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The Republican Paper of Carroll County

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DUTY TO VOTE AT PRIMARIES.

Nex Tuesday week, 14th inst., a primary will be held under law, at every poling place, in this State and county, to determine who shall be candidates for office, to be voted for at the regular election on Tuesday, November 2nd, and while most of the voters consider it their duty to cast their ballots at the regular election, many of them seem to be indifferent to the no less important duty of exercising that privilege in the primary.

While this primary election law is open to some serious objections, it is a vast improvement, in one respect. It does not limit the voter to a brief period of time in which to cast his ballot. Under the old system the voter had to be at a party primary, as a rule, between 4 and 6 o'clock, P. M., and in some districts, within a shorter period than that. Political wire-pullers knew how to take advantage of that by bringing out a sufficient number of their adherents to overbalance the few who might attend the primary from other motives. Hence the voters were generally deprived of a privilege which, in time, they came to regard with more or less distrust and finally indifference.

The political managers have not been put out of business by the primary law, but the voters have been given a better opportunity to counteract their activity if it should happen to run counter to the popular sentiment.

It is unnecessary to amplify this idea. It iis patent. Hence the importance of having all the voters cultivate the habit of taking part in the legal primary and voting, on such accasions, as faithfully as at the regular elections. It is this idea, or principle, as it lies at the root of "government of the people, by the people, and for the people," that prompts the Sentinel now to urge all the voters to cast their ballots at the primary next Tuesday week. No matter what candidates you prefer to thus nominate, come out and vote for them. This is the duty of every voting citizen and he should not neglect it. In this, as in regular elections, let the majority rule; and that can only be accomplished by the voters casting their ballots at the primary elections.

AN EVIDENCE OF REPUBLICAN VITALITY

Some Republicans are expressing regret that candidates for the various offices to be voted for at the election in November could not have been decided upon without contests in the approaching primary. The thought is commendable, and cannot be altogether ignored. But after all there is another sidie to it. In the first place, if it could have been carried out all through the list of offices to be voted for, it would have been open to the serious imputation of manipulation by party managers, which is one of the evils, in theory, against which legal primaries are designed to protect the voters. In the second place, it argues such vitality and such interest by the members of the minority party, in its affairs, that they are not indifferent or careless concerning the outcome at the regular election. They believe there is a chance to win and are willing to take it. The Republican party is no less a minority party, today, in this State and county, than it has been for well nigh fifty years, but during the last twenty years it has scored some notable victories. It has elected two governors of the State in that time, has once had majorities in both branches of the legislature, and in this county has won some of the most important local affairs. There has been a reason for that, and it still exists. If ever any State was disgraced by partisan prodigality in its legislative halls, that State is Maryland. And not in the legislature only, but throughout official circles generally, a sort of dry rot has been eating into the finances and adding to the burden of taxation until it has excited widespread alarm and a determined purpose among thinking people to correct the evil. The exposure of this condition by J. W. O., in the Baltimore Sun, must bear fruit against the party in power. The leaders of that party are today endeavoring to invent some plan by which it can be charged with the work of reforming the wrongs of which it has been the author. They have even suggestetd the appointment of a commission by their State convention to take the matter in hand and apply a corrective. But they were not aroused to such an interest until the evil became so rank and offensive that it smells to heaven.

With such a condition in the majority party it is not surprising that there are evidences of renewed vitality in the Republican ranks, and that many of its members are coming forward and aspiring to have a share in the pending contest throughout the State. To the Republican party, aided by Independent Democrats, belongs the credit of delivering the State from the election frauds so brazenly perpetrated for many years, prior to 1895. Is it too much to hope that history will repeat itself in this year 1915, by another call to the Republicans and Independent Democrats to save the State from the waste, extravagance and graft to which it has been exposed since the restoration to power of the old regime. It is time for a change, and that fact is shown by the eagerness of many Republicans to get officially into the fray.

IS WILSON AFRAID OF CONGRESS?

While not much dependence can be placed upon statements of Washington correspondents in relation to the purposes, plans and intentions of the President, in dealing with the European situation, it may be possible that some of them have scented anxiety on his part as to what Congress may do in bringing Great Britain to book for its outrages on American commerce. Readers of the Sentinel may remember that it has several times suggestetd the imposition of an embargo upon war material, as a reprisal for this injustice to American shippers, and some of these correspondents now assert that Mr. Wilson is apprehensive that one of the first acts of Congress, when it meets in December, will be to adopt such a plan of reprisal. These correspondents say that the President, who is opposed to such a measure, desires to induce Germany and Great Britain to agree to the freedom of the seas, so that no necessity will exist, or no pretext, for congressional action on the subject.

