

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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THEORY VS. PRACTICE

Theory, if at all practical, is all right. It is the pioneer of the practice to follow. Sometimes and perhaps too often, practice demonstrates theory to have been founded on false deductions. And again conditions are such that even the most practical of theories become premature and, if it is attempted to put them into practice, they fail because conditions for their successful introduction are not ripe, or conditions may have changed before a theory could be tried out.

Theory of government is especially subject to the above suggested features. While our two great political parties agree on the general features of government, they differ, or think they do, on some of the minor points. Sometimes conditions become so changed that statesmen who are placed in charge of the government are compelled to change front and take positions antagonistic to former well thought out plans and theories. This is particularly true of he who may be selected as our chief executive. It has been true of nearly every president we have had from the beginning.

President Lincoln, in his first inaugural address, stated that he did not purpose to interfere with slavery in the states wherein it existed and that he had no legal right to do so. Yet the Civil war created a condition which demanded the abolition of slavery and in less than three years after his first inauguration, by proclamation, he declared every slave in the United States a free man.

In like manner nearly every president since has been compelled to modify their theories and opinions to fit conditions newly arisen.

Just now, on the eve of a great political campaign, President Wilson is condemned by his political enemies because he has been compelled to modify or change some of the theories of government he entertained when a candidate.

During the political campaign of 1912, it was admitted by all parties that our tariff had been boosted to a too high point. In fact this boosted condition was one of the leading causes of the split in the republican party at Chicago and the resultant election of Wilson.

In obedience to this general demand of the people, President Wilson, as soon as inaugurated, convened congress in special session for the one purpose of revising the tariff schedules downward. He and congress were commanded by the people to do this and in doing so, neither the president nor congress should be blamed for obeying an order from the people. Before this tariff change was in full effect, the European war was on, which so completely changed tariff conditions that the expected result of the new law was defeated.

President Wilson is opposed to war on general principles. Who is not? So far he has been able to maintain our neutrality as to the European war. Whereas, if he was of a warlord disposition, he has had sufficient cause, from both English and German action to involve our country in the general mixup. Shall he be blamed for changing from a pacifist to that of placing our country in a condition of war preparedness, when the war cloud seems so threatening? Conditions caused him to, seemingly, change front. So is he not justified in doing so?

The Mexican civil war was a heritage of the Taft administration, and while there has been an endeavor, by a Mexican faction as well as an influence on this side of the line, to cause this government to intervene, he has refused to so involve our country. The murder of American citizens who, for reasons satisfactory to themselves, elected to reside in Mexico, while exasperating, he has not deemed sufficient cause for intervention. Such casualties could be atoned for hereafter. Anyway, such Mexican American residents are partly to blame. They knew, or ought to have known, Mexican character and, therefore, assumed the risk of their own accord. But when Mexicans came across the border to murder and pillage, a cause of war was introduced, which the president nor no other right thinking American citizen can condone. Hence our troops are now in Mexico and the Mexicans alone can prevent intervention and the occupation of their entire country by U. S. troops. Should we blame our president because he has awaited this overt act, before employing force in protecting American rights? Only blind partisans, who would win by fair or foul means, will do so.

Our country should be congratulated in having a man of poise and cool judgment in the president's chair. We can point to others who, if in President Wilson's place, would have involved us, both in Mexico and Europe, long before this. Nor has President Wilson been the only president we have had, who watchfully awaited the course of events. Long before the destruction of the battle ship Maine in Havana harbor would the people have justified intervention in Cuba with a consequent war with Spain. But President McKinley awaited the overt act in the sinking of the Maine as has President Wilson the murderous raid on Columbus, before commencing to act. Shall we blame President Wilson for awaiting an overt act which the world will justify as a cause for war, before sending troops into Mexico?

President Wilson has had a most trying ordeal since he moved into the White House as its occupant. No sooner than one crisis is safely past, when another arises. No unprejudiced person will say he has not given his best energies to his task of sailing the Ship of State. Nor will any just critic assail him for adjusting his theories and opinions to fit emergency conditions. Only persons who are controlled by blind partisan prejudice and who would win whatever the result to the country, will condemn his every public action.

NEEDS FIXING

Our direct primary law, in point of the nomination of candidates is not as just and equitable as it should be. Under present condition, the centers of population usually nominate the candidates and as a rule, elect them; for political party lines have grown so slack, that most every man votes for his home candidate. For this reason most of our county candidate reside at the county seat and without voters are actuated by a

spirit of fairness and just dealing, there is no use for a man from the remote portions to contest for an office and especially is this true if he is a member of the minority party. This condition can be remedied somewhat if our legislature would be controlled by a spirit of justice and equity.

A law should be enacted dividing counties, say for legislative candidates, into as many districts as there are candidates and for county judge and county commissioners into the same or similar districts, so that no two of these officials should hale from the same district. It should go further and make it obligatory to divide such officials as near as may be between the two dominating political parties.

The forks of the Santiam proper embraces more than one half of the territory of Linn county and fully one half or more of the bridges. Because of the fact that this same section has less than one-third of the population, it is nonsense for one of our people to seek a nomination and worse than useless for him to expect election if nominated. We should have, at least, one member of the legislature and a member of the county court. Under present law, this equitable distribution of these offices seems impossible.

The Tribune believes that if our members of the legislature should ask for such district division it would be granted without question. Especially is such division important from a county court viewpoint. A member of that body from Scio or vicinity, certainly can know more about the condition of the roads and bridges in this locality, than if he lived in Brownsville or Harrisburg and vice versa.

The Tribune mentions this condition in a spirit of justice, equity and economy. It believes that when voters think about it they will demand the same in no uncertain voice.

Quit Throwing Stones

Oregon, especially the Willamette valley, must now quit throwing stones at Kansas and Iowa, since a small cyclonic edition of wind and rain visited the northern part of Clackamas county last Sunday evening. A number of houses, barns and other outhouses and orchards were destroyed and, at least, one death resulted. The damage done will foot up a considerable sum.

Local Market Report

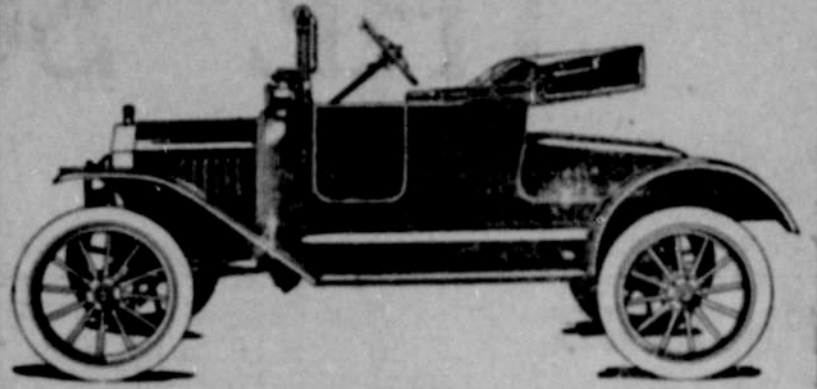
Wheat per bushel	\$.75
Oats " "	.35
Bran per ton	29.00
Wheat chop per ton	34.00
Oat chop " "	32.00
Barley Chop " "	31.50
Flour per sack	1.30
Eggs per dozen	.16
Butter per pound	.40
Chickens, hens per lb	.14
" spring " "	.15
" roosters " "	.07
Turkeys " "	.06
Geese " "	.12
Ducks " "	.05
Beef " "	.10
Veal " "	8.35
Hogs, live per hundred lb	9.50
Hogs, dressed " "	8.00
Mutton " "	

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