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POLITICAL PROPHETS ARE KEEPING QUIET TILL RETURNS ARE IN

PROSPECTS FOR A CLOSE VOTE AT PRIMARY ELECTION

With Ten to Be Selected, It's Hard to Guess Who Will Be Eliminated—Good Vote Will Be Cast.

These be hard days for the political dopesters. Ordinarily, shortly before election day and continuing until the last ballot has been counted and the results tabulated, some prophet can be found at any street corner telling just which candidates are due to get the approval of the voters, and which ones are due to get the gate.

The new plan, however, has bewildered the prognosticators. With nineteen candidates, and ten of them to be selected, there isn't any easy way of picking the winners. About the only method that is at all satisfactory is the elimination route, but after about five have been shucked out as hopeless, there are still others to be scratched. There seems to be no other way than to wait for the returns, which will probably be late in coming in.

The Herald office has conducted a sort of a guessing contest the past two or three days. A number of men have marked their guesses for the ten to survive the primary and the five to pass the acid test of the city election. These ballots were marked with the name of the man who made the guess, and carefully filed for future reference. If, when the figures are totaled, any one of them is at least 80 per cent correct, he shall receive due credit.

The campaign, which has been comparatively mild, began to take on signs of life Monday, the day before election. Several of the candidates, and the friends of others, began to think about advertising matter. Up until Monday, the T. P. A.'s who are boosting Si Thompson pretty hard, were the only ones who had done any advertising. Judging from the amount of campaign literature which was printed Monday and today, the streets will be flooded by nightfall.

No Mud-Slinging. The campaign posters, however, are not the sort that usually appear in city elections. It is possible that some of them may have been overlooked, but to date not one has shown up which does any more than urge the merits of some particular candidate. The ordinary procedure is to get out slates of one sort and another, and then use the advertising appropriation to knock all the other candidates. The list this time, however, is of such a high order that there isn't much opportunity for mud-slinging.

Despite the fact that the campaign has been exceedingly quiet there has been a considerable amount of interest in the outcome, and the vote at noon. The railroaders, too, have a habit of casting their ballots after they get through work.

A number of the candidates are fairly certain to show considerable strength. It is conceded that S. W. Thompson will draw a big vote, and some people are of the opinion that he will lead the field. The two soldier candidates, D. C. Bradbury and W. L. O'Keefe, are also expected to score heavily when the votes are counted, as is F. W. Hayes, whose candidacy was sponsored by the volunteer firemen. The fire boys are hard workers and they have a habit of making their influence felt in the elections.

J. B. Irwin is believed by many to be one of the men who will draw a big vote. He is especially favored by the railroaders. A. V. Gavin and Harvey Hacker are also favored by the same element, and unless there is a disposition on the part of the railroad men to concentrate on one candidate, should stand a show to remain in the election finale. R. M. Hampton, C. A. Newberry and F. W. Harris also have a big number of supporters.

One of the surprises of today's election may be the strength shown by G. W. Nation. Mr. Nation's candidacy hasn't been taken any too seriously by some of the dopesters, but it is said that he has a tremendous following in East and South Alliance, because the principal plank in his platform concerns that prime nuisance, the septic tank. It is not at all improbable that he may show up with a good vote to his credit.

Figures From the Wards.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon, 170 votes had been cast in the four wards of the city. The women, who seldom mark their ballots till afternoon, had cast only a sixth of the total number, but they were just beginning to come in. Twenty-four votes had been cast at 2 p. m. in the First ward; Second ward, 47 men, 10 women; Third ward, 45 men, 5 women; Fourth ward, 29 men, 10 women.

The polling places are: First ward, Central school; Second ward, city hall; Third ward, city library; Fourth ward, Episcopal parish house.

George D. Darling returned Saturday from spending "market week" at Omaha, where he purchased a supply of new spring goods.

Shumway Suit Against Warrick Was Dismissed

G. L. Shumway's suit against S. K. Warrick for \$100,000 for alleged slanderous statements made in connection with the fight before the state banking board against Shumway's proposed state bank in Scottsbluff was dismissed Monday morning by District Judge Westover.

The court held that Shumway had no cause of action, sustaining the demurrer filed by Warrick in the suit. If was maintained by the defendant, and the court upheld the contention, that statements made before the state banking board were privileged. Even if the allegations in the plaintiff's petition were true, the court said, there would still have been no cause of action.

The dismissal of the suit ends the various tangles that arose over Shumway's efforts to secure a charter for a bank here, denied by the state banking board.

