

Polk County Observer

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The way to build up Dallas is to patronize Dallas people.

CHERRINGTON—CRITIC II.

Dallas, Oregon, Sept. 2, 1912. Polk County Observer, Dallas, Oregon. To the Editor:—I want to thank you for printing my letter of the 31st of August and since you did not criticize the punctuation which you assure your readers you printed as written, I guess you were satisfied with that. I was a little surprised that you took so much space in your valuable columns to discuss me personally and to describe me as a "self-called leader of the other six Bullmoosers of Polk County." Have you stopped to think, Mr. Editor, that you have many readers whom you class with "a condemned mass of disappointed office seekers, repudiated office holders, sorehead Republicans and backsliding Democrats with a few politically honest men scattered here and there" who are actually honest in their opinions and who are not presuming, but I thought I'd rather take sides with Roosevelt even though Archibald told me that you were not suffering from such a handicap as you to. Aren't you glad that you are not suffering from such a handicap as you to. Aren't you glad that you are not suffering from such a handicap as you to. Aren't you glad that you are not suffering from such a handicap as you to.

I don't aspire to be a leader notwithstanding your would-be-funny statement and your attempt to hold me up to ridicule by the "other six Bullmoosers" as a typical Progressive. Didn't you attempt to be nasty when you wrote that "The Observer would have been surprised had he adopted any other faith?" Your readers are not interested in what your paper thinks of Tom Cherrington, they have known him for twenty years—longer than you have in fact—but they are interested in a fair discussion of the political issues without dirty personalities.

I hope you will do me the favor of publishing this poor attempt at a fair discussion of the political issues without dirty personalities. I and I assure you that I have the most kindly feeling for you and your opinions, though we don't agree. Respectfully yours, T. J. CHERRINGTON.

As is usual in controversies of the nature which Mr. Cherrington seeks to continue, the merits of the real discussion are lost sight of in personalities. The Observer's good friend, in the above "reply" to our comments on his article of a week ago, devoted practically all his communication to himself. But a "Progressive" has abundant precedent for that position because his leader makes a specialty of it. Just why Mr. Cherrington insists in classing himself among the "soreheads" and the "backsliders" rather than the "politically honest men" mentioned as members of the Roosevelt party, is not clear.

Our critic is attempting to befog the issue. We believe that the holders of the third term organization are men who have always been malcontents in the old political parties.

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They have in the past adopted, for the time being, every reform phantasm and fanciful phantasy advocated by erratic and irresponsible politicians and it is but natural that they should flock to Roosevelt. Cherrington again brings up that well-worn cry about the "bosses" at the Chicago convention. He takes his cue from his patron saint and intimates that The Observer is supporting Taft because the "bosses" so directed.

To gods and little fishes! Was there ever a more shining example of bossism than that exhibited by the so-called "Progressive" party? It is the home of the old He-Toss, the greatest dictator that the United States ever owned. It is the home of Bill Flinn who says he holds the vote of the Pennsylvania Republicans in his vest pocket. It is the home of one Henry whom the defrauded landowners of Oregon know to their sorrow; of one Ormsby McHarg, whose reputation and methods are also well-known in Oregon, of one Perkins, millionaire trust magnate and well-known "malefactor of great wealth;" of dozens of other big and little dictators who have lost prestige in the old parties and joined the new one in the hope of regaining it.

Talk about bosses. Why, the Progressive party wouldn't be a party today without them. When the farcical convention of the insurgents met in Chicago, not a delegate to that convention, knew what the platform of their party was to be. They didn't care. It didn't make any difference to them whether the platform would declare for the annexation of Mexico, and the annihilation of Canada, the wiping out of the Supreme Court, or official recognition of Sunday ball games. The only reason for their presence was the nomination of a man for a third term as president who had told the American people that, under no circumstances, would he assume the candidacy. There never was a more flagrant example of one-man power. History shows no incident of such complete, overmastering ownership. Here were a few malcontents under the absolute domination of one man, led by a hatter as he willed, ready to desert their old political affiliations, and declare that their former teachings were untrue, forgetting political honor, overriding established tradition, ready to go anywhere, employ any methods, with the one and only aim of following a political demagogue such as this nation has not seen in recent years at least. But Cherrington should not delude himself with the idea that that progressive convention nominated Roosevelt. Oh, no. Roosevelt nominated himself and called his dupes together to ratify it. Bosses, indeed. The Progressive party is an organization led by bosses who have been repudiated and lost their power in the Republican and Democratic parties.

The Observer has been wondering why Cherrington didn't spring that old cry about the "theft of delegates" in his first article. It is the stock and trade of all Rooseveltians. He finally grabbed at it, in the above communication however, and recalls the primaries of last spring. The Observer would like to inquire of Cherrington, if Roosevelt didn't get the votes from the states in which the preferential primaries gave him the delegates. Now, don't cite Washington, Tom, for the few primaries held there didn't reflect public opinion and you know it. Don't rant about California because, had the two votes which were cast for Mr. Taft from California went the other way, they wouldn't have been enough to nominate the third-term. Then, Tom, how about the 200 other contests instituted by your incomparable and "honest" leader which were acknowledged by Roosevelt and his cohorts to be entirely unfounded and sought for "effect." Then, again, Tom, didst ever stop to contemplate that preference by Republicans for other Republicans is one thing, and following said preference far enough to carry one out of the party in order to help the political ambition of a disappointed office seeker, is quite another. In other words, Tommy, don't make the mistake of believing that all the men who voted for the third-term in the primaries are as willing to forget their past political principles as yourself. They admired Roosevelt while he was a Republican but when he becomes an outcast, and seeks to wreck the organization simply because it wouldn't nominate him for president for a third term, that's "something else again" as Mervyn Perlmutter would say.

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