The optimistic Administration appears to have reached the conclusion that Germany is willing to give up her submarine war methods and throw the onus of allowing the freedom of commercial intercourse between the nations upon the British, subject, of course, to well recognized principles of international law. That would mean, of course, if England agreed, the lifting the blockade of German ports. The idea suggested by the correspondents is, that the President is earnestly desirous of inducing the British government to accept this proposition as a solution of the difficulty that menaces American relations with that country through congressional action.

Perhaps much of this, as given circulation by these correspondents, may be pure speculation. There is no doubt, however, that the President is hopeful of a satisfactory understanding with the German government concerning the Lusitania disaster, and other events in which American citizens have suffered death, or the loss of property. But while negotiations on that subject are in progress the sinking of the Arabic will probably be held in abeyance, and Germany's sole purpose may be to delay action in that matter. Her apparent eagerness to maintain friendly relations with this country may be largely pretence. The skein is yet badly tangled and may not soon be straightened.

It is interesting, however, to know that the correspondents have "caught on" to the idea of an embargo on munitions as a reprisal for British intolerance. The Sentinel has probably been regarded as entertaining a wild theory on the subject. But if Congressmen are thinking about it, it is not, after all, so very chimercial.

NOT COMPLIMENTARY TO EITHER SIDE

Deprecation of a primary contest by the Republicans in this county, because it may create such bitterness of feeling as will affect the result adversely at the regular election, is not much of a compliment to the party fidelity and sincerity of those who believe in the importance of a Republican victory, as a means of reforming the abuses which have crept into the State government, and especially into thhe legislature, under Democratic control. To be a sincere Republican means to prefer principles to men. If primary contests are conducted fairly their results, therefore, should be accepted without malice and free from a vengeful spirit. And, without much doubt they will be.

It is only when unfair means are employed, to gain victory, that any justification can be found for retaliation later atthe polls. It is impossible for the Sentinel to speak for all the Republican candidates seeking nomination at the primary on the 14th inst., but it has heard none of them say unkind things about their opponents. If all of them will go before the voters on their own merits and without using unjust methods in furtherance of their interests, no cause for resentment can remain with the unsuccessful ones.

In the interest of party harmony, therefore, those who favor particular candidates, and especially those who are looked to for party management, should abstain from employing any means that may be unfairly prejudicial to any of the candidates. The end in view is higher and of more importance than the interests of any individual, and in this matter leaders and voters need to get together, shoulder to shoulder, and work for a victory in November.

Actuated by that spirit on the part of all concerned the end of the primary campaign will witness no hard feeling on the part of contestants and their friends. It rests with all, therefore, to do the square thing and clear the way for party triumph. With that spirit manifest in the primary a notable victory can be achieved.

HERBERT R. WOODEN

Mr. Herbert R. Wooden, who had filed his certificate for nomination as a Republican candidate for the State Senate, but withdrew before engaging in an active canvass, "in the interest of party harmony," has heretofore served the State so admirably, as a member of the House of Delegates, that the desire among the Republicans is universal that he shall again consent to grace their ticket for that representative position with his name. With that added to those of the three who have filed certificates of nomination, the Republicans will enter the campaign with an exceptionally strong ticket. But aside from party interests, Mr. Wooden is needed at Annapolis. His ability, supplemented by his experience, has made him a valuable legislator for the benefit of all the people, regardless of party and political interests. It must be said of him, with the utmost sincerity, that his duty to the State comes, with him, before considerations of partisan advantage. Those, if such there be, who think otherwise, have misread his character. He is a Republican of as decided convictions as the most ardent believer in Republican principles, but cannot be swerved from the plain path of duty by partisan influences. The phrase, he "is needed at Annapolis" is not original with the Sentinel. It was used in the hearing of the editor, and so aptly expresses an existing condition concerning the necessity of sending the best men to be found to the legislature, that the Sentinel has adopted it in relation to Mr. Wooden. It is to be hoped he will see, for himself, that he "is needed at Annapolis" and consent to come before the people as a candidate for the House of Delegates. He might well aspire to a seat in the State Senate, and would have made a splendid candidate for that position, if he had not withdrawn from the contest for nomination. He is yet a young man and may gain a still higher station. Further experience in the House of Delegates will only add to his fitness to represent the people in such a station.

Before this appears in the Sentinel Mr. Wooden may have yielded to the earnest solicitations of those who are anxious for his candidacy. In that event this article will be only a just tribute to his worth, and it will stand unaltered if he shall finally conclude to refrain from permitting the use of his name to complete the legislative ticket.

