

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
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THE TRIBUNE ANSWERS THE QUESTION

The Oregonian of May 9, in an editorial article under the caption of "Party and the Union," asks The Tribune, somewhat facetiously, "whether or not, in its opinion, the great question of slavery and states rights might not have been settled by negotiation or compromise, and without appeal to arms," and concludes that The Tribune would not answer.

Now, Brother Piper, The Tribune's opinion about this matter is of but small consequence. The events of more than a half century ago cannot be influenced or changed by the opinion of a one-horse country editor. But if this paper can in any way enlighten the obscurity of your mentality, it is but a neighborly act to do so. So here goes:

No. This writer does not think it was then possible to at all harmonize the hot-headed and aggressive leaders of the slave power with the determination of the North to prevent the further spread of slavery. The Southern leaders were too determined to protect and extend slavery at any and all costs to make compromise possible.

Only a few years before the political campaign of 1860, these Southern leaders had forced the repeal of the Missouri compromise and immediately attempted, by corrupt and unfair means, to force the admission of Kansas as a state with a constitution permitting slavery. Their schemes failed, however, and when the Democratic National convention met at Charleston, S. C., in 1860, these same leaders were there in full force, determined that that party should then and there adopt a platform unequivocally endorsing slavery and its right to enter into and be protected in any of the territories of the United States.

The convention refused to adopt a platform which it knew would lose the party every Northern state. As a result the delegates of seven Southern states withdrew from the convention and two Democratic tickets were placed in the field, which made the success of the Republican party possible.

Now, when these Southern leaders would not compromise with the Northern and more numerous half of their party, and when they had reason to believe that their party united could elect its president, it is folly to suppose they would compromise with the anti slavery Republican party.

The Oregonian says in the final paragraph of its article that the logic of our reasoning will drive us to admit that if "partisanship" of one sectional group (the seven slave states which withdrew from the convention) all but destroyed the Union, the partisanship of another group (the Republican party) saved it. We do not think such conclusion could be drawn from our article in question.

The slavery leaders, not as Democrats, forced the appeal to arms. Like the present German Kaiser they assumed that victory was a surety. Domineering and over-confident of their ultimate success, they were determined to force a decision for slavery. Even when it was proposed to pay them for their slaves out of the Government treasury, they would not even consider the matter.

However, Brother Piper, the Republican party within itself did not

save the Union. Without the help of Union Democrats, who placed Americanism before partyism, and of Democratic generals in directing our armies, the South would have won. Probably one-third of the Northern army was made up of Democrats who had voted for Douglas in 1860. Generals Grant and Sheridan were Democrats. General John A. Logan, a Democratic congressman from Illinois, resigned his seat in Congress to lead a regiment into the field. His congressional district, almost solidly democratic, but which regarded Logan as her political model, was the only congressional district in its state in which it was unnecessary to resort to the draft to fill her quotas.

So, while the Republican party controlled Congress and provided maintenance for the Army and Navy, the war was won in spite of the grave mistakes made by a Republican Congress. Compare the plan of financing the Civil war with the plan of financing the present war, and the mistake becomes glaring. When bonds were issued to finance the Civil war, their sale was turned over to the Wall Street bankers. The bonds were sold at a heavy discount and our currency depreciated so that it required two and one-half dollars to buy one dollar in gold. The entire bond issue of the Civil War was but about three billion dollars. In the present war twelve billions of bonds have been sold at par to the people. Our currency is interchangeable with gold at its face value. The Republican party originated and executed its financial policy by going into partnership with Wall Street and the country paid dearly for it. The Democratic party has originated our present financial policy and is executing it by going into partnership with the people.

Candidly, brother, don't you think the Democrats have the better end of this comparison?

The Tribune thinks political parties are necessary under our present political system, though the need for them is growing less as time progresses. The party and party fealty should not be considered greater than one's Americanism. The party is but a means to accomplish an end—that of good government. But one's party prejudice should never go so far as to cause him to vote for the inferior candidate because he is a Democrat or a Republican, as the case may be. This is the class of non-partisanship which The Tribune indorses. Such has governed this writer for the past forty years or more and we purpose to continue such non-partisanship for the remaining few years of our political activities.

Now, Brother Piper, if this local country newspaper has made its position sufficiently plain to you, it is well. But do not accuse The Tribune of evasion or attempting to dodge a question, for it is not a dodger or hedger in any sense. Its opinions may be of small value, or its reasoning may be illogical, but it is ever ready to meet an issue in some way without trimming.

