
PRESS OPINIONS

Points in the Primary Contest.

The Chicago Record-Herald (ind. Rep.), March 2.—The fact is clear enough that in the particular election the direct primary law has been employed with terrific force against the party leaders. But it is not probable that a fatal blow has been struck at organization indorsements, and without such extraordinary popular interest as was exhibited Tuesday amid exciting and unusual conditions the trained bands will be found again working effectively at the old stand. It has been demonstrated, however, that there is very great help in the law if the voters will only do their duty, and through it we may be able to secure a much simpler and more thorough means for attaining the desired object.

+ +

Chicago's Mayoralty.

The Detroit News, March 1.—With Carter H. Harrison the Democratic nominee for mayor of Chicago, and Prof. Charles E. Merriam as the Republican, the voters have a clean cut division upon which to fix their choice quite regardless of party. Mr. Harrison is a practical politician, an expert in all the arts of the machine, and a reactionary who is opposed to every reform that would weaken the power of the machine and bring government closer to the people. Mr. Merriam is the exact reverse of all this. He is an idealist and a progressive Republican who is in hearty sympathy with most of the reasonable reforms. It is to be expected that both party machines will oppose Mr. Merriam and act as a unit in behalf of Mr. Harrison. The sole hope of Mr. Merriam depends upon the progressive element in the Democratic party. If these for the sake of principle are willing to cast aside partisan feeling Mr. Merriam has a chance; but the things that two party machines headed by so expert a machinist as ex-Mayor Harrison can do to an opponent who is unpracticed in the arts of handling elections are altogether too numerous to mention. The contest invites the interest of the whole country because its final result may be said to have a national significance.

+ +

The Lorimer Senators.

The Chicago Tribune (Rep.), March 2.—By order of the powers that rule, Aldrich, Bailey, Penrose, Bulkeley, Hale, Gallinger, Dillingham, Depew, Flint, Carter, Burrows, and the obscure representatives of organized money have challenged the honor, and intelligence, and self-interest of the people of the United States, challenged it with an insolence which they have never so plainly shown before. Let them go on, now that they have begun. Let them fill up the cup. Let them make use of their votes against reciprocity as they have against the recapture of the senate by the people through the direct election of senators. Let them fight tariff reform and every measure devised for the pruning of their tentacles, for the protection of representative government, of law abiding business and the general welfare. They

have won a glorious victory. It will be the costliest in the history of government by big business in this country.

+ +

Wages and the Cost of Living.

Market Letter (Warren W. Erwin & Co., 26 Beaver Street, New York), Dec. 12.—That wages have not nearly caught up with the great advance in prices of the last dozen years is certain. The latest verification of this fact is furnished by the annual report of the Bureau of Labor and Industries of New Jersey. This report, published on December 10, is apparently the freest from political bias of any recent report on wages and the cost of living. It shows that while wages have risen an average of 22.2% in the last twelve years, the cost of living, so far as foodstuffs are concerned, has risen 40.96%. The report says that, as a matter of common knowledge, house rent and other family requirements have gone up as rapidly as have the prices of foodstuffs. Under these conditions it is unsafe for railroad officials and other large employers of labor to count on either reduced costs for materials and supplies or reduced wages of labor.

+ +

Judicial Barbarism in Japan.

The (London) Nation (Lib.), Jan. 21.—The Japanese Court of Cassation has confirmed the sentence of death upon Dr. Kotoku, his wife, and twenty-three other Socialist prisoners, who stood accused of a plot to assassinate the Emperor. The trial has been a disgrace to a country which affects to be civilized. It was conducted from beginning to end with closed doors, and even the prisoners' counsel (who may or may not have been allowed to defend them) were sworn to secrecy. It is not even known what sort of evidence was produced, though confessions are alleged, a fact suggestive of torture. But, in fact, there has been no trial at all. Before the Court of First Instance, which alone examined the evidence of fact, the prisoners were undefended. Then, by a flagrant illegality, the case was carried over the intermediate courts, to the Court of Cassation, which can consider only legal points. A beheading without any form of trial, in the old-fashioned way, would have been more decent than this travesty on the forms of law. [Jan. 28.]—The memory of these victims of Japanese "justice" will be cherished with Ferrer's. They have suffered a judicial murder, and Japan cannot plead, as Spain could, that she acted in haste at a moment of danger and panic. The crime of this secret "trial," in which the court that weighed the facts tried the prisoners undefended, and the court which allowed a defense excluded the facts as beyond its scope, will remain a blot on the Japanese escutcheon which we see no reason to ignore or forget.

