a distinction envied by no other man.

AS COLLIER'S SEES TAFT

Collier's Weekly, during the recent campaign a strong anti-Taft paper, printed the following editorial in its issue immediately preceding election.

Whoever is President of the United States next 4th of March, there is hardly an American but will be proud of the sort of man who has come to the top of this Republic at the beginning of its one hundred and twenty-sixth year. Although some millions of his fellow countrymen will have voted disapproval of President Taft, probably not one hundred of them all would translate disapproval as dislike, or any other uncharitable sentiment. Indeed, if all the persons who feel rather sorry for Taft had voted for him, he would have won. There aren't a dozen men in the country who think Taft is a wicked man. And he has had opportunities to be wicked—how he could have turned the war in Mexico to his own purposes! Most of Taft's failings are misadventures and he saved himself into two groups: he took himself seriously as the head of his party just at the moment when the party after half a century of triumphant leadership, completely lost touch with popular sentiment. And it wasn't the party that changed; it was the country. For the other, Taft had a static temperament in a highly dynamic age. When all the world clamored for change he was strong for precedent and the old ways. He was out of time with the times. A good many persons who have suffered that handicap have had their innings in history later on. In many another epoch, past and future, in a different public mood, these qualities of Taft could be hailed as virtues. And as these things go like the swing of a pendulum, who knows but if Taft were given another term he might arrive upon 1916 in steady glory, the man of the hour?

VALE BOURNE

Senator Jonathan Bourne will undoubtedly be long remembered by Oregonians as the man who repudiated the system which made him and at the birth of which he figured prominently, if not actually being a parent. A noisy exponent of the corrupt practices act he will live in memory as one of the type making such an act necessary.

At Washington Senator Bourne will be remembered by his colleagues as one of the few men of the West whose ability and energy made an immediate impress in the halls of the national legislature. Such men have so seldom been sent from the West that the position attained by him in his one term is a notable exception to the usual rule. His successor is not expected to make any such record in the single term he will probably serve.

To those who know him well personally, he will be remembered as a consummate hypocrite—one who advocated purity of politics for what there was in it and leaves a record to show that his inclinations were on the other side.

To the country at large Bourne will be remembered as the father of the parcels post, a monument to his constructive statesmanship that will live through the centuries.

It might have been better for Oregon to have returned Bourne, but Bourne defeated himself. Had he abided by the primary that would not abide him, and had his successor proven a fizzle, he might have come back in 1918, or maybe sooner. But now he is eliminated. Perhaps it is just as well.

The Second Roman Republic has been indefinitely postponed.

CAUSES OF SOCIALISM

The Wells-Fargo Express Company of California has declared an 800 per cent dividend. It was recently shown that the harvester trust paid 250 per cent.

Is it any wonder that Socialism is growing? Is it any wonder that men of all political beliefs are talking government ownership? Corporations which make such enormous dividends will have only themselves to blame when the government takes over their business, as it unquestionably will if such robbery continues. There is no excuse to parley with such voracious beneficiaries of a profit system.

WISE PROVISION

The Oregon code provides that women can not act as jurors. It is a wise provision. Not that women might not make as good a juror as man, but that the environment of the jury box is not for woman. To illustrate: It might happen that a woman would be called to serve with eleven men. The jury might be out all night, or several nights. Men are not selected on a jury because of their fitness to associate with women or because of their finer feelings for the other sex. To a woman of refinement, such a position would be repulsive. Few men would select for their wives, mothers or daughters the position described.

If women are ever given the right to serve on juries, it should be made optional.

SINGLE TAX

Single tax will help Oregon by reason of its overwhelming defeat. The vote against it was so decisive that capital hesitating about investing in Oregon is now relieved of all worry. Regardless of whether single tax is right or wrong its adoption would have set Oregon back several years. Cottage Grove was made aware of what would happen by reason of the fact that prospective settlers declared they would go elsewhere if it were adopted. Single tax is now eliminated in the state. The fact that it was brought up and so decidedly voted down may be better for Oregon than if it had not been brought up, for its defeat indicates to capital that the future holds no danger from that source.