W. L. O'Keefe of Alliance left for Gering yesterday afternoon to testify in the case.

George M. Carey, secretary of the Alliance chamber of commerce, left yesterday afternoon for Gering, where he was scheduled to address the newly organized Lions club in the evening.

Rev. A. J. Kearns Talks to Business Men on "Americanism"

At the Monday noon luncheon of the chamber of commerce, the members were invited to bring with them one of their employees, but only a comparatively small number availed themselves of the privilege, due either to the expense of the dinner or to the natural shyness of employees. Some forty-odd business men turned out, however, the gathering being somewhat larger than usual. The feature of the meeting was a brief address by the Rev. A. J. Kearns, who took for his subject "Americanism."

Mr. Kearns spoke of the necessity of defining Americanism as a spirit which should have an active force in all the affairs of our commercial, industrial and political life, rather than a mere slogan on a banner in a parade. The speaker pointed out certain elements of overemphasized class consciousness which had produced economic situations wholly un-American and of a selfish character. He cited the fact that the wheat growers' association last October called upon all the growers in five states to hold wheat for a price of \$3 per bushel, which was in effect a conspiracy in restraint of trade. Another instance of the same nature concerned the cotton growers. These co-operative organizations, he said, by appealing to class consciousness, have practically nullified the anti-trust laws, and yet, because of the nature of their organizations, cannot be held accountable.

All such emphasis of class consciousness, he said, develops the theory that society is but an arena, in which competing classes shall struggle to the death for supremacy. Russia is now in the grasp of the disciples of this theory. Nowhere is such a theory more out of harmony with the constitutional processes of government than in the United States. Class consciousness has been the disturbing element in our national life, Mr. Kearns declared, and the question is how far can such stratification of a democracy continue and remain true to the constitutional processes which we have set up as the basis of government.

The speaker presented the need of legitimate organization, but declared that there should be a spirit of loyalty to American institutions which would bind every class together for the best interests of the commonwealth. He quoted President Taft in a recent statement that it is useless for the aroused class consciousness of capital to seek to break organized labor. It cannot be broken and ought not to be broken. An industrial democracy was pointed out as a process not only American, but the only one in which there is hope of giving the country a thoroughgoing industrial peace. He urged that American problems be met in an American way.

Mr. Kearns touched upon the American Sabbath as a fundamental American institution that had proved itself a bulwark of our national life. In a democracy, wherever man is a sovereign, it is desirable that an institution which has contributed so largely to the integrity and character of the plain man should be preserved as a truly American institution. He pointed out that the American Sabbath had been a bulwark and likened it to the great sea wall that has been built as a protection to the harbor and port of Galveston. If any enterprise should say to the citizens of Galveston, "We propose to build a great edifice if you will let us tear down the great wall to get materials," no matter how legitimate the work might be, it would be folly for the city to consent to the destruction of its chief defense. The Christian Sabbath has been such a bulwark, the speaker said, and no commercial enterprise, no matter how legitimate, should be allowed to build itself up through the destruction of this truly American institution.

LLOYD THOMAS TELLS OF AUTOMOBILE TRIP TO TEXAS OIL FIELDS

SPENDS SOME TIME LOOKING OVER OKLAHOMA

Hopes by Means of Press Credentials to Gain Admittance to Clara Smith-Hammon Trial

WAGONER, Okla., March 9.—When Mrs. Thomas and the writer left Alliance a month ago yesterday we expected to have reached our southern objective—Houston, Tex., by this time, but we have found so much to delay us and our stay in Wagoner has been so much longer than we expected—about two weeks, that we are still 700 miles or so from Houston, although we expect to reach there early next week.

Starting from Lincoln the afternoon of February 19, we have journeyed somewhat leisurely by auto through southeastern Nebraska, eastern Kansas and western Missouri, and are leaving Wagoner tomorrow morning for the continuation of our trip on south, going to Muskogee, Tulsa and Marietta, Oklahoma, and then south to Houston, with perhaps time for a short run down to Galveston.

We have found the roads excellent so far and have had no car trouble. It rains here in this part of the south to "beat the band" but the roads are in good shape on the main highways shortly after a rain. We arrived here just a few days after the country had had twelve inches of snow—the only snow this winter, and the natives are talking about it yet, although the fruit trees are all in bloom the farmers have most of their spring crops planted, and the weather is balmy and summerlike to us.

