

things pleasant for him while he is in office but they can not save him from the verdict which history will pronounce against him if he allows to pass unimproved the splendid opportunity which he now has to render a real and permanent service to his country.

Sharing the Punishment

The members of a party stand or fall together. As the rain descends upon the just and the unjust alike; as a cyclone visits the homes of the righteous as well as the homes of the unrighteous; so political calamities bear with equal severity upon all members of the party organization. If a party does wrong the punishment that follows is not confined to those who are guilty of the wrong but is visited upon all who represent the party.

Eight years ago the democratic party put its hand to the plow and began the work of reform. Defeat dampened the ardor of some in 1900, but still the party continued to cultivate the seed sown in 1896. Again the season was unpropitious and by 1904 there were enough who were discouraged to turn the party organization over to those who had not been in full sympathy with the party's purpose. This partial abandonment of the cause of reform aroused a widespread resentment—a resentment more extended than was generally suspected. Even the republicans with their perfect organization and their repeated polls underestimated the protest that was in preparation. The storm which, unnoticed by editors and public speakers, was constantly gathering force, broke on election day and created havoc everywhere. It was not directed against the reorganizers alone, but it hit promiscuously all who were identified with the party in an official way. Those who had tried to prevent the reorganization of the party went down in the general wreck with those who were conspicuous in leading the party astray. In nearly all—if not in all—the states the state ticket ran ahead of the national ticket. To this extent there was a discrimination against the national leaders and in favor of the party in the state, but this discrimination was only shown to a limited extent. Alva Adams succeeded in defeating Governor Peabody in Colorado, and Governor Toole escaped defeat in Montana. But Governor Sparks of Nevada failed to win the senatorship to which his services had clearly entitled him and which at any other time he could have secured without an effort. In like manner Bartine of Nevada was slaughtered in the house of his friends, and Cockrell was overwhelmed in Missouri. The defeat of Senator Cockrell is an excellent illustration of the manner in which the innocent are made to suffer with the guilty. On every question that has come before the senate during his service he has been the champion of the people. He has the confidence of all democrats and the respect of republicans everywhere. The democratic party in Missouri was unyielding in its devotion to democratic principles and it loved Cockrell and yet so great was the apathy caused by the party's action at St. Louis and so deep was the indignation felt by the rank and file of the party that Senator Cockrell fell with the national ticket and received the shaft that was aimed at the reorganizers. If the Missouri democrats who neglected to vote had thought the senator in danger they would have been present at the polls, but they did not carry the process of reasoning far enough to estimate the full effect of their course.

Folk of Missouri had lead enough to escape but his majority is woefully short of what it should have been, and he, too, would have suffered defeat but for the number of votes which he drew from the republican party.

There is a lesson, however, to be drawn from

the indiscriminate suffering which a grave party mistake causes. It teaches the necessity of active and earnest work on the part of those who would make the democratic party deserving of success. If the penalty fell only upon the guilty there would be less care taken to put the party right and keep it right. But when the whole party must bear the blame for the action of those who obtain control, the members of the party who desire to make the organization effective in behalf of reform, are forced to be ever upon the alert.

Let the experience of 1904 be a warning for the future. Let the work of organization begin today in order that the party may regain at the first opportunity the ground that has been lost. The house of representatives can be changed two years from now, and the first steps can then be taken toward winning the senate. Without crimination or recrimination, let the members of the party begin at once the work of making the party a positive reform force in the country. A great reverse has been suffered by the party—the worst since the war—let it be turned to advantage, as far as may be, by utilizing the lessons which it teaches.

