

and the probability are that the machine and the bosses will resume their sway quite in the old fashion.

Philadelphia Bulletin: With former Speaker Cannon leading the line of "come backs," followed by McKinley and Foss, of Illinois; Sullo-way of New Hampshire; Hill, of Connecticut, and Longworth of Ohio, the republican line-up will be increased in something more than mere numerical strength, while the presidential prestige, which sufficed to whip recalcitrant democrats into line in the doubtful passages of the last session, will have been seriously weakened.

New Haven Journal-Courier: The American view, in fact the only sane view, to take of political victories in this country is that the American people have spoken, have registered their preferences, and are ready to abide by the consequences. Connecticut has displayed this year the relatively vindictive spirit she showed in 1894, when out of the clear sky came a solid republican victory. Then, as yesterday, the situation was confusing and prophets were rare. Then, as today, we knew that a free form of government has powers of expression that are terribly partial when, in fact or fancy, the human stomach needs food, and immediate employment at good wages is withheld; when capital charges its lack of dividends to the administration in power. * * *

Hartford Courant: We were assured that the issue was Wilson. Well, the verdict has been rendered. The people do not believe in the democratic party. It went into power by a minority vote and after two years' trial it is rejected. It has never proved equal to the task of governing the country. It has failed again and the people say so. * * *

Schenectady Gazette: Whatever gains they (republicans) have made will be understood as a rebuke to the administration of President Wilson—one that is not only undeserved but, we believe, unwise. It can not well be regarded, even by stanch republicans, as wholly desirable in view of the present state of affairs in Europe.

Syracuse Post-Standard: The results of congress elections in New York can not be read as an indorsement of the Wilson administration; and the vote upon congressmen is the direct test of the approval or disapproval of two years of federal democratic policies. * * *

Chicago Daily News: The lesson of the late election is that adherents of the new third party ought to return to the ranks of the two old parties and there continue their earnest work for progress in national affairs. In this way they can be most effective for good.

Chicago Journal: In spite of a crowd of unfavorable happenings which made it seem that that stars in their courses were fighting against the democracy, the American people have endorsed Woodrow Wilson, the president who has maintained peace with honor and led his party to the accomplishment of more constructive reform in eighteen months than ever before was packed into five years.

Chicago Post: The plain fact is that under the depression of war, people did not and would not discriminate between the progressive and the republican programme. They were against the whole democratic economic plan. To hit it, they seized the most familiar and the most destructive weapon they could find.

San Francisco Chronicle: The nation's rebuke of the democratic policies is wide and emphatic. Another cheering feature is the practical elimination of the progressives as a disturbing factor in most of the states, so that two years from now a united republican party will once more lock horns with the democracy. The party of prosperity will resume control of the government. The result of this election will inspire confidence in business men that after the next national election they will be let alone to pursue their enterprises under the ordinary conditions of competition, and be undisturbed so long as they break no law not applicable to all other citizens. The business world will accept the results of this election as evidence that a working majority of the American people are tired of turmoil and resulting stagnation and idleness and are prepared to restore the control of the government to the party of patriotism, judgment and reason.

Almost anyone can find a bright spot after the election returns are all in. The republicans can render up thanks that there were enough democrats elected to the house to make it impossible for Uncle Joe Cannon to be elected speaker, and in that position resume his former role of the old man of the sea for the G. O. P.

REPUBLICAN BOASTS

Now that the election is over, the republicans come out of the storm cellars and claim every republican victory for senator, congressman, or state officer, as a rebuke to the president. This is just what might have been expected. They talked about local questions during the campaign, but NOW, according to republican logic, every democrat who went down to defeat was defeated because of opposition to the administration. Well, let them get what consolation they can out of the returns, they can not deny that the people have elected a democratic congress to support a democratic president while he continues a democratic program. The house of representatives is near the people, and it remains democratic in spite of the return of the progressives to the ranks of the standpaters. The crisis is past, and by 1916 there will be a host of new democrats in the country.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE VOTE

A press dispatch brings the news that Lathrop Brown, democratic candidate for congress in the First district of New York, has been elected by one vote over his opponent. This is the home district of Colonel Roosevelt.

This incident goes to show the importance of one vote in deciding a contest which, in turn, may have decided the control of congress. In connection with the duties and obligations which the franchise imposes, the ideal condition could be said to exist if every voter would always look upon his own vote as the one vote that would be needed to decide the fate of the candidate or question he was voting upon. It is of the highest importance to the welfare of the country that voters should form opinions and that they should not lose an opportunity to express them at the ballot box.