Our first cottonfields appeared just north of Wagoner. Many of the fields were unpicked last summer and fall and the crows are now turned loose in the cottonfields to help themselves. The growers claim that with the present low price of cotton it don't pay to "gin" it. Many of them are turning their agricultural efforts towards other crops and many of them have good oil royalties coming in regularly from their oil or gas wells and it don't make so much difference to them just what the price of cotton is.

A short distance above Jola, Kansas, we entered the shallow oil belt and followed it down here most of the way. Wagoner country is studded with oil wells and drilling rigs. Most of the 350 shallow wells in the county average only from 250 to 1250 feet in depth, with production of from 5 to 50 barrels of a good grade of oil. New wells are brought in every few days but they occasion no excitement and but little attention seems to be paid to an event that if it happened near Alliance would make us Allianceites "sit up and take notice."

We expect to travel through some of the famous deep oil pools before we return to Alliance, in central Oklahoma and Texas, with a visit to the new fields around Houston.

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Thieves Steal Car of Ray A. Tompkins on Sunday Evening

After several months of comparative inactivity, the auto thieves got on the job in Alliance Sunday evening. The five-passenger Allen touring car used by Ray A. Tompkins in his auto livery business was taken from a private garage, 112 Yellowstone, some time after 10 o'clock on that evening.

Mrs. Celia Weaver, who lives at that address, reported that she had seen two strangers in the vicinity of the garage on the evening before. She only caught a glimpse of them and was unable to furnish a description.

The garage was not locked at the time of the theft, but the automobile was, although any key to an Allen automobile would open it. The theft was reported to the police early Monday morning, and a complete description of the car has been sent to the police officers in nearby cities and towns. The car was not new, and there are a number of peculiarities which will make identification comparatively easy.

The car is described as follows: Blue-black with yellow wheels; factory number 50,985; motor number 50966; equipped all around with Miller 32x4 tires; state license number 61318. At time of loss, metal sign reading "Auto Livery, Phone 67," was suspended between top and bottom windshields. The wiring to the tail light had recently been removed from the cable, taped and run along the frame.

The car was insured against theft with the W. L. O'Keefe insurance agency.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Lucas will start today for an automobile trip to Gillette, Wyo., where Mr. Lucas has a homestead of 320 acres. They will be away several days.

The doughboys look with amazement on the "plucked" officers suing to get back into the army.

This seems to be a bad winter for the weather prophets.

SONS OF BACCHUS HOLD THEIR FIRST AND ONLY MEETING

BOOZE CLUB COMES TO A MOST PAINFUL END

Treasurer of Youths' Society Nicked for a Heavy Fine—Intoxicated Lad Gets Thirty Days.

The Sons of Bacchus are no more. Their first meeting was at one and the same time a brilliant success and a painful failure, all depending on how you look at it. The Sons achieved the primary object of their organization, but they got into trouble with the police, not only the city, but the county. Alliance is admitted to be one of the most favored places for clubs of one sort and another, on the face of the globe but the fifteen lads who organized the Sons of Bacchus can't be made to believe a word of it.

The story of the Sons of Bacchus reads like fiction. Unfortunately, it isn't. It seems, from the evidence gathered by the county attorney, that fifteen lads, a week or so ago, gathered together and organized a society. There was no constitution by-laws, but there was a treasurer—and thereby hangs a tale.

The subject of this association of youths, some of whom were of high school age and none of whom had reached twenty-one, was, so some of the members admitted, for the purpose of securing and drinking intoxicating liquors of one sort and another—anything, so long as it had the "wallop." The dues, cash in advance, were \$2.50 per member. Whether this sum was weekly, monthly or yearly dues, or simply a preliminary membership fee, is not known, but it was all in the hands of the treasurer. The total funds amounted, therefore, to \$37.50. Two or three other youths wanted to affiliate with the organization, but the cash-in-advance rule was strictly adhered to.

Many Names Considered.

There was some discussion as to what name should be given the society. The favorite was the Sons of Bacchus, it being argued that this was not only a beautiful name, and euphonious, but that it fit the club like a glove. Some of the members, it was learned favored the Night Owls; other thought the Sons of Rest was an appropriate title. No decision was ever made, but the Sons of Bacchus was the most favored and the majority of the boys referred to it in this way.

Just what ceremonies the initiates went through will never be known. It is thought that there was a terrible oath, maybe an obligation signed in blood, for all the world like the famous gang of robbers formed by Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. One of the obligations was that no matter what happened, they would stand by each other. This is always a part of the obligation in such cases.

