

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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THE FUTURE POLITICAL OUTLOOK

THE RESULTS OF recent primary elections in many of the states, in which the insurgent wing of the republican party has won in whole or in part, is indicative that a revolution in the policies of that party is at hand.

Since almost the beginning of the civil war, the "big business" of the country have been, through the leaders of the republican party, gradually securing control of governments both state and national. When the power of Wall street New York bankers, taking advantage of the nation's necessities, forced the placing of the exception clause on the greenbacks, these same bankers have exercised almost absolute control over the financial operations of the nation. In every instance, when the government has, seemingly, rushed to the rescue of Wall street stock gamblers in order to break the force of a financial panic, these same bankers have exacted tribute. And whenever a revision of the tariff schedules has been undertaken by either political party, the beneficiaries of the protected interests have been on hand to have dictated the rates.

The people have at last become aroused to the extent and unblushing demands of the big business interests and they are now in open revolt against allowing further plundering of the national treasury, by these predatory scoundrels. The result of this revolt is the sweeping victory of the insurgents or progressives in the primary elections from Maine to California.

These new political developments are of such magnitude that one of two conditions is sure to prevail in the near future. Either the progressive or insurgent will secure the control of the machinery of the republican party and become dominant, or there will be a new political party formed, composed of the progressive elements of both old political parties, which will sweep the country north, south, east and west. The result of the fall elections will probably bring about a condition which will be little less than a political revolution. Throughout the nation, there is an overwhelming tendency on the part of the people to abandon the old party and old party leaders, who the people now know have betrayed them, and accept new leaders and, if need be, a new party.

The contest for supremacy in the New York state convention, between ex-President Roosevelt and the republican "old guard," of the republican party, cannot but widen the breach, now almost impassable, between the factions of that party. One faction or the other must make, practically, an unconditional surrender to the other, if open rupture is prevented. Mr. Roosevelt, knowing that the progressives are behind him and that it is an ever growing element, for it is representative of the people, will never strike his flag. The "old guard" can die but is not likely to surrender. It is representative of the big business interests, and these interests do not trust Roosevelt more than they do Bryan. So we may conclude that Mr. Roosevelt will not control the destinies of the republican party, if big business interests can prevent it. Both Bryan and Roosevelt are regarded as unsafe men by plutocracy. Therefore the order is likely to go out to the old party leaders (plutocracy servants) to "nail the flag to the mast and fight it out if it takes all summer." True, a crushing defeat in November may cause these plutocratic business interests to trim their sails to meet danger from a different quarter; for plutocracy has no politics, only business. It is ready to unite with any party or faction, which promises to continue the strangle hold which it now has upon the government.

So here we have an element of the republican party, a majority of the old time leaders, defending the interests of big business and, also, a small faction of the democratic party devoting its energies to the same purpose. On the other hand, a minority of the old time republican leaders supported by a majority of the rank and file of that party, are devoting their energies to the interests of all the people, big business included. Likewise, a majority of the democratic leaders and a vast majority of the rank and file, are giving their efforts to the restoration of the government to the people. The effort of both insurgent republicans and progressive democrats, is to sever the tentacles which big business has thrown about every branch of the government. They are working for a common purpose, though not from the same viewpoint. Why may they not and why are they not likely to, sooner or later, work in harmony and under one political organization to accomplish this most meritorious purpose? The only impediment to the coalition will be the big business interests and the men who are influential in the councils of the old parties as now organized. Just so long as the people are divided as now, that is to say the great mass of the consumers, the big business interests will continue to fleece them, through appealing to political prejudices. Those interests can and do play upon this prejudice to prevent the enactment of reformatory laws and the execution of the same and they have succeeded admirably. But let the people become thoroughly aroused, as they now seem likely to be, and the depredations of plutocracy will be of short duration, for a time at least.

The reform laws we now have and as executed are not doing big business much injury. A fine of a few thousands of dollars amounts to nothing, except to cause big business to tax the people a little higher for what they have to sell.

Undoubtedly, the people are up in arms as never before against the present political conditions. They will not submit much longer to the injustice of the present tariff, nor to the enormous profit demanded by organized trusts; for they believe much of the high cost of living is attributable to this source. Nor are they content to allow rich criminals to, practically, escape punishment for the crimes they commit. The people have, at last, learned that they have the power to regulate these matters, if they go about it in an intelligent and systematic way and they are now quite ready to act. If, in doing so, they exercise their power in an arbitrary and unwise manner, the trusts and protected interests have no one to blame but themselves; for they are responsible for the creation of the conditions which makes such action necessary.

DOES OUR PRIMARY LAW NEED FIXING?

THE LACK OF INTEREST on the part of a large majority of the people in the primary nominating election of last Saturday, leads one to ask, what is lacking in the provisions of the primary law that the people neglect the duty of coming to the polls to help select proper men for office? Less than 25 per cent. of the electors of the two Scio precincts performed this important duty last Saturday. Now, unless good men are nominated for office, they cannot be elected. So, if the voter thought it more profitable to stay at home and make money, than to come to the polls and help select the men upon whom will devolve the duty of making or executing the laws under which they live, is not satisfied with the ticket selected, he has no right to kick, for he made no effort to select men with whom he would be better pleased.

Another feature of Saturday's election which was objectionable, was the lack of printed names of candidates on the ballots. On the democratic ticket, more than one-half of the names of candidates had to be written, else go unvoted for. The republican ticket lacked the names of representatives for the legislature. Because of this fact many of the ballots voted had only the printed names.

If some sort of an assembly could be arranged, after the date of filing petitions had expired, and men drafted to fill the vacant places, so that all could be printed on the primary ballot, the confusion and trouble of last Saturday would be avoided. Of course all names proposed by such assembly, should be sent down to the primary polls; for to select one candidate in preference to another, would be to do exactly as what was done at the republican assembly and which most people condemn. This plan would not add materially to the burden of the elector and would overcome what many believe is a defect in the law as it now stands. Nor would it interfere with the privilege of the voter writing in any names which he might prefer to those printed on the ballot.

Some plan, if possible, should be devised which will cause the average voter to take a deeper interest in this most important matter of selecting men to make and execute the laws under which we live.

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