It is time for the Republicans of Oregon to begin the selection of sound Senatorial timber that will meet with the approval of the voters. Hollow and decayed stuff does not go like it used to. The voters are getting their eyes opened—and then there will be the women, too, next time.

The murder of the millage bill can be laid at the door of such of its friends as have fought the Agricultural College and every other proposition that did not give Eugene the long end—which does not in the least minimize the wrong done a great state institution.

A Los Angeles German scholar accuses Roosevelt of having plagiarized from him the speeches with which he has attempted to win the Nobel peace prize. A maxim of the recent campaign is forcibly brought to mind.

The Eugene Guard's advice to vote for Hill, Price or Papenfus for County Commissioner does not seem to have been as generally followed as The Sentinel's advice to vote for Hawley. Toot! Toot!

Five men will suffer the death penalty Friday, Dec. 13th. It will not be an edifying spectacle, but there is some satisfaction in knowing that they all richly deserve what is coming to them.

A headline in the Eugene Guard says: "Lane's Election Now Practically Certain in Oregon." We await with bated breath the returns from outside Oregon.

It will surprise many to know that despite the increased total vote Woodrow Wilson did not equal the popular vote given Bryan in 1908.

A Republican Oregon legislature will elect a Democratic senator.

Have you any ideas as to how to make the Grove pay roll larger? If so, give them expression in The Sentinel.

History will record William Howard Taft as the most progressive and constructive statesman of his age.

Any business man who does not belong to a commercial body is not doing his share of the boosting.

A blind man has been elected to the Legislature in Washington—and there are others who can't see.

Fate has not been more cruel to William Howard Taft than to William Jennings Bryan.

We hope Senator Lane will make a better record at Washington than we anticipate he will.

If those who really wanted Taft had voted for him, the result would have been different.

There is a notable lack of editorial contributions to the dailies since election.

To make the thing complete Senator Nick also went down to defeat.

Even Gov. Johnson's father voted against the Roosevelt ticket.

The Lord evidently wasn't with his hosts at Armageddon.

Things We Think

Things others think, and what we think of the things others think.

We suppose the reason women wear the hats that come down about their ears is so that they can't hear the mean things men say about them.

There will be no silent vote among the women electors.

It is the "drys," not the "wets," that open the floodgates of oratory.

More trees are cut down at Christmas time than are planted on Arbor Day.

It is no longer a question of what to do with our ex-presidents. To the Republicans and Democrats it is a question of what to do to our ex-president.

With woman suffrage becoming general, candidates will need to devise a new line of campaign "bunk."

In the East women are learning to run elevators. Is this going up or down?

Four faults are better known by your equals than your superiors.

Patronize home industry. Convert the hearthens at home first.

The woman who despises matrimony usually does not speak from experience.

Those who weigh their words do not always speak with weight.

Prosperity seems to cause more discontent than does hard times—the more there is to get the more folks imagine they aren't getting their share.

Every man has an inalienable right to work—but some do not insist on exercising all their prerogatives.

The girl who only has one man to choose between usually is married the quickest.

With two young ladies on the sofa, give a man an inch and he'll get between them.

A woman would rather not know a secret than not have anyone to tell it to.

Lots of folks do not want to go to heaven for fear they will never get there.

The old maid who waits the longest for a husband kicks the most about him after she gets him.

Two can live as cheaply as one—but they don't.

It beats all how surprised a girl can appear when the question is popped—after she has been preparing for it for six months.

Sometimes the nicest thing about having company is seeing them go.

It appears inconsistent for a person to get into a tantrum arguing religion.

The electoral college will also make Wilson its president.

Its costs about a dollar for every vote cast in these United States. Did you get your money's worth?

When women come into general use as jurors, we presume the bandage will be taken from the eyes of justice.

All of us have something to be thankful for if we but stop to think of it.

The Republican party has come to a pretty pass when the country refuses to be upset by a Democrat refuges.

It is better to grumble about your wife than at her, although both are utterly useless.

Why a woman has any trouble in picking a hat is a mystery to us. One seems to be just as bad as another.

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