The scene changes to the evening of Friday, March 11. The Dirty Dozen, or the Sons of Bacchus, met for their first official session, thirteen of the fifteen being present. The president was there; so, unfortunately for him, was the treasurer. It was decided to take a trip to Hemingford to a dance. Then came up the question of liquid refreshments. The treasurer had the club funds in his jeans. He withdrew \$25, gave it to another member, who gave it to a brakeman who gave it to a bootlegger, and within half an hour the Sons of Bacchus had in their possession a gallon jug of the vilest smelling hooch that has ever been uncorked in the office of Sheriff Miller—or anywhere else. Three drops of it would kill a jaybird; a wineglass full of it would poison a dog.

Covered With Corncobs.

The thirteen Sons of Bacchus loaded into the three cars and headed for Hemingford. At the edge of town they stopped, gathered about in a circle, performed certain mystic rites, uncorked the jug and passed it around. At Berea the performance was repeated. In the car driven by Ralph Watteyne, the treasurer, the jug may have passed about a bit between drinks, for on arrival at Hemingford one of the occupants, Meredith Bradley was stewed. His friends, fearing detection, covered him up with corncobs and started in to enjoy life.

Sheriff Miller was notified shortly thereafter, and the next morning young Bradley was taken into custody and a charge of intoxication placed against him in county court. Other members of the Sons of Bacchus were called by County Attorney Basye to testify under oath, and one by one, accompanied by fathers or treading the hallways alone, they came. Some of them entered the office hardboiled and defiant, and remained to weaken.

As mentioned before, no one knows just how binding the oath of the Sons of Bacchus was, but it took very little argument to convince over half of the youths that there was no honor in protecting a bootlegger who peddled its rank a poison as the hooch they had bought. Treasurer Watteyne held out for a time until he learned that some of the others had spilled the beans. He was held, charged with three counts, the purchasing of intoxicating liquor, having it illegally in his possession in a place other than his dwelling, and transporting the same. The fines on these three counts aggregated \$300, and under the last count his Hippomobile might have been confiscated.

In county court, Judge Tash soon disposed of the two cases. Bradley pleaded guilty and drew a thirty-day jail sentence. Watteyne Monday afternoon also pleaded guilty to the first two counts, and was fined \$200 and given a thirty-day jail sentence. The latter, however, was suspended during good behavior. Although the law is so worded that his automobile might have been confiscated, County Attorney Basye thought the other punishment sufficient, and withdrew the last charge.

Thus the Sons of Bacchus, organization was brought to an untimely end. Its first session was its last, and from the trend of talk among the members, it will never be reorganized.

A meeting of the Business Woman's club was held last evening in the office of the chamber of commerce. The first part of the evening was devoted to business and the following officers were elected. President, Maude Spacht; vice president, Opal Russell; secretary-treasurer, Avis Joder. Various other items of business were discussed, after which followed a social hour when the members got acquainted. Light refreshments were served. The next meeting will be a luncheon, to be held the first Thursday in April. Fifty girls were in attendance.

"Restaurant Prices Cut Slightly," says a headline. It is thought the patient will survive the injury.

Alliance Baseball Association Formed Last Saturday Eve

The Alliance Baseball association is the name given to an association formed at a public meeting held at the chamber of commerce rooms last Saturday evening. The meeting was called by Secretary Carey and all baseball enthusiasts were invited to attend. Some fifteen or twenty responded to the invitation.

Dr. G. J. Hand was selected as temporary chairman, George M. Carey, secretary and Fred Hayes, treasurer. Plans for financing a baseball team were discussed by Billy Wood, R. A. McCormick, Dr. Hand and others. Mr. McCormick's suggestion that an association be formed, with monthly membership dues as well as an initiation fee, in order to keep up a year-round interest in the national game, was adopted. The membership fee was set at \$15, and the monthly dues at \$1.

A membership committee of nine was chosen to interview merchants and others and the attempt will be made to secure a hundred members for the association. A. H. Harper, Billy Wood, R. A. McCormick, W. R. Harper, A. G. Isaacs, John W. Guthrie, Ed. McNulty, George Nation and Mr. Felters. During the discussion, attention was directed to the need for a downtown ball park. At present, the games are played at the fair grounds, which is declared to be not only too far out but so arranged that the spectators in the grandstand have a hard time watching the game. It has been suggested that the committee get in touch with the owners of the ground where the old fair grounds were located, with a view to leasing them and erecting a grandstand and fixing up a real ball park. Most of the men present at the meeting were of the opinion that the project could be put across.

