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Moro, Sherman County, Oregon, Friday, Nov. 13, 1908

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Duties of the President Makers

Methods Followed by the Electoral College in Choosing the Chief Executive and Vice President—Development of a System That Has Been the Center of Various Momentous Disagreements.

By FREDERICK R. TOOMBS.

THAT things are not always what they seem is very well exemplified by the manner in which the American people elect their president and vice president. If you were to tell the average experienced voter that he has never legally and technically voted for either a president or a vice president he would probably class you with the people who still believe the earth is flat like a pancake. The fact that a candidate for the presidency is named at a national convention and that his name is placed at the top of the ballot on election day has no relation whatever to the constitutional provisions regulating the mode of choosing a president. The name of the president or vice president would be left off the ballot if the actual intention of the framers of the constitution were followed, and in spite of the "unwritten law" which has developed the placing of the national candidates' names on the ballot it is an actual legal sense done only as a guide to the voter to indicate in a simple and effective manner what set of members of the electoral college he is to vote for.

Under the latter day mode of electing the vice president. In the first national election held the man receiving the largest number of votes in the electoral college became president, while the man who got the second largest number of votes became vice president regardless of party. Thus in the early days of our country we had a president from one party and a vice president from another. That system was terminated, however, at the opening of the last century, and today there is but the remotest possibility that the vice president will be of a different party than the president. There is one phase of the electoral system that has been attracting considerable attention of late. That is the very days of our country we had a president from one party and a vice president from another. That system was terminated, however, at the opening of the last century, and today there is but the remotest possibility that the vice president will be of a different party than the president. There is one phase of the electoral system that has been attracting considerable attention of late. That is the very days of our country we had a president from one party and a vice president from another. That system was terminated, however, at the opening of the last century, and today there is but the remotest possibility that the vice president will be of a different party than the president.



COUNTING THE ELECTORAL VOTE IN THE HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

fact, owing to a radical change in the theory of government in this republic. Each state has as many electors and electoral votes as it has members in the senate and the house of representatives, and these men were originally intended to exercise their own initiative in voting for president and vice president after the election of their ticket at the polls. When the electors were given constitutional existence it was never designed that they should ever act as a unit, according to their party affiliations. That is exactly what they do today and have done for a century. Each elector is today in honor bound and pledged to cast his vote in the electoral college for the presidential candidate at the head of his party column.

deets the president, voting by states, each state having one vote. When a tie occurs for vice president it is the senate that has the privilege of deciding the question.

Votes Cast at State Capitals. The successful electors of each state invariably meet at their capital to cast their votes. Three copies of the result are made, one being mailed to the president of the senate (vice president), the second being dispatched to Washington by a trusted messenger, and the third as a precautionary measure is deposited in care of the federal judge of the circuit in which the electors meet. The copies received by the president of the senate are preserved in a specially constructed safe and additionally protected by an elaborate system of burglar alarms. When the president of the senate receives the sealed envelopes from the messengers containing the certified votes he delivers to them a receipt conformed to the following guarded and noncommittal terms:

Next to the thrusting aside of the system in which the chosen electors exercised their individual choice for president and vice president the greatest change from the original constitutional provisions is probably that

shown in the latter day mode of electing the vice president. In the first national election held the man receiving the largest number of votes in the electoral college became president, while the man who got the second largest number of votes became vice president regardless of party. Thus in the early days of our country we had a president from one party and a vice president from another. That system was terminated, however, at the opening of the last century, and today there is but the remotest possibility that the vice president will be of a different party than the president. There is one phase of the electoral system that has been attracting considerable attention of late. That is the very days of our country we had a president from one party and a vice president from another. That system was terminated, however, at the opening of the last century, and today there is but the remotest possibility that the vice president will be of a different party than the president.

The Field of Politics

Chandler as a Campaigner—Eugene V. Debs and the Socialist System of Winning Votes. Samuel Gompers and His Long Labor Record—Other Figures in the Political Battle.



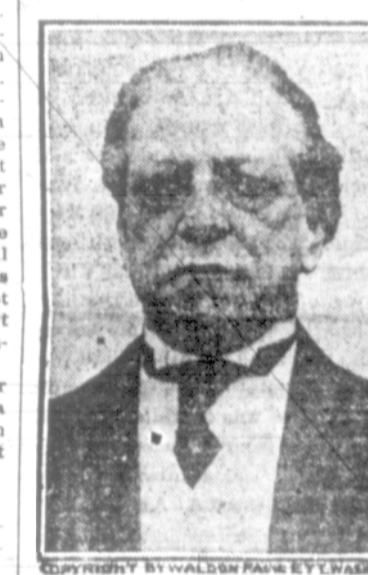
LEWIS S. CHANDLER.

IT was indeed a whirlwind tour that Lewis S. Chandler made as Democratic candidate for governor of New York in the closing days of the campaign. And no less arduous and energetic was the tour of his Republican opponent, Charles E. Hughes. The two men passed and re-passed each other on the railroads, put up sometimes at the same hotel and on several occasions their itineraries coincided so closely that, without any intention of so doing, they found themselves holding rival meetings in smaller towns of the state at the same time. Automobiles were pressed into service by both candidates in covering country as well as city districts, and in this way both were able to hold great many speaking engagements in the course of a day's campaign labors. While the two candidates conducted so vigorous a canvass, both were careful to avoid personalities and to treat each other with unflinching courtesy.

corners in the large cities during the state and national campaigns, outlining the party principles and selling the publications in which the party's recommendations are described. Of course a radical party like the Socialists has active opponents, and at meetings when these opponents are present the speakers set aside a period in which questions may be asked. Sometimes a quick witted Socialist is able to make the questioners appear ridiculous, and it is seldom that a meeting of this description terminates without a disturbance of more or less importance.

