

newspapers and public service corporations? What amendments to the present primary law in Wisconsin are generally desired? What proportion of the voters attend the primary? To what extent do members of one party vote in the primaries of other parties? To what extent have nominees been the choice of a majority of the party selecting them? What has been the influence of the alphabet in determining nominations? Do cities have a disproportionate influence under the direct primary system? What has been the attitude of the voters toward independent candidates at elections?

These questions are taken up and answered in a report of the Wisconsin Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics now in press. Some of these questions can be answered from statistics; others cannot. As far as possible, the questions have been answered by analysis of the primary election returns of September, 1908. The other questions have been answered by comparison of the opinions of the friends and the opponents of the direct primary. In discussing questions which can be answered by opinion only, the method followed has been to present first the points upon which practically all are agreed, and then to contrast the conflicting opinions in matters of dispute. There has been sufficient experience with the new system so that the pamphlet is able, either from election statistics or from the substantial agreements of observers, to give definite answers to a majority of the questions indicated above.

The following facts are fairly well established in this pamphlet:

The direct primary brings the voters and representatives closer together.

The excessive use of money in campaigns while not caused by the primary system has certainly not been cured by it, and it is on all hands agreed that some check is absolutely essential.

There has been a confusion of party lines, and it has not thus far been possible to prevent men from participating in the primaries of parties which they do not entirely support at the general election. This may in small part be due to the discreditable purpose of undermining a party by helping to nominate a weak candidate, but it is apparently more often due to the independence of electors. (The recent amendment designed to hold voters constantly to their parties has not yet been put to the test.)

The direct primary has not destroyed party bosses and machines, but it has caused readjustments that seem to have left the bosses with less autocratic power.

There has been no perceptible change in the character of nominees, but they are now more responsible, and are chosen less arbitrarily.

The contests of candidates for sheriffs brought out more votes than that for United States senator; and those for register of deeds more than that for governor, showing that conspicuous offices do not necessarily enlist the greatest interest on the part of the voters. More important factors in stimulating interest are close contests, and the rivalries and chains of friendships which grow out of personal acquaintanceship.

More than half of the voters at the general election voted for sheriff in the preceding primaries, while 40 per cent of the vote was cast at the pri-

maries for candidates for attorney general, an office for which there were no important contests.

The Republican vote at the primary was nearly 80 per cent of the Republican vote at the general election, showing that the primary is a matter of keen popular interest in the dominant party, and of relatively little interest in the others. The primary brought out between a fifth and a fourth of the Democratic strength, a sixth of the Prohibition strength, and not quite a seventh of the Social Democratic strength.

In the Republican party there were 536 nominations for county offices out of a possible 568. In only 264 of these cases were there any contests, and there were only 101 cases, or 18.8 per cent of the whole, in which the nominee failed to receive a majority vote. The proportion of failures to receive a majority vote as Republican candidate for the assembly was about the same.

Independent candidates at the general election have little prospect of defeating the party nominees.

The cities are not extensively represented either in votes or in influence under primary system.

The report gives a complete tabulation by precincts of the votes for United States senator and for sheriffs. The vote for senator was tabulated because it attracted the greatest state-wide interest. The vote for sheriffs, in which the county rather than the State was unit, is also presented because, largely by reason of the many contests and the many candidates, it attracted an intensity of local interest which in the aggregate exceeded that in the more spectacular contest for United States senator.

J. D. BECK.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

JOHAN HANSSON'S BOOK ON WAR.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 28, 1910.

In the Public of Feb. 4 is a review of an enthusiastic single taxer's book on "War and the World Strife of Money," in which he alleges that the work of the "so-called peace societies is along fruitless lines," so long as they do not attack the cause of commercial wars—monopoly in land. Rev. Mr. Irvine, the ardent socialist, tells me only socialism can end war. Mr. Blackwell used to assure me woman suffrage must precede the abolition of war. David Lubin, the able founder of the International Institute of Agriculture, writes me that the work of forty-nine nations to prevent corners on food products, wool and cotton, will do more for peace than anything else.

