

Election Setback for Lincoln

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

Rep. Edward McPherson, Republican of the Gettysburg, Pa., district, dropped in to see President Lincoln soon after the off-year elections in the fall of 1862.

Gettysburg was considered a "safe" Republican district but McPherson had been soundly beaten by a Democrat. Why, Lincoln asked him?

"Well, Mr. President," McPherson replied, "I will tell you frankly what our friends say. They charge the defeat to the general tardiness in military movements, which result, as they believe, from (a) Gen. George B. McClellan's unfitness for command. The enforcement of the draft occurred during the campaign, and of course our political enemies made a great deal of it; but in my judgment, not enough to change the complexion of the district."

(McClellan had been removed from command of the Army of the Potomac by Lincoln two days after the election.)

Burned Station
Adding to McPherson's political woes, Gen. J. E. B.

Rolvaag Moves Into Lead Over Andersen

Minneapolis, Minn. — (UPI) — Li. Gov. Karl Rolvaag of the Democratic - Farmer - Labor (DFL) party moved into a slim lead over GOP Gov. Elmer L. Andersen Saturday in their photo-finish race for the Minnesota governorship.

Hennepin county canvassing in Minneapolis removed 200 votes from Andersen's previously-reported total and erased a 61-vote lead which Andersen had held previously. The switch put Rolvaag ahead by 139 votes.

Hafield To Urge Limited Changes

Salem — (UPI) — Gov. Mark Hatfield says he is not going to submit a government reorganization plan to the 1963 legislature.

He submitted one for a cabinet form of government to the 1961 legislature and it was beaten in its entirety.

Instead of an overall plan, Hatfield said this time he will recommend changes in some areas to streamline Oregon government. He declined to name them.

He noted that the 1963 legislature will have before it a new Oregon constitution that would have the governor the only elected state official, running a government of not more than 20 departments. He said that while disagreeing with some parts of the new constitution, he supports it.

Estacada — (UPI) — Vernon Hill of Estacada was killed Friday in a logging accident. He was 39. He was working in the Lolo Pass area in Clackamas county when he suffered fatal head injuries.

Stuart's Confederate cavalry had ridden through his district a few days before election, camped overnight in Chambersburg, burned the railroad shops and stripped the community of horses.

McPherson's defeat was typical of what happened to the Republicans in the election. The only interpretation that could be placed on the results was an out and out defeat of the Lincoln administration.

Party lines, not distinct at best, melted at the polls in much of the North.

Broadly speaking, the Republicans were split into Radical and Conservative wings. The Radicals advocated a tough policy against the South — abolition of slavery, vigorous prosecution of the war, use of Negro troops and punishment of Confederates once the rebellious states were subdued. The Conservatives favored a milder course — let slavery alone for the moment and conduct the war solely to bring the South back into the Union.

The Republican party in 1862 still was a coalition of splinter groups, former Whigs, rebellious Democrats and various dissidents who rallied in the late 1850s around the issue of extension

Inter-Community Council To Meet

The regular monthly meeting of the Jackson County Inter-Community council will be held Tuesday, Nov. 13, at noon at the Red Cross building in Medford.

Speakers will be Mrs. Richard Porto and Dr. H. L. Boehnke. The subject to be discussed will be the care of crippled children at the orthopedic clinic including information on eligibility of youngsters and how they are referred for these services.

The public is invited to attend these meetings. Those attending should take a sack lunch.



SERIES OF DEFEATS—The off-year elections of 1862 were a series of defeats for President Lincoln. For several reasons, the Republicans, a coalition party, took a pounding at the polls. Lincoln himself suggested three reasons for the defeats, which cost his party 31 House seats. First, the war had not been going well. Second, administration supporters had been removed from the political scene to take part in the war, leaving a great number of anti-Republicans in key spots. Third, the Cabinet was divided and pulling the administration apart. Despite the stunning setback, Lincoln was to stand pat, make his Emancipation Proclamation a reality, his firing of Gen. McClellan stick, and show the Cabinet who was really boss. This photograph, from the Archives collection, shows Lincoln.

of slavery into the territories. Peace wings but carefully avoiding any common interest with the Southern party, which was the only party in the Confederacy.

Other issues besides the military also muddled the results of the election. Prices were high, which caused fear of inflation. Taxes also were high and eating up money. Northerners had been using for personal purposes.

Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, only a couple of months old, won votes in the abolition belts of New England, Northern Ohio and Michigan but lost votes in the border areas.

Political Unrest
Suspension of the writ of habeas corpus arbitrary arrests, fear of abolition flood-

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

ing the labor market with cheap help, all added to the general political unrest so likely to occur in off years.

When all the returns were in from the election held in those days in October and November rather than on a common date — the administration had lost 31 seats in the House. New Yorkers elected Horatio Seymour, a War Democrat, as governor in a hard fight. New Jersey went Democratic for governor and legislature and the Democrats took four of five House seats. Illinois, Lincoln's home state, went Democratic, too, the opposition taking 9 of 14 seats. Lincoln's close friend, Leonard Swett, was defeated in a district which had been Republican for two elections, and by John T. Stuart, Lincoln's first law partner, in Ohio the Democrats took 14 seats to the Republican's 5; in Indiana 7 of 11. The parties split the Pennsylvania delegation.

The administration saved its House majority by winning in Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Oregon, California and New England. The Border states of Kentucky and Delaware went

Democratic and Missouri Republican, probably because the army supervised the polls.

The final House count was 101 administration members to 77 anti-administration men. Lincoln came up with three reasons for his party's defeat.

"Certainly the ill success of the war had much to do with this," he wrote to Carl Schurz, a German-born brigadier who had been minister to work against slavery.

Lincoln's other reasons were that administration supporters had gone to war, leaving Democratic voters in the majority and their leaders had made the most of it.

The cabinet also came under fire after the elections. It was split wide open over slavery. Secretary of Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, a radical Republican, was fighting with Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, an ex-Democrat and lukewarm on slavery. Caleb B. Smith, secretary of interior, complained that the cabinet had no voice in big questions. Secretary of State William H. Seward was a target for both Radical and Conservative Republicans. Both factions thought he was

sues not only for Congress but for the generations to come.

An Old Proverb

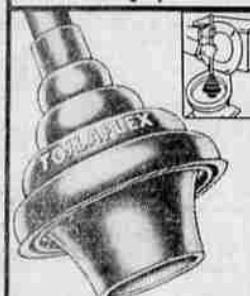


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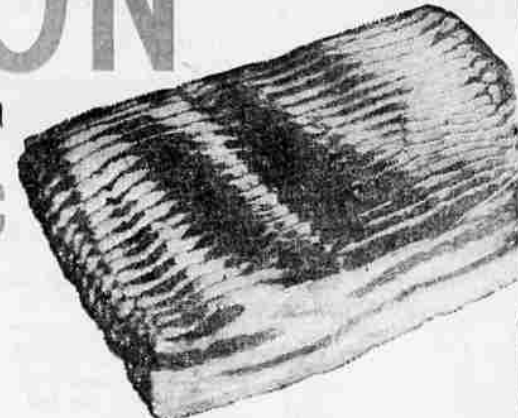
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