+ +

When Women Get the Ballot.

The Sacramento Bee (ind.), February 28.—What we may be coming to, when women get the ballot in California, is indicated by the action of the Women's Non-partisan Political League of Spokane, in propounding a list of sixteen questions for male candidates for office to answer. The questions relate

to matters of immediate and vital interest to the women themselves, their homes, husbands and children, and some of these matters are of a nature ruling masculinity did not think they knew about or dared to speak out loud about. Abolition of the third degree, restriction of the social evil, saloon closing and regulation, enforcement of the laws against gambling, compulsory water meters, reduction in cost of gas and electricity, a universal transfer system on street railways, street improvements, disposal of household garbage without cost, inauguration of a system of weights and measures, nomination of women to membership in Park, Health and Street-cleaning Departments, and also establishment of a Free Employment Bureau for Women, interest the new feminine electorate. The women intimate that an affirmative answer to their wishes will be as good as a nomination, if not an election. They even want appointments of women as police officers, for the protection of women, women probation officers, matrons for the city jail, and a municipal home for men and women! This is progression with a vengeance—not that it is too radical, but because the likelihood of getting those desirable improvements is now greater than ever before. What the women want they are almost certain to get.

* * *

The Universal Progress.

British Land Values (land value taxation). December.—In this election, which is the sequel or echo of the last, we feel more free than usual to take a general view of the issue. The last election was so decisive and fruitful, and the educational work done in the interval has been so far-reaching, that it is possible to associate our own fortunes and experiences with those in other countries. Whether we look at our Colonies, at the United States, or at the Continental nations, we find in each of them a force at work breaking up existing systems. Conditions vary according to the number of the countries, but everywhere progress towards freedom is noticeable. The fierce heat of the struggle in Britain is warning receptive minds and spirits in every part of the world, and these are sending back encouragement to the people here. Within the last few months Australia as a Commonwealth, and as a number of States, has taken a long step towards our object. There is a spirit of challenge and rivalry in her adoption and extension of the Budget policy of the mother country. Western Canada is moving, and the United States have broken away from deadening bonds which have held them in a monotonous and uninteresting imprisonment for years. This keen and sustained political exercise should produce a new race of strong and enlightened citizens in the world, whose civic spirit and strength will be the guarantee for the most beneficial results in the near future.

* * *

'Twas "Mary had a little lamb,"
Not many years ago.
But now she has to vegetate,
So high the prices go.

—Princeton Tiger.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

"BUT THE EARTH HATH HE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN OF MEN."

For The Public.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the Living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.—Paul's first Letter to Timothy, vi:17.

Tell those who have pride in their riches,
Those searching for power and place,
That they should beware of their hauteur,
And banish conceit from their face;
That the way they gained wealth—not the dollars—
Will count at the end of the race.

Go tell them their trust is uncertain,
When placed in their illgotten gain;
That if they have burdened the helpless,
'Gainst their credit is counted the pain;
For the hour is swiftly upon them,
When Justice between men shall reign.

Say, Rich Man, cease reading your titles;
They are worthless to you as the sand.
You can see on the wall the firm writing;
You can follow the Living One's hand.
Your vested intrenchments are falling;
God gave all His creatures the land.

E. G. LeSTOURGEON.

* * *

A RUSSIAN FABLE.

Kate S. Gates, as republished in Unity.

A peasant, it is said, was once on his way to town with a fine flock of geese he had been fattening for market.

As he plodded slowly along, prodding now one, now another with his long rod to keep them in the road, he was busily engaged with pleasant anticipations: his flock was sure to fetch a good price.

"There's not likely to be many as good," he said to himself. "I'm sure to do well; but I'll hurry along to be sure and get there in good season."

And, so saying, he flourished his rod vigorously amongst the refractory geese, to quicken their steps. But the geese resented his treatment of them bitterly, and stopped every one they met to complain of him.

"We are the most unfortunate, ill-treated geese in the world," they said. "Cannot you see how this mujik is chasing and prodding us without the least regard for our feelings? If he were not so ignorant, he would know that he ought to pay us reverence; for are we not the noble descendants of those geese who saved Rome long ago? Special feast days are even yet appointed in their honor."

"But what has that to do with you? You do