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HUGHES AND FAIRBANKS.

ARBITRATION THE SOLUTION.

The attitude of employers and employees toward the suggestion of arbitrating labor disputes seems to largely depend on whether there is reasonable expectation of advantage for their own side by yielding to this conciliatory method of adjusting differences. In the recent railway strike crisis the railroad heads strongly contended for arbitration, while the employees refused to accept this plan, especially as their employers insisted that all points of dispute must be settled in this manner. And now at New York there is a big traction strike, in which the dissatisfied employees are willing to submit to arbitration, while the traction company heads, in this instance, insist "there is nothing to arbitrate."

This reversal of positions by employers and employees is significant, showing that acceptance of the principle of arbitration is gained only when one side thinks it can gain more in this manner than by fighting it out. To fight it out, however, means a labor war, with accompanying disturbance to business and, in case of public service, losses and inconvenience to the public, as well as to the rival interests directly concerned. And the public, thus having a vital interest at stake, is commencing to demand the adoption of some system that will compel arbitration and the acceptance of arbitral awards, thereby to avert strikes and lock-outs with their menacing disturbance to general business and the general welfare.

When the principle of arbitration was turned down in the recent rail crisis, union labor rejoiced because it thought it had gained a victory. The railway employe unquestionably did secure an advantage in the method taken to settle that particular dispute, but the precedent set may yet return to trouble labor interests elsewhere. In the present New York crisis labor pleads for arbitration, while the employers refuse and thereby follow the example of the employes themselves in the rail strike. And the employes cannot charge inconsistency on the part of their employers, for labor itself set the example.

Arbitration, however, is the only just, safe and proper way to settle labor disputes, and both capital and labor should join with the public in trying to devise a wise and adequate system for providing arbitration that will be fair and just and, therefore, always acceptable in every labor dispute. Selfish interests will have to be subordinated, however, in the solution of this problem, and the sooner both labor and capital concede this point the better it will be for them and for the nation.

WOING THE WOMEN VOTERS.

In eleven western states women will vote this year on an equal footing with the men, while in Illinois they will be entitled to vote for presidential tickets, but debarred from taking part in the strictly state elections. In these twelve states it is estimated there are at least 4,000,000 women who are qualified to vote, and both parties are making strenuous efforts to secure as many of these women votes as possible. Both sides have prepared campaign literature intended especially for the women, both are planning to include certain features in the campaign calculated to attract the support of the women, and the republicans have arranged for a "woman's transcontinental suffrage special train," which will carry a score or more of well known women speakers and will visit all the suffrage states in turn, for the purpose of winning women's votes for the Hughes and Fairbanks ticket.

In these suffrage states it is perfectly plain that the women easily could decide the election results, should they unite in force for any one ticket, and in all likelihood, the wo-

men will actually decide the issue in several of the states referred to. It is anticipated, however, that only a small portion of the qualified women voters will actually exercise their prerogative, and this fact adds to the perplexity of the male politicians who are trying to figure out the probable results. For once, however, the men are interested in "getting out" the women voters and inducing them to take a hand in selecting a president. And as both sides will vigorously push this effort, the chances are the vote polled by the women this year will be surprisingly large, and may also occasion some startling surprises in the returns.

THE MAINE ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the Maine state election fulfill the hopes of republicans and encourage the latter to believe a similar success awaits them in the general elections to be held in November. Certainly there is little consolation for the democrats in the Maine returns, although it is likely the democrats now will return to the old claim that "Maine always was a republican state," and that the republican victories of this year were won by such narrow margins that they are more encouraging to democrats than to the opposition. At the same time, it is to be noted the republicans have made a clean sweep in the state of Maine, and by majorities that are substantial and decisive. And as the fight in Maine was made on national issues, there is reason to believe the Maine results furnish an actual indication of sentiment elsewhere and presage a republican victory in November.

The total vote polled in Maine was the largest in thirty years, which in itself is an encouraging sign of the interest being taken by the people in politics and the coming test between the two great parties. The Maine figures also show that a very large percentage of the progressives of that state this year have returned to the republican fold and are ready to support the republican national ticket. Four years ago Wilson carried the state by a small plurality over Taft and Roosevelt, who divided the republican vote, but this year Maine will roll up a large plurality for Hughes and Fairbanks.

And the same thing will happen in many other states and sections, where the republican vote was split four years ago, but where the republicans and progressives will vote together this year, just as they have done in the Maine state election. It is not to be expected, of course, that all the progressive voters will turn to Hughes, but enough of them will do so to reaffirm republican supremacy and place the control of national affairs in the hands of that party. This, it would seem, is the true interpretation of the Maine election held last week. And the more the democrats try to belittle the republican success in Maine, the more it will convince the people that democratic leaders foresee the shadow of defeat in November.

TEN MONTHS WILL END WAR?

It is a matter of some interest to note that General Brusiloff, commander of the Russian forces on the southern front, thinks that ten months of fighting will bring the great European war to a close. General Brusiloff modestly admits he is no prophet and that "the future is in the hands of God," but he says that if he were forced to make a guess he would be inclined to set August, 1917, as the approximate date for the ending of the war and the restoration of peace.

The view thus expressed seems to fairly coincide with the opinions of a number of other leaders and experts who recently have chanced guesses as to the probable ending of the terrible struggle. Early in the present year a few of these leaders apparently hoped for a termination of the strife before the close of 1916, but more recently every prediction made has been for at least another year of the war. Even in Germany and Austria representative spokesmen have ceased to talk of an early peace, but insist those nations will continue to fight to the last and that their hopes of final success are undiminished. And among the allies there are unmistakable evidences that leaders and people have settled down for a long struggle, and now believe it will last for another year.

