

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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A STRIKING PARALLEL

The student of the political history of our country and that of the dominant political parties, if he will make the election of 1860 the division, cannot help but remark the striking parallel as between the democratic and republican parties. In both periods, capitalism has caused the defeat of and the near disintegration of both and, reorganization along different and more progressive lines was and is the only saving clause from complete annihilation.

When our government was organized and the black man was recognized in six of the thirteen states which constituted the new unions. But slavery was then so unpopular and unprofitable, that our fathers believed that its utter extinction was a matter of but few years. The invention of the cotton gin a few years later, revolutionized all ideas of slave labor and it suddenly became both profitable and popular in the states where it existed. The cotton plant and cotton raising had become the leading industry of our country. The protection and extension of slavery soon became the one thought and the ruling passion of the slave owner. Give him land and slaves enough and the most extravagant visions of wealth predominated in his mind. Almost any law which the slave owner desired, was enacted by congress. Most of the presidents were taken from the slave states and a very large majority of the United States supreme court, was friendly to the ownership of slaves.

The democratic party was the medium through which the slave owner operated to secure protection to his peculiar property, though an equal proportion of the whig party favored the institution. But even with growth of the wealth of the south because of the cotton industry, the free states of the north grew faster. Soon the far-seeing statesmen of the south became alarmed. They could see a menace to their pet institution which would, in a few years, become the ruling power of congress. They knew that the time was near at hand when the protection laws for slavery would become difficult to secure. The many compromises on the slave question, like pie crust, were easily broken. Anti-slavery sentiment was growing rapidly in the north and finally the republican party was born, whose central principal was opposition to the extension of slavery.

Not until 1860 did this new party become dangerous. Also the northern wing of the democratic party was becoming strongly tintured with the free state idea. Many of these northern democrats were joining the new party and, at the national convention of the democrats, at Charleston, S. C., the party was split

asunder. Breckenridge was nominated by the rich slave power of the south and Douglas by the northern wing.

This division made the election of Lincoln possible, which occurred in November of that year. The Civil war and the destruction of slavery followed.

While Mr. Lincoln had a majority of the electoral vote, he had but two-thirds of the popular vote, nearly all of which were cast in the northern states. Had the democratic party remained united and named but one candidate for president, Mr. Lincoln's election would, probably, have been impossible. But the south was in the saddle and rule or ruin was its policy. It would either dominate the entire nation, else set up a slave empire in the south. It was not the love of the slave which caused this ruinous action, but the fabulous fortunes which slave labor was earning, was the incentive.

The war was on with the national treasury empty. In devising a scheme of finance, the greenback currency was evolved. The financial aid of Wall street was solicited and the greenback with the exception clause resulted. Within a short time the national bank law was enacted. While Wall street, ostensibly, came to the nation's rescue under the guise of patriotism, these adroit financiers were very careful to make both the greenback and the banking laws, subservient to their wishes. Also the protective tariff and munificent land grant to railroads, made Wall street New York, the financial center of our nation and a strong factor in the finances of the world. So strong was Wall street's hold on the republican party, that almost any law that she desired could be obtained. This grip on that party of capitalism maintained until its national convention of 1912 occurred. Capitalism had disrupted the democrats in 1860 by division and capitalism repeated the act for the republicans in 1912. It was again the policy of capital to rule or ruin. Capital had simply transferred the saddle from one horse to another in the same team. Woodrow Wilson, like Lincoln, had a majority of the electoral vote, but a minority of the popular vote.

It took the people nearly fifty years to find out just how greedily and unfeelingly capital was sapping the life blood of the nation. But they, at last, became wise and the south and west revolted, as did the south in 1860. But this last revolt was peaceful. The people of the United States have become more patriotic than they were in 1860. Now the revolution is peaceful and all submit to the rule of the majority.

The similarity of the history of the two great parties is striking and the same power, capitalism, though under not quite the same guise, has been the cause in each instance—the encroachment of capital upon the rights and liberties of the people.

The Wilson administration has made great strides in freeing the government from the dominance of Wall street. But the battle is not yet fought to a result. To complete the contest and to bring it to a successful conclusion with the victory on the side of the people, is the task of Mr. Wilson and congress. It is a Herculean undertaking, but justice and right must prevail in the end.

AFTER THE WAR, WHAT?

Some people pessimistically inclined, predict that the United States will soon be thrust into a period of hard times. They say prices for food stuff will drop to a low margin and that Europe will at once dump immigrants by thousands and manu-

factured goods by the millions of dollars worth onto our markets, etc., etc.

These pessimists must simply talk for political effect, for there is no reason for them to form such conclusions. If one will but size up facts as they exist and get his gray matter busy, he must conclude that very different conditions will prevail from what our pessimistic friends predict.

If the war reports are true, about all of Europe is now either fighting on the battle fronts or is engaged in the manufacture of munitions of war. Therefore they have neither the time nor money to manufacture goods to dump on our markets. Besides, when the great war closes, there will have been some eight or ten million of the young men of England, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia each and other smaller nations, who have been either killed or so maimed as to be unfit for work. These people constitute what would have been surplus population from which immigrants to other nations would, in time of peace, be taken. But, after the war is over they will all be needed in their home lands, to restore the devastations of war. So we need not fear an influx of immigrants from those countries. Indeed, many of the natives of those countries now in the United States will, when the war is over, return to the father land to help bind up the wounds and restore them to former conditions.

After the European war is over of course the abnormal prices for commodities, used both in war and peaceful pursuits, will drop to a lower price level. But people will still have to eat and wear clothes, even if they are not fighting. So there will still be a demand for food products, wool and cotton. Nor will the prices of these commodities be so extremely low to the producer. Nearly if not one-half of the present high price for wheat is caused by the excessive high freight rates on vessels to transport it to the European market. It now takes one bushel or more of wheat to transport another bushel to that market. In peace times one bushel pays the cost of taking three to market. So it can be seen the main decline in the price of wheat after the war, will be at the expense of the ship owner. The same can be said of cotton, wool and lumber.

Besides these raw products, there is bound to be a large demand for our manufactured products as well and the demand for ships for freight is sure to be very large. All of these countries will desire to restore themselves to a normal peace condition as soon as possible. They are frugal peoples and they are sure to endeavor to restore their earning of money power in all lines as soon as possible.

So The Tribune believes that the close of the great war will give even a wider demand for our products than now. Manufacturers of war material, of course, will find themselves out of business, but the people in general will have a good demand for their products at profitable prices.

Attention Farmers

I want your beef, mutton and fat hogs. I am still in business and when you have any of the above mentioned, telephone me at Scio, between 6 and 7 a. m. or from 6:30 to 9 p. m. Thos. Large.

Federated Church

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Sunday School 10 a. m.
Preaching 11 a. m.
Christian Endeavor 6:30 to 7:30 p. m.
Song Service 7:30 to 8:00 p. m.
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Brother Meikeljohn, Leader.
H. B. Her, Pastor.

Dr. T. K. Sanderson

DENTIST

Phone 27-7

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R. SHELTON

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Abstracts of Title Examined

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