The size of the socialist vote in this country is rapidly increasing, and this fact is the more noteworthy because the party's organization is by no means complete. Debs proudly states that his party is a volunteer party, making material progress without office or patronage. The paid workers of other parties have no counterpart in the district organizations of the Socialists, and this fact is one that causes most worry to the Democratic and Republican leaders. They realize that a party popular enough to attract hundreds of volunteer workers is certain to become a national factor, worthy of serious consideration. If, indeed, the Socialist party has not already become such.

Samuel Gompers has had plenty of publicity in the campaign of 1908 on account of the controversy over the position taken by him in the support of the Democratic national ticket. As



SAMUEL GOMPERS.

president of the American Federation of Labor Mr. Gompers is always a busy man, but because of the active part he has taken in politics this year his duties have been exceptionally many and laborious. For several years he won re-election as head of the American Federation of Labor after contests which threatened the continuance of his power. The next meeting of the federation occasions special interest on account of the question of indorsement of President Gompers' course in the campaign.

It is twenty-six years since Mr. Gompers was first chosen president of the Federation of Labor, and every year since, with one exception, 1894, he has been re-elected. Under his direction the order has increased in numbers until it is now 2,000,000 strong and it accounts the most influential body of organized wage earners in the world. Mr. Gompers was born in London in 1850 and for forty years and more

has been identified with union labor. Many a time he could have had positions which would have paid him a larger salary than that which he receives as president of the American Federation of Labor, but his sympathy with the cause of labor prevented him from accepting them. He is a poor man, is proud of it and expects to die poor. He has no ambition to make money and chooses rather to devote his energies to uplifting his fellow workers and leaving them as a class when he dies better off than they would have been but for his having lived.

The political contest in Rhode Island has excited interest this year on account of the value to both national tickets of the electoral votes of the commonwealth and the complications caused by local issues. The Republicans nominated for governor Aram J. Potter, of Westerly, and the Democrats Oney Arnold of Providence. The Democrats made much in their campaign of the charge that the influence in Republican circles of the blind leader, C. R. Brynton, was still potent. Constitutional amendment has been one of the issues in Rhode Island.

TENNESSEE'S GOVERNOR.

Malcolm R. Patterson and His Action Regarding Night Rider Outrages. Governor Patterson, five years ago, Tennessee, who has taken in hand vigorously the apprehension and punishment of the Night Riders in his state, has been constantly under the protection of a heavy bodyguard on account of the danger lest he should be attacked in some way because of his



MALCOLM RICE PATTERSON.

stance upon the observance of the law and preservation of the good name of the commonwealth. He stopped his campaign for re-election in order to give his attention to the suppression of Night Rider outrages.

Governor Patterson is a lawyer by profession and previous to election as governor served several terms in congress.

Thomas D. Long, Democratic nominee for governor in Montana, is a lawyer and was born in Columbus, Ind., Oct. 10, 1867. He was chosen assistant attorney general of the state of Montana seven years ago. The Democratic party carried the last state election in Montana, when J. K. Toole was re-elected governor. He was the first governor and has been honored with several re-elections.

Eugene V. Debs, who has made a remarkable campaign as the Socialist candidate for president, attracting more attention for the principles he represents than they ever before re-

A Celebrated Controversy. The celebrated Samuel J. Tilden-Rutherford B. Hayes controversy occurred in 1876. A violent partisan dispute arose over the electoral votes of Florida, Louisiana, Oregon and South Carolina. The entire matter was referred by congress to an electoral commission composed of eight Republicans and seven Democrats. As a result by a strict party vote 185 electoral votes were awarded to Hayes and 184 to Tilden. Some of the supporters of Mr. Tilden became so accused over the decision that they openly talked of "taking Tilden to Washington and seating him anyhow," and threats of bringing about a civil war were bruited about.

The ablest men of the newly born United States founded the electoral college, choosing a system that was but one of a dozen advanced for the purpose of deciding the presidency and vice presidency. To Alexander Hamilton is given most of the credit for bringing about the adoption of the system as originally created by the constitution.

Hamilton devoted the paper known as the "LXVth Federalist" to the subject of the presidential election, and in it he urged many forcible reasons showing the advantage of submitting the choice to an independent body of men. Among other things he said: "It is equally desirable that the immediate election should be made by men most capable of analyzing the qualities adapted to the station and acting unfeelingly upon motives of deliberation and to a judicious combination of all reasons and inducements that were proper to govern this choice. "A small number of persons selected by the fellow citizens from the general mass will be most likely to possess the information and discernment requisite to so complicated an investigation."

George Washington was chairman of the convention, and active parts were taken by such men as Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, John Dickinson of New Jersey, Pinckney of South Carolina, Alexander Hamilton and others.

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