THE COTTON CONTRABAND. WHAT IT MEANS TO THE SOUTH

Great Britain has declared cotton absolutely contraband of war, an act that will probably be seriously injurious to the interests of cotton growers in the Southern States, already suffering from the interruption of their traffic abroad in this staple product of that section. And the Government does nothing to relieve the stress thus imposed upon a large section of the country. Perhaps it can do nothing directly to prevent Great Britain from placing this product on the contraband list, but it can demand and enforce the right of American citizens to deal in it with countries not absolutely at war. The British Government assumes the authority to seize cotton consigned to citizens of Sweden, and of other countries near to Germany, unless it can be shown that the consignees in such countries have no intention to reship it to Germany. Unfortunately, for the interests of the Southern planters, the United States has not protested against the exercise of such a right by the British government, in the past, in relation to copper and other contraband articles, and so may not be in a position to object strenuously against this new movement of that government. But is not its assumption a stretch of international law? Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Holland are neutral countries, and there is no just reason why this country should be embarrassed and hampered in its business intercourse with them. If they take the risk of dealing with Germany it should be Great Britain's business to deal with them and not with American shippers. Whether the reverse of that is technically international custom, or not, this country should be strong enough in purpose to demand a square deal for its citizens. Technicalities have been thrown to the winds by all the belligerents in this European war, and there is no good reason why the United States Government should stand so straight that it is necessary to lean back in some things to maintain a perpendicular attitude.

Much of Great Britain's action in relation to American shipping has been unfriendly, and once the Administration vigorously protested against it, but without effect. The American people have been led to believe that a more decided policy was about to be inaugurated, and that another note had been prepared in which our original contention was emphasized. What has become of it? Is the cotton contraband order of England the answer to it? Some persons have believed that the Administration at Washington was partial to the Southern States, and that may be true as a sentiment, but it has not been very forcibly illustrated by action. The manufacturers of war material in the Northern States are reaping a golden harvest, by supplying the Allies and Russia with munitions, but the South has no part in the profits of this business, and its people have fallen on harder times than those of the North, where, however, there are also more or less adverse conditions in the ordinary manufacturing lines. But there is, or should be, a community of interests between North and South that should prompt them to help each other. We need to be, in sentiment and purpose, one people, from the Lakes to the Gulf and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Times are hard in the North, but harder in the South, and likely to become still harder if this contraband order on cotton does not provoke some American interference with the arrogance of Great Britain.

Can it be, that because the South is safe for the support of the Administration in its fight next year to retain political power, it needs no looking after in a business view, and must take care of itself, while all energies must be exerted to strengthen Democratic fences in the North? Isn't it best, that from a business point of view, the government should know no North no South, no East no West?

DEATH OF EX-MAYOR THOMAS G. HAYES, OF BALTIMORE

Hon. Thomas G. Hayes, ex-mayor of Baltimore, died very suddenly, at the sanatorium at Oakland, Garrett county, on Friday last. He had been staying at Mountain Lake Park with his sister, and had walked to Oakland, a mile and a half away from that resort, during the afternoon. He was taken ill on the street and was removed, by a physician who was called, to the sanatorium, where he died at 5 o'clock, a half hour after he was stricken.

Mr. Hayes was, in some respects a unique character. His most prominent trait, perhaps, was his devotion to the Christian religion, yet, one of the reporters who sketched his life said of him, that he was "as good a hater as he was a friend," paradoxical as those statements may be. The incident that gave rise to that opinion was his break with Senator Gorman. In 1895 he desired the Democratic nomination for Governor, and was promised the support of the Senator. But Mr. I. Freeman Rasin had other views and prevailed upon Mr. Gorman to desert Mr. Hayes. When that became known to the ex-mayor, he accused Mr. Gorman of treachery, denounced him to his face and declared that he would never rest until he had seen him defeated. He carried out his threat and became Mr. Gorman's implacable political enemy. Perhaps this story does Mr. Hayes injustice. There is no doubting his sincerity as a christian. He was a lawyer in active practice, but no professional duty prevented him from preparation to teach a class of 150 men the International Sunday School lesson every week. The Sun published, every Saturday, an outline he had prepared for the day following. The last of these was on the lesson for last Sunday, on "God's Care of Elijah," and it appeared in last Saturday's Sun. But Mr. Hayes had a very ardent and sanguine temperament and could not restrain his indignation for crookedness in politics. Perhaps his example in that respect deserves to be more generally imitated.