County Assessor to Attend Conference at Lincoln Friday

County Assessor John Pilkington will leave the last of the week for Lincoln, where he will attend a meeting of county assessors and county clerks which has been called for Friday, March 18, at 9 a. m. At this meeting will be discussed the matter of simplifying the plan for the valuation of real estate for purposes of taxation. The message received reads as follows:

"Law requiring revaluation of real estate makes imperative conference of assessors called for Friday, March 18, at Lincoln. State board urgently requests your attendance and that county board make provision for same problem. Important. Shortage of time makes simplified plan necessary."

Jack Guyton Sentenced to Term of Six Years in the Penitentiary

Jack Guyton must serve six years at hard labor in the state penitentiary at Lincoln, in connection with the assault of Miss Marie Dawkins at the Lincoln hotel January 15.

Overruling Guyton's motion for a new trial, District Judge Hobart Saturday afternoon pronounced sentence upon him.

Guyton will appeal to the supreme court. Meanwhile he has been brought from the county jail at Gering to the city jail at Scottsbluff, for temporary imprisonment.

For Guyton's offense, the minimum penalty is six years, and the maximum—Scottsbluff News.

LITTLE HOPE HELD FOR A RENEWAL OF POTASH INDUSTRY

INVESTORS STAND TO LOSE A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY

Only Hope Lies in Discovering Ways to Recover Other Chemicals From Lake Water

Three years ago the production of potash from the alkali lakes in the sand hill regions looked up as the coming industry of Nebraska. Millions of dollars were invested, and in a few instances investors made comfortable fortunes by selling out before the crash came. For the most part, however, investors stand to lose a great deal of money, says an Associated Press correspondence in the Platte Valley Daily News.

Less than three years ago there were a dozen or more companies engaged in the production and refining of potash in the state. All but two of these companies are now closed. For the most part the closing down of these plants was brought about by the companies going bankrupt. The two exceptions are not producing potash for commercial purposes, but are engaged in experimental work.

During the early days of the potash boom in Nebraska the product had a ready market in the United States at \$125 a ton. During the year following the fall of 1917, production of potash from the plants in this state amounted to approximately 1,700 tons daily.

Thousands of tons of potash produced in Nebraska are in storage near the great fertilizer manufacturing plants of the east and south. Producers soon after the signing of the armistice refused to sell their product for less than \$125 per ton and dealers refused to buy it at that figure. Since then the price of potash has fallen steadily.

Farmers of the south and elsewhere are said to be without money to purchase fertilizer and manufacturers, therefore, are not buying potash at any price.

Reports from Europe that the potash mines of Alsace, now under French control, have resumed operation also tends to throw cold water on any immediate prospects for a resumption of production in Nebraska. The potash from these mines can be imported to the United States much cheaper than it can be produced here by the present process. Before the war, Germany was exporting potash to this country and selling it at about \$12 a ton. The cost of manufacturing potash in Nebraska plants was estimated at approximately \$30 a ton.

Solids obtained from the brine evaporated from the lakes of Nebraska contained approximately 75 per cent potash. The remaining 25 per cent of solids contains soda and other chemicals of commercial value. Chemists are now engaged in finding a working process for the recovery of these by-products. If this problem is solved, the reduction of brine for potash will become secondary.

Carl Modiste of Hoffland, one of the first men to appreciate the possibilities of the alkali lakes, is one of the experts engaged in trying to find a commercial outlet for what is now by-products in the manufacture of potash.

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Knights of Columbus Plan to Give Their Fourth Degree Here

Alliance Knights of Columbus are making extensive plans for conferring the fourth, or patriotic degree, upon a large class of candidates, in the near future. The rules of the society provide that the ceremonies must take place upon a day recognized as a national holiday. It requires a special dispensation and a class of at least a hundred candidates, and both of these will be secured. District Judge George F. Corcoran of York, master of the fourth degree for Nebraska, will have charge of the ceremonies, and Federal Judge Martin K. Wade of Iowa City is to be one of the distinguished guests. Visitors from Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota and other states will be in attendance for the ceremonies, banquet and dance. Committees in charge of the affair will be announced later.

Special Vaudeville Feature at Imperial Theater This Evening

J. Coates Lockhart and his Scotch lassies, concert artists and entertainers, will be a special vaudeville attraction at the Imperial theater this evening. These people have been working together for years and have made a decided hit wherever they have appeared. The program will be varied and pleasing. With Mr. Lockhart are Miss Bess Adgate, soprano and accompanist and Miss Lulu Gieseke, violinist and pianist. The photoplay feature tonight will be Miss Louise Glaum in "Sex."

Dr. J. P. Weyrens made a professional trip to Minatare Monday.