Even ten more months of war will be ten months too many, but there will be a certain amount of consolation, to the outside world, if not to the belligerents themselves, if there is fair assurance that the mighty conflict will end even by that time. No doubt these coming ten months will witness a desperate effort to bring about the fulfillment of this prediction, and the losses and suffering which will be incurred may be expected to reach a climax that will overshadow all that has gone before. But all things must have an end—even war—and the world will eagerly hope that the promised end of the present conflict will come not later than the date predicted by General Brusiloff.

Whatever may have been the significance of the Maine election, this much may be said for it without fear of contradiction even from the democrats: It didn't discourage the republicans a bit.

When you speak about turning to other check, our idea of the superlativity of that rare action is the conduct of Mr. Bryan in taking the stump for President Wilson.

Ida Tarbell, noted magazine writer and economist, says that Col. Roosevelt is "out of date." And Ida probably will not have to wait long to hear the response.

As there seems to be some dispute concerning the Maine election, perhaps it better be called a draw.

OTHERS' OPINIONS

In these pages from time to time we have advocated the value to our readers of county and state fairs. Exhibits of livestock, grain and other products of the farm, will contest for your interest, as well as exhibits of farm, dairy machinery, incubators, building material concerns and other things that are manufactured in factories and sold to the farmer.

None of these exhibits enumerated above should be passed by without giving careful study to them. Find out the owners of prize-winning livestock, learn how they perfected their animals, how they fed and cared for them. Don't fail to get full information as to the methods used by the prize winners who exhibit chickens or butter, or fruit, or grain, or other things. Such information will be valuable. Men and women who are making these exhibits are advertising their products, their skill and their knowledge about it, by exhibiting at the fair. The same is true with machinery, grain and other exhibits. The mere fact that an exhibitor is willing to exhibit or advertise his product is very good evidence he has something that is better than the ordinary.

Keep your eyes open for new ideas. A good plan is to take along a notebook and jot down things that you can refer to when you get back home—things that will fit in to the plan you are trying to work out on your farm. When this is once done it will grow and prove more profitable each year. To learn to see things that interest one and to put new ideas into practice is what keeps people from standing still in their work. Surely your county and state fair has something for the farmer and his family. They are institutions of real benefit and each year are growing larger in importance.—Western Farmer.

SURVEY CAPITAL HIGHWAY.

State Commission Authorizes \$1500 Expenditure on the Work.

An order for a survey of that part of the proposed capital highway between Independence and Corvallis was made by the state highway commission at Salem Tuesday.

The commission authorized State Engineer Lewis to expend not more than \$1500 of state highway funds as the state's share of the survey. H. Hirschberg of Independence assured the highway commission that he would be responsible for enough more funds to complete the survey, probably about \$500.

Julius Meier of Portland expressed his willingness to let the money be diverted from the Willamette valley-Portland survey to the Independence-Corvallis survey.

Political

Secretary Redneid has presented another of those living illustrations of the old adage that "fools rush in where angels fear to tread," with one important modification. The difference in the Secretary's case is that he walked right in and turned around and was kicked right out again.

The Democratic contingent in the Senate is all worked up over the fact that the terms of the treaty for the purchase of the Danish West Indies "leaked out." "Pitiless publicity," you understand, has been consigned to the scrap heap with a large assortment of various other Democratic policies and promises.

Housewives in need of pork recipes should address the Wilson administration.

Mr. Wilson has made no reply to the charges of Mr. Hughes. Is he still too proud to fight?

By the way his opponents are abusing him, it is evident that Mr. Hughes has touched them on the raw.

No apology which the Wilson administration can make for its futile and irritating Mexican policy will satisfy the American people. It has lacked conspicuously the two characteristics which Hughes promises—a friendly spirit and a firm hand.

Pitiless publicity, says Mr. Hughes; have a heart, say the Democrats.

Of Mr. Wilson it may be said he meant well, but he now finds himself buried under the evidence of inefficiency that Mr. Hughes has brought forth.

There are those who assert that Woodrow Wilson is a clever politician. But how do they account for his remark to a committee of women, calling upon him, to the effect that if they made suffrage "the paramount issue of this campaign," he would "lose all respect for them?" The women of the enfranchised States assert that this threat will cost Wilson the presidency.

Secretary Daniels, however, has the distinction of being one of the greatest arguments the Republicans have ever had.

The salary part of the rural credit system has already begun.

Mr. Bryan thinks Mr. Hughes unfitted for the bench because of the prejudiced frame of mind evinced by his speeches. Wake up, Bill, he ain't running for no judgeship.

Mr. Wilson underestimated the suffragists; but it appears they have him sized up properly.

Ill fares the land where public office is bought and the people are sold.

The high fragmentation of those Hughes bombs is causing consternation in the Wilson trenches.

Bainbridge Colby is almost as violent in his criticism of Mr. Hughes as he was in condemnation of Mr. Wilson's position on Panama tolls two years ago.

Of course President Wilson has a perfect right to change his mind as often as he pleases, but that is quite different from repudiating distinct promises made to get votes. If the pledges on which he rode into the White House have proved worthless because he changed his mind, what faith is to be put in the pledges he is now making in his appeal for re-election?



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