Granted that peace societies are only one element in the many which are necessary to secure international justice. But let every man with a panacea remember one great historic fact. Less than one hundred men in the Constitutional Congress of 1787 worked out a method, later ratified by the voters, which for 120 years through a Supreme Court has prevented strife between our several States. The Civil War, in which one-half the nation tried to overthrow the national government, was another matter. Numerous interstate difficulties, more serious than many which have created many European

wars, have, through the Court, been quietly settled and conflict averted. Let it be admitted that the method of appointment to the Supreme Court may be improved, and that the Court has made serious mistakes in equity regarding other matters, but have not these interstate settlements been wholly beneficent? What would have been the alternative had there been no Court? In like manner, the Supreme Court of nations for which all peace societies are working may sometimes err in judgment in a world where no one is infallible. But the war system which in no case can settle any question justly to both parties and inflicts its greatest burdens on the innocent, is the only alternative.

Peace with justice was achieved between our forty-seven States in spite of gross defects in our systems of taxation, of industry and suffrage which persist today. Peace with justice may be achieved between forty-seven nations hundreds of years before industrial and political injustice may end; yet with the removal of any form of injustice anywhere all others become more vulnerable. Of course the vested interests are the chief maintenance of the war system today as of the evils in the present industrial system. But a comparatively few reformers by means of better organization may, under the new interdependence of commercial interests, accomplish more perhaps in international reform than in any other.

Before Mr. Fillebrown's thirty years expires, which he allows for the equitable establishment of the single tax, the workers for world organization may hope to see practically all nations settling practically all questions, not adjusted by diplomacy, at the World Court.

More has been achieved for world organization in the last twelve years than in the previous history of the world. The program already carried out at The Hague was essentially the same as that worked out by the peace societies even before the time of Cobden and Sumner. Cobden's interest in free trade did not prevent his devoting a large part of his activity to the cause of arbitration.

To overcome injustice in the complex world of industry and politics requires wide-spread education and personal sacrifice renewed in various forms in every generation. To end international war the conversion of fewer is necessary; the agreement of only four great powers to substitute the system of law for the system of war would lead to every nation following suit. The united boycott of any nation that refused to go to court would be the only necessary coercion. The end of international war would not at once prevent further civil war, but like chattel slavery, when once abolished, war would be ended for all time.

LUCIA AMES MEAD.

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A NEW FAIRHOPE AND ARDEN.

A mile and a half over a fine road from the Lackawanna Station of Berkeley Heights, is a beautiful wooded vale with a small stream flowing through it. It lies seven miles beyond Summit, N. J., on the way to Bernardsville, in a lovely and healthy country, with a train service of eleven trains each way daily to New York. The new "Free Acres" Association

has acquired between fifty and sixty acres of fine land about five hundred feet above the sea, with an excellent house adapted for an Inn. The land is subject to a mortgage of one thousand dollars. The Association has arranged to give out plots of land probably not exceeding an acre each, without purchase price, on perpetual lease, on the "single tax"-Fairhope-Arden plan, at an annual rental of three dollars per plot of 10,000 square feet (equal to four New York City lots).

The Club House will be put into order to be run as an Inn by the early spring, and tents with wooden platforms and camp-bed may be hired at any time at a moderate charge, say five dollars for erecting and removing, and two dollars per month; or they may be bought cheaply of a Camp Association which is not far off. Small loans to those who wish to build can be arranged. At Berkeley Heights there is a country store, a good country school, and a small library.

The round trip from New York to the Station costs \$1.10, commutation \$7.05 per month; the time from Sixth Avenue and 23rd Street, via Hudson Tunnels, is just one hour by the best trains, but the train service is not yet good enough to make it desirable for most commuters.

The land is about three miles from the trolley to Scotch Plains and also to Plainfield, so that, when necessary, passengers could get to town that way.

There is good water and good but neglected soil; the climate is mild and nights are cool. There are some mosquitoes, but proper drainage will suppress them.

Already a score of families have spoken for plots, of whom six will build at once. As some fifteen acres will be laid out for ball ground, tennis court, and Village Green, etc., there will be room for only about fifty allotments. The association will have the use of another fifteen acres of fine woodland.

The projector has reserved some twenty odd acres which it is believed will sell for enough to pay for the "Free Acres" part. If there is any profit, it will go to found a new "Free Acres" elsewhere.

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NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, March 8, 1910.

News of the British Parliament.

There is little additional news regarding the British Parliament (pp. 193, 202) except such as confirms our summary of last week. All the cable gossip about the abandonment of the Lloyd George Budget means no more than that there