THE SALOON VS. WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The vote on woman suffrage was so close in Nebraska (for—90,782; against—99,036) that it is safe to say that the activity of the saloon against it was sufficient to defeat it. It is disappointing that in so intelligent a state as Nebraska those who conspire against the home should be able to tie the hands of the mothers of the state while they—the conspirators—plot against the sons. And how humiliating it must be to the good men who were deluded enough to join hands with the saloons—how humiliating it must be to them to be found on the same side. Well, this condition will not last long. In a little while the people will understand WHO are the real force against woman suffrage, and WHY—and then "votes for women" will win by an overwhelming majority.

W. J. BRYAN.

It is announced from the headquarters of the republican national committee that the recent suggested ruling with respect to southern representation in national conventions has been adopted by the bulk of the states and is in effect. Under this new rule a southern state is entitled to only about half as many delegates as it formerly had. It won't matter so much in 1916 how large the southern representation will be, since there is no republican president to select the accredited delegates.

Whatever of purpose men may seek to read into the decision of the voters at the late election, one fact is most apparent. And that is that in the majority of the congressional districts and the states the people placed their seal upon the splendid record made by a promise-keeping political organization. It is the setting of their mark of approval upon a sane and constructive program of reform long desired and which must not be subject to interruption until finished.

The name of Nelson W. Aldrich does not appear among the names of those standpat republicans who demonstrated their ability to come back. The most plausible explanation is that Mr. Aldrich was not a candidate. Whatever else may be said about Mr. Aldrich, he never showed much liking for the melancholy task of sitting around and finding fault with the wheel of progress just because it insisted upon going around.

One of the striking things about the late campaign was the speed with which practically every one of the republican campaigners got away from the question of how to properly endorse

the president. They generally declared that the president needed no endorsement, and anyway it was no way to endorse a president by asking the people to send back to him a congress that belonged to the same party that he did. The fact that to elect a republican congressman was a poor way to endorse the president seems to have slipped the attention of voters in several districts.

ELECTION OF POSTMASTERS ENDORSED

The result in the Third congressional district in Nebraska is a distinct endorsement of the principle of electing postmasters at primary elections. At the beginning of President Wilson's administration Congressman Dan Stephens of the Third Nebraska district announced that open primary elections would be held for the selection of postmasters in the towns in his congressional district. As the democrats were in power nationally, Congressman Stephens announced that only democrats could be candidates for the position of postmaster, but all patrons of the office would be entitled to express their choice and that he would recommend for appointment the democratic candidate receiving the highest number of votes for postmaster in the primaries in their respective towns. This plan has been followed for the past two years, but it did not meet with the unanimous approval of the democrats in Mr. Stephens' district. In a number of the towns, democrats who felt that they were entitled to the position of postmaster did not secure the largest number of votes at the primary, and among these disappointed candidates were a number of newspaper editors. The dissatisfaction of the disappointed candidates grew in volume until there were open threats of opposition to Congressman Stephens' re-election. At the regular state primaries held last August, the democratic opposition to Congressman Stephens' plan of electing postmasters put a candidate in the field and made a vigorous fight against Stephens' re-nomination. His opponents felt sure that they could prevent his re-nomination and there were some threats that if they did not defeat him at the primaries that it would be difficult for him to obtain a majority at the November election. When the state primaries were held, it was found that Mr. Stephens had been re-nominated by a vote of about three to one, showing that the democrats in his district, notwithstanding the opposition from a number of local leaders, endorsed Stephens' plan and re-nominated him by a splendid majority. When Mr. Stephens was elected to congress in 1912, his majority was about 4,000. At the recent November election, notwithstanding the opposition to his postoffice primary plan, his majority was about 8,500. The only reasonable construction to put upon this great majority is that enough republicans approved the postoffice primary plan to increase Mr. Stephens' majority about 4,500 votes, thus more than doubling Mr. Stephens' good majority of two years ago, and electing him this year to congress by a majority probably larger than any other democratic congressman received north of the Mason and Dixon line. The result in the Third Nebraska district is a complete answer to those who have believed that it was better politics and produced more satisfactory public servants for the congressmen to personally select the postmasters than to permit the patrons of the office to recommend the officer who was to serve them.

A victory—and the democrats won it with the democratic senators and congressmen working away at Washington while the republican candidates were campaigning. And a still greater handicap was found in the fact that in the close states the republicans far outnumbered the democrats in newspapers.

Senator Cummins of Iowa, who came through with an election at the hands of the people, is now out in full cry after the republican nomination for president. Having been progressive enough to suit the conservatives ever since a democrat entered the white house, he seems to believe the standpaters who have just been raised to their old seats of power will be willing to repeal their old rule against presidential candidates coming from west of the Mississippi.

Colonel Roosevelt declared in several speeches that he would never go back to the republican party. The November election result makes it equally clear that there will be no olive branches extended from the other end of the line.