The Stay-at-Home Vote

As the returns come in it becomes evident that the result was due not so much to an increasing confidence in the republican position as to dissatisfaction among democrats with the position taken by the democratic party. While in some cases this dissatisfaction led democrats to vote the republican ticket, yet in more cases it led them to stay at home or to refuse to vote on the national ticket. For instance, in Illinois Mr. Roosevelt's vote is only about 33,000 in excess of Mr. McKinley's vote four years ago, while Judge Parker's vote is about 170,000 less than the democratic vote in 1900. Thirty-three thousand democratic votes cast for Mr. Roosevelt would account for the republican increase, if it is not accounted for by the natural increase in population, while if that number of democrats did actually vote for Roosevelt it would still leave more than 140,000 votes unaccounted for. The socialist vote and the populist vote are not yet obtainable, but it is evident that in Illinois the democratic party is much stronger than the returns would indicate, and it only requires a straight-forward, honest fight for reform to bring out that vote and put the party in fighting condition again in that state.

In the state of Indiana eighty-two out of ninety-two counties gave Roosevelt some eleven thousand votes less than McKinley had four years ago, while the same counties gave Parker some 75,000 less votes than the democratic candidate had in 1900. Here again it is evident that the republican strength has not been largely increased but that the democratic vote did not come out.

In Iowa the total vote this year is not as large as it was four years ago. The republicans have gained about 22,000 and the democrats have lost about 40,000. If the entire republican increase was made up from democratic votes, it would still leave about 20,000 votes unaccounted for.

In Missouri the indications point in the same direction. At the time of the writing of this editorial it is impossible to obtain the figures from all of the states, but if the situation in other states is as it is in the states already reported, the president can not regard the result as a personal vindication.

If the loss in the democratic vote is not offset by a corresponding gain in the republican vote, the result can not be considered as an endorsement

of republican policies but rather as a condemnation of the democratic plan of campaign.

This matter will be considered more at length when the results are all in, but attention is called to the figures given above as indicating something of the situation in the nation. And in this situation there is encouragement to the party. It is much easier to so shape the policy of the party as to bring back dissatisfied democrats than it would be to convert republicans. There is every promise, therefore, of our party recovering in 1908 what it has lost this year, and as the exactions of the great corporations become heavier and heavier we can expect an increasing revolt among republicans.

Now is the time to plan for 1908! Let every democrat buckle on his armor. Various means may be employed for spreading democratic doctrine but one of the best ways is for each democrat to pick out a republican among his acquaintances and supply him with literature. It is much easier to make an impression upon the voters between elections than it is during the campaign. After a national ticket has been nominated party lines are drawn and conversions are more difficult. Let the democrats begin now to do their campaign work. When a democrat reads a good book upon economic questions let him loan it to his republican neighbor. When a good speech is made along democratic lines, let each democrat secure a copy for his republican neighbor. Good work can be done also by circulating democratic newspapers—the newspaper being the least expensive form of literature.

Do not delay. Begin at once.

The Individual's Part

In the heat of a campaign speakers and writers emphasize the government's part in shaping the destiny of the country, and this is proper, for the form of government and the administration of the government are matters of vital concern to the people. Self-government is immensely superior to government by a few, first, because it is more just, and second, because it has an educational influence upon those who participate in the government. Self-government offers the greatest stimulus to individual effort and gives the maximum of development. Just government for the same reason produces better results than unjust government. Unjust government discourages the citizen against whom it discriminates while it is apt to demoralize the citizen whom it favors. Injustice in government is everywhere an evil influence and it may be manifested in the failure to enforce good laws as well as in the enactment of bad laws.

Government should not only be fair to all in the affirmative good that it brings, but it should be fair as well in what it prohibits. It is well that the citizen should understand how largely the country may be influenced for good by government and how seriously it can be affected by bad government. The campaign furnishes an opportunity to bring this question to the attention of the voters, and it would be better still if the voters were always sufficiently alert to keep the matter in mind.

But after the government has done all that it can do, the citizen to a large extent holds his destiny in his own hands. No government can be so bad but what the wise may escape some of its severity; no government can be so good but what the foolish may waste some of its advantages.

In the lull that follows the excitement of a campaign we may, therefore, profitably consider the means by which the individual may secure at least a partial protection from the errors of his government and profit by its virtues. The aim of the government ought to be to secure to each