SELECT THE BEST MAN

When the elector goes into the election booth tomorrow he will there undertake to perform one of the most responsible duties of citizenship. He will there help to select a candidate who will be our next United States Senator. He will there select the man who will become Oregon's next governor. And the same is true of all other offices, clear along down the line to precinct constable.

If a member of your family was seriously sick, or had to have a surgical operation performed, you would not select your physician simply because he was a relative, or a personal friend, or a general good fellow.

Oh, no. If the sickness was serious you would select the doctor who was the most skilful in medicine and surgery.

Your candidate for office should be selected in like manner. His character, fitness and general efficiency should be the rule of measurement rather than that of good fellowship or personal friendship.

The voter is the arbiter as between the candidate and the people. If you, because a candidate is a personal friend, assist in placing the control of an important office in his hands when you have reason to know his opponent is the better and more efficient for the place, you are doing both yourself and neighbor a wrong.

The county or state is entitled to have the very best service obtainable in official positions. Public office is not a public charity, to be dished out among the boys for party or friendship sake, by any means. If you want good government, and you do, you must have men or women in public office who are capable of administering that class of government.

Therefore, we urge our readers to attend their respective polling places tomorrow and exercise the elective franchise in a patriotic spirit, by selecting he or she whom you think will give the public the best service. Voting should not be considered a mere personal privilege, but a grave duty of citizenship, and not a means with which to reward a friend or to punish an enemy. The general good of the public, in which you are simply a factor, should be your guide.

WRITING IN NAMES.

It is recommended by the county central committees that the blank spaces on the primary election ballot be filled by writing in names of men whom it is known will accept the nomination thus tendered.

Thus the Republicans are expected to write in the names of Frank Porter of Halsey, for state senator, and Charles Childs for representative. Democrats are expected to write in the names of D. S. Smith of Albany, C. C. Jackson of Halsey, and W. P. Elmore of Brownsville, for representatives.

Democrats have no candidates for county clerk, surveyor, coroner or county commissioner. On the state ticket they offer no candidates except for national committeeman, U. S. senator and governor. All other places are vacant. Republicans have no candidate for county recorder.

It has been suggested by several Democrats in this vicinity, though such is not recommended by the county committee, that present County Commissioner J. D. Irvine be written in to succeed himself, as there is no candidate nominated or other person mentioned for the office.

Democrats should not forget that Will H. Hornbrook, their candidate for National committeeman, is a Linn county man; is worthy and will fill the position with credit. He should receive the unanimous vote not only of Linn county Democrats but those of the central Willamette valley counties as well. His election is generally conceded, but this should not cause carelessness on the part of voters at the primary election.

A few years ago a captain in the U. S. Navy wrote a poem entitled "Me unt Gott" in which the German Kaiser was given a severe grilling. The Kaiser complained to our Government about the matter and the captain was reprimanded for committing an offense against the head of a government with which we were then at peace. The Navy officer evidently had a just conception of the character of the Hun Kaiser and dared to express it in verse.

Wonder how the Kaiser now feels when he knows that every democracy in the world is saying things many times worse about him? If he could just get at the people who are now committing acts of lese majeste wouldn't he make 'em squirm? On the other hand, according to press dispatches from France, the allied troops are making the Kaiser squirm considerable just now.

Too Late For Candidates to Buy Bonds.

The Tribune published an item last week just from rumor, that some of the county political candidates had not purchased Liberty bonds. The Tribune did not know about the matter and the inquiry was simply thrown out as a feeler. The Albany Democrat of last Thursday published the list as taken from Manager Hodges' books. Democrats have a clean score, for all have purchased bonds. J. R. Frum, candidate for sheriff on the Republican ticket, is the only candidate of that party for sheriff to buy a bond. It is now too late for either of the other candidates to buy a bond or bonds; for the people would look upon such purchase as a resort to catch votes. They ought to have bought while the buying was good.

Ridiculous linotype error in Albany Democrat is worth noticing. In an article headed "Food Problems," on

which Dr. Kerr of Corvallis, was to speak, that paper stated, "Dr. Kerr will 'speak' at the First Presbyterian church in Albany Sunday evening, May 12; at Lebanon at 11 a. m. and at Brownsville at 3 p. m., Sunday afternoon." Better hire a proofreader, Bill.

The Scio Tribune, \$1.50 the year

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