

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP
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OUR POLITICS FOR 1918

The Tribune editor has been asked a number of times recently, "What will be your politics during the political campaign of 1918." This question, no doubt, was inspired by the fact that The Tribune is the only newspaper published in the Santiam country and the further fact that its patronage is composed of both republicans and democrats who, doubtless, will desire to use its columns during that campaign.

The term "republican" or "democrat" should be but of minor significance at the present time, for the first purpose of every citizen should be, to be an American, first, last and all the time. He should be a staunch supporter of every governmental measure the purpose of which is the successful prosecution of the war. While we may differ somewhat as to methods of procedure, when the president and congress determine upon a certain plan, it is our duty, as loyal Americans, to give that plan our earnest and most loyal support. It is our duty, as patriots, to be watchmen on the tower at all times, ready to give any and all information as to how the government's plans are being supported by the people and to give every influence we may possess, to aid in the supervision of all efforts our enemies may make to defeat the government's plans. For this reason we should scrutinize the character of every candidate who may offer himself for office, very carefully. We have no use for a public official, whose loyalty to the government is even questioned at the present time for the official, no matter how unimportant his office may be, is in a position of greater influence than he could possibly wield as a private citizen.

If the candidate's loyalty is unquestioned, then his qualifications and fitness for the office he seeks may be considered. And the fact that he is labeled "democrat," "republican" or "prohibitionist" is of but small importance. Is he an American citizen in all the term implies, whether native or foreign born, is the supreme test.

The candidate whom The Tribune supports, must be, in addition to the above, qualified to execute the duties the office he seeks require, must have an established name for honesty and integrity and must be a sensible economist.

Now the above requirements are not difficult for any man to comply with. They are simply what every American citizen should be and should be proud to be. Hence, The Tribune will use what little influence it may possess to secure the nomination of good men for the various offices, of both great parties and, at the general election, give its support to whom it considers the better candidate and this should be the purpose of every elector.

The selection of our public officials at the present time and until

the world is at peace again, is of graver importance than at any time since the close of the Civil war. The central purpose of every man should be to do the things only which are calculated to win the war. We can do this by giving greater care and industry to our private affairs and by the selection as our officials, city, county, state and national men who measure up to the standard in loyalty, honesty, economy and qualifications. At least, this is the viewpoint of The Tribune and it is along these lines this paper will be conducted hereafter. Its columns will be open to all parties alike. Every candidate for office will be welcome to state his views and ideas, providing he is an American citizen who realizes the importance of his duties as such citizen.

LIVELY CAMPAIGN INDICATED

Indications point to a decidedly lively primary campaign next spring, among our republican fellow citizens. Quietly a considerable stirring around is in evidence now of those who would like to occupy the governor's chambers at the state capitol for the four years commencing in January 1919.

First should be mentioned Governor Withycombe, who aspires to establish the record of being the only republican governor to succeed himself in the history of Oregon. All summer the governor has been visiting almost every important event in the state and has been especially active in visiting county fairs during the past month. He is sure to be an active candidate.

Then there are Ben Olcott, Tom Kay, Gus Moser, all receptive candidates who would be glad to have gubernatorial lightning strike their way. More or less quietly active work is being done by the friends of these gentlemen, all of whom evidently think the republican nomination is equivalent to the election.

But democratic governors have been elected in Oregon in recent years, nevertheless the heavy majority usually polled by the republican party and something may happen along this line next year. If the primary campaign waxes as warm as is probable from present indications, there is bound to be more or less soreness result.

Should Judge Bennett, of The Dalles, stand for the democratic nomination, he is not likely to have serious opposition. His honesty, sterling integrity and known antagonism to corporation greed, will make him a strong antagonist, no matter who may be his republican opponent.

In the county the hottest fight will be for the office of county judge. Should Judge McKnight stand for reelection, he will be bitterly opposed by a certain element in his own party. But he can point to the last election as an indorsement of his administration, in point of road bonds and his efforts to hold down taxation.

The contest for nomination for sheriff will, also, develop into a warm fight. At least two and probably more candidates will figure in the republican primaries. A like number of candidates will be presented to the democratic primaries.

Candidates for the other county offices have not yet bobbed up to any extent though, of course, there are many in a receptive mood and would be quite willing to serve the dear public.

The Tribune has several men in mind, whom it would like to see elected as legislators. Nor are they all democrats either. For the legislature and members of the county court, great care should be used in selection, for these are the men who reach down in our pockets for the necessary spondulix with which to run the county and state governments. No bonds are likely to be

asked for at this election and the people can give their attention to the selection of men and it is quite time to call a halt in state extravagance. It can be done if a proper legislature is selected. Unless we, the people, strive earnestly and continually, to elect level headed law makers pledged to economy, less state commissions and a less number of tax eaters, our tax burden will become so great that progress and development will be blocked.

COPPERHEADS IN OFFICE

There are a few congressmen who sit daily in the councils of the nation who are as useful to Kaiser Wilhelm as if that government was paying their salaries. These men, of whom Senator La Follette is the most conspicuous example, may be depended upon, to try to defeat every measure calculated to further the interests of our government in the prosecution of the war. They are ever ready with amendments, either indirectly opposed to the passage of a measure or so ridiculously extravagant that, if adopted, would defeat the measure.

The Tribune was formerly an admirer of Senator LaFollette. He is a great orator and is a statesman of ability. Prior to the war, his talents were devoted to breaking down monopolies and greedy corporations. He posed as and seemed to be the champion of the labor and farming interests. In those days he would have been a formidable candidate for president. But his glory departed when he vacated the governor's chair in Wisconsin. The war was on soon after he became United States senator, and he has been a block to almost every effort the government has made to protect American interests in the many controversies with Germany.

The only reason, which looks feasible, for his German leanings is, a large share of his Wisconsin constituency is of German birth or of German extraction. If his constituency has caused his sympathies and acts, so far as practicable, to reach out in the interests of the kaiser, he is much weaker as an American statesman than The Tribune supposed him to be. If his course has been determined to further his own political interests, he is a traitor by instinct and should be placed behind bars, either in an asylum for the insane or in some government prison, with criminals as his associates. Senators LaFollette, Stone, Grona and a few others, are doing just what Kaiser Wilhelm would have them. They cannot favor German interests, save by implication, without losing their jobs. Hence, their efforts to defeat the government's plans, is going just to the limit in German interests.

The Tribune will not say that these men are receiving German gold for their efforts in her favor, but it will say that the German government ought to pay them liberally for their service.

Our government is imprisoning I. W. W. and other German sympathizers for their activities and which is absolutely right. But Senator LaFollette is giving the German government more aid and comfort than are all the I. W. W. and German spies. It looks hardly just to allow the congressional cloak to protect these copperhead congressmen in their indirect treasonable acts, and to punish these little fellows whose influence is limited to fomenting labor strikes here and there. It is the big fellows whose teachings and acts trend to hamper the government's war procedure, far more than the unimportant I. W. W.


Suppress treasonable acts in the halls of congress and the suppression of I. W. W. and other little copperheads will become far more effective.

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