

# THE MONITOR

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## WHO DID IT?

NOW that the democrats have been defeated by the largest popular vote ever cast in an election in the United States, and instead of a democratic majority in the national congress, which was their most earnest plea, the republicans gained overwhelming majorities in both houses, the democrats are casting about to see whom they can blame for their defeat. They boasted of having played their best card in putting forth Cox and Roosevelt. They claimed the better end of the argument on the League of Nations question on the ground that the people desired an international obligation such as the league imposed. The president had preached this and the democrats believed his personal influence would at least carry part of the west while the "solid south" would simply follow suit. But all of these calculations were completely upset by the tremendous republican majority. They were further surprised by the news that Tennessee, Missouri, Maryland and Oklahoma, all below the Mason and Dixon line, had gone over into the republican fold, besides West Virginia, a border state, and Ohio the home of Cox and the state of which he has been governor for three terms. Further, they notice several towns in such southern states as Florida, Mississippi and Alabama going republican. In the face of all this, in the midst of their maze, they have been seeking a "goat." Some, such as our esteemed contemporary, the World-Herald, select Mr. Bryan as the one responsible for this disaster. They say his inactivity in the campaign on behalf of Cox brought about the party's defeat. Mr. Bryan, on the other hand, attributes the defeat to Mr. Wilson, who forced his League of Nations in the campaign as the most important issue and "solemn referendum," and suggests that Mr. Wilson resign immediately in favor of Marshall. Others, still, attribute the result to poor management by the national committee. We know that all of these contributed something to the results of the election, but we by no means agree that these are the main causes. Democratic inefficiency, extravagance, waste, mismanagement and hypocrisy forced this most emphatic expression of the people's dissatisfaction at the same. The people were not willing to further intrust their living with novices and experimenters. Then there was the vote of the colored people. They, too, had suffered long enough from gross injustices and discrimination and expressed themselves most emphatically in this way.

As to Mr. Bryan's inactivity in the campaign, we are inclined to find justification in his position. We do not believe any considerable element of even pro-Wilson democrats could have even expected a different course from Mr. Bryan, in the face of the treatment given him at San Francisco. The pro-Wilson demos boasted of having buried Bryan so deep politically that he would not be able again to be resurrected. How could these same "malefactors" as Mr. Bryan elects to call them, expect his support for the ticket put forth by the hands of those who had thus crucified him?

But there was a Jim Reed of Missouri, another victim of the San Francisco steam roller. This man was shamefully treated in the convention, not being allowed to take the seat to which he had been duly elected. Reed, although opposed to the Wilson autocracy and the League of Nations, was, we believe, sincere and conscientious and very powerful in the politics of the democratic party which fact the demos overlooked. Both Reed's and Bryan's states went republican by the largest plurality ever recorded in the history of their states.

Therefore, when feeling about for someone, or something on which to lay the blame for their defeat, we would advise the party to think on these things.

## VOX POPULI, VOX DEI

FOR the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

The political campaign just closed was the most interesting from many standpoints, of any the nation has experienced in its history. The electorate in this instance was made judge and jury to decide the merits of a case of our foreign policy. They were called upon to pass on a "solemn referendum," on the League of Nations as Mr. Wilson brought it from Paris. The president placed the issue in the campaign refusing any reservations which changed the obligations set forth in the covenant.

The senate to which the president had submitted the treaty had decided that unless that instrument was amended so as to leave unimpaired the national independence of the American government, and thereby serve our best interests at home, it could not be ratified. The president contended that this co-