Mr. Hayes was a native of Anne Arundel county and was 71 years old. In his 18th year he left school in Alexandria, Va., and enlisted in the Confederate Army. He served till the end of the war and was with Lee in the surrender at Appomatox. He studied law while holding the chair of natural sciences in the Kentucky Military Institute, where he remained four years, and then returned, in 1872, to Baltimore, where he became a leading member of the bar. Before becoming mayor he was elected to the House of Delegates, in 1879, then to the State Senate, and was next City Counselor, and during President Cleveland's first term was United States District Attorney. He was mayor for one term and was defeated for renomination in 1893. That ended his political career. He was urged to become a candidate for the U. S. Senate next year, but refused.

The Sentinel has given this rather extended sketch of Mr. Hayes because, as a public man, his example needs imitation. He was for many years a member of the Central M. E. Church South, but his funeral took place from his home on Monday, and his remains were interred in Loudon Park Cemetery. Miss Julia Hayes, his sister, is his only near relative.

IS THERE NON-OBSERVANCE OF CIVIL SERVICE RULES?

What has become of the Civil Service Rules, which prohibit Federal office-holders from taking an active part in primary election campaigns? Or do not those rules apply to such contests? This is a question for the Civil Service Commissioners. There is certainly an impression prevalent that those engaged in government service, as officials of the appointive class, have been admonished to abstain from active participation in contests of individuals for party nominations. Whether there is a law of Congress demanding this is not perfectly clear, but it is law by implication, as the Commissioners are authorized, by the act creating the Commission, to formulate and enforce rules for the government of office-holders in their relations to political affairs. As the matter stands the Commissioners have adopted the restrictions referred to, and, while they are without authority to impose a penalty for their violation, they may report such violations to the appointing power. This, at least, is the Sentinel's understanding of the matter. Federal officials are given the free right to vote their sentiments at all elections, primary and regular, but must refrain from electioneering, or be exposed to the danger of being reported to the official who appointed them, for a violation of the rules, if this view of the subject is correct.

Attention to the matter is called by the primary contest now being waged between the Lee and Harrington factions of the Democratic party in this State, in which Federal office-holders are actively engaged, in this locality at least, on the Lee side, in defiance of the rules. These officials, however, have not much to fear from partisans of Mr. Harrington. They are not likely to be reported for pernicious activity in this contest. They might be called off if time permitted the proper effect of an effort to that end. But the "red tape" proceeding would so procrastinate action by the authority at Washington, that the primary would be over before a decision could be reached. After that the opposition would, in all probability, drop the matter, not desiring to bring down punishment on the transgressors of the law. This, practically means that in most cases the law is a dead letter, more's the pity.

This condition is to be deprecated by citizens who have respect for law, but there is yet another feature of the subject that is, perhaps, even more reprehensible, and that is the employment of Federal patronage and the promise of appointment to office, as a reward for the exercise of active influence in favor of one side or the other. Doesn't that smack of bribery? But our Democratic friends are up against it in this primary campaign, and must make the best they can of it, unless, indeed, the supporters of Mr. Harrington have the grit to protest to Washington against all undue and improper influences, or the pluck to take a just revenge at the polls, at the regular election in November. For that is about their only remedy for a wrong that demands heroic resistance.

Caution has to be observed by readers of the daily newspapers, if they would not place too much credence in the stories printed about the prospect of an agreement, between Germany and Great Britain, concerning the under-the-sea warfare of the former and the blockade by the latter, by which the sea will be made free to neutral nations. It is to be feared that much that is written about the subject is pure speculation on the part of the writers. These newspaper men get a hint from some unreliable quarter that an agreement, of the character mentioned, is in contemplation, and a vivid imagination causes them to "jump to conclusions." They may be perfectly sincere in believing that what they say about it is reliable, but it, after all, is about as near the truth, perhaps, as to say that a barrel can be built around a bung hole. How many many times have the people been mislead into the expectation that something was about to be accomplished for the pacification of the warring elements in Mexico, because the daily newspapers said so. These stories have not all been without foundation, but they have, generally, been exaggerated and, in the end, have come to nothing. There may be a prospect, or at least a forlorn hope, that Germany and Great Britain contemplate coming to an understanding by which the commerce of this country can be carried on without the danger of the seizure of ships and cargoes by Great Britain, or of their being sent to the bottom of the sea by German submarines. But the belief that such an understanding is really impending, must be exercised with extreme caution. Newspaper stories concerning it should be taken with many grains of salt.

A Full Republican Vote at the Primary Election, Tuesday, September 14, Will mean an active campaign Preceding November 2.

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