

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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The Accuracy of Polls

The readers of this paper will soon begin to hear a great deal about presidential polls, which are being taken by newspapers, magazines, and politically-minded gentlemen, seeking to prove something or other. Notable in this field are polls of the Hearst newspapers and The Literary Digest.

It remained for a college professor to make a study of "straw votes" and to declare himself on the accuracy of these pre-election forecasts.

Basing his conclusions on a three-year investigation of political predictions in America, Claude E. Robinson asserts that the most accurate nation-wide poll ever held in this country was that of the Hearst newspapers on the presidential election of 1928, which predicted the Hoover plurality, with an average error per state of only five votes in a hundred cast.

The author of the study, going back as far as 1900 finds the old New York Herald second in performance to the Hearst group, with a plurality error of only seven per cent in the prediction of the 1912 election. The same newspaper and its collaborators were only eight per cent off in 1916. The Literary Digest polls of 1928 and 1924 are reported as being about twelve per cent off.

According to this student of polls, the most "nearly perfect" in results were those taken by the Cincinnati Enquirer for Ohio in 1924 and the Columbus Dispatch for Ohio in 1928, when both predictions were accurate to within one hundred ballots.

Gandhi Novel Plan

Mahatma Gandhi has served notice on the British Government that he will starve himself to death as a protest against the plan for granting a modified suffrage to the members of the "untouchable" Hindu castes.

The Indian leader has opposed the granting of votes to this class, claiming that suffrage would poison Hinduism and do the new voters no good. Premier MacDonald has accused Gandhi of wishing to keep the "untouchables" from representation in deliberation which will effect their future and the Government will release the Nationalist leader from prison if he carries out his starvation threat.

It is hard to see how the starvation of Gandhi will do any material good, except as a means of advertised protest which may draw public attention to the problem. However, it is one that India will have to solve for herself and which the world cannot solve for her. Gandhi's death will make little difference in the viewpoint which the Indian population continues to take in regard to this local problem.

Gandhi in his previous campaign enlisted the co-operation of thousands in a passive resistance to British rule, which was remarkable in its absence of violence showing how thoroughly the leader had stressed non-violence to his followers. However, thousands of Indians were injured in the disorders which attended this campaign and this is probably the reason why Gandhi in his new effort is making a personal sacrifice rather than call upon his Indian followers to undergo additional punishment.

The Gandhi idea is at least novel. Some people would dismiss it immediately with an exclamation, "Let him starve." However, millions of his adherents will be stirred to a frenzy and make trouble for the British in India.

Personally, we are but slightly interested in the four-legged fish, reported to have lived in Greenland some 300,000,000 years ago.

Talking about successful bartering, how about the banks which swap money for government bonds and then bonds for more money.

Even the average citizen is beginning to realize that he has to pay for some of the governmental extravagance that has afflicted the country, town, state and nation.

Persons who hold mortgages on homes should follow the suggestion of President Hoover and give the owner every opportunity to work out the debt. Cold-blooded pirates who take advantage of present circumstances to buy in property at low prices are peace-time traitors to this country.

Are Our Officials

"Public Enemies?"

Visitor Here Urges People To Retain Faith in Elected Officers.

"There is too pronounced a tendency on the part of the general public to classify public officials, and especially men who serve in the halls of the Legislatures of the several states and Congress, as 'Public enemies,' declared a visitor here within the past several days. 'Is our Democratic form of government breaking down, and about to go on the rocks?' he asked. 'It certainly is a serious blow at the bed rock of a Democratic government, when its people lose confidence in the men selected to administer the affairs of the government.'"

The visitor pointed out that this tendency is by no means confined to any particular section of the country, but evidences of it can be found throughout the nation. The moment any man rises above the crowd and is placed in the seat of government he becomes a target for everyone else. Every act is viewed by some one with a critical eye. Utter motives are ascribed for every public act, and but few instances are they ever given credit for any degree of sincerity whatever. There are, of course, from time to time, men in public life who are there to further the ends of their individual interests or of the interest of some group, but the speaker, talking to a group of friends, gave it as his opinion that the great majority of men in public office are honestly and sincerely prompted in whatever position they take, by a desire to accomplish some real good for their community their state and their nation.

These men are confronted with many and varied problems which come up constantly for solution. The public is not at all times familiar with the many complications of these problems. Most of the public never take the time to investigate or acquaint themselves with these matters. They get a kind of superficial knowledge of what is taking place, and if the decisions do not meet with his individual approval he brings down a mountain of criticism. If, on the other hand, he was familiar with the proposition, he would realize that what had been done was the best solution for all concerned.

The gentlemen argued that the public should take more interest in public affairs. This is helpful and rather than criticism, the public should be charitable in their views and give men in office the benefit of advice and counsel based on their observations.

Perhaps this feeling of resentment towards men in office is more pronounced today than it has ever been in the history of the nation.

This is no doubt the result of lean business through which the nation and the world has been passing. Men finding themselves short of cash, business slack and markets few and unprofitable, develop a kind of resentment towards any one who seemingly is getting on a little better than he. His mind becomes unbalanced, and he wants to bring everything down to his own level. He never one time thinks of attempting to hold the standard of things up with the assurance that there will come another era of normal business. It is easy enough to tear down, the gentleman pointed out, but it takes years to rebuild, and for this reason the public mind should not permit itself to run riot and reduce everything to chaos, just because the nation is passing through a season of hardships.

Reverse Charge

"So you told mother that my bathing suit was immodestly short?" "On the contrary, I said that you should never have gone to such lengths."—Boston Transcript.

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Made Her Anxious

Richleigh—I'm getting a new silver for my car.
Tall Beauty—Oh, Alfie! Does that mean all is over between us?—By-stander.

Strategy

Custom Inspector—Hold on, young lady what have you to declare?
Sweetness—Oh, Mr. Inspector, I declare you handsomer than any man I saw during my two months stay abroad.

Inspector—Er—ah—hurry up madam; move along and give somebody else a chance.—Borier Cities Star.

Wealthy Whoppers

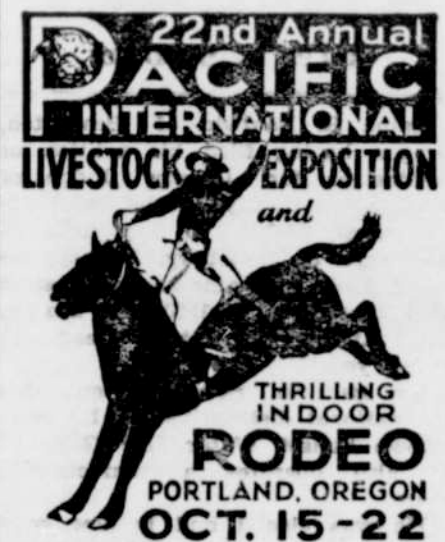
Aunt Jane—Well, Ethel, I see I see you have landed a man at last.
Angler's Daughter—Yes, auntie, but you should have seen the ones that got away.—Boston Transcript.

Shyness Mutual

A certain firm had the following legend printed on its salary receipt forms:

"Your salary is your personal business, and should not be disclosed to anyone."

The new employee, in signing the receipt added: "I won't mention it to anybody. I'm just as much ashamed of it as you are."—Irish Independent.



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Traveler—"Ah! Then may I show you this work on 'Memory Training'—complete in twenty volumes?"—The Humorist (London).

Two of a Kind

Two casual golf acquaintances were walking toward the green when they sighted two women coming over a hill.

"I say," remarked one of them, "here comes my wife with some old hag she's picked up somewhere." "And there comes mine with another," icily.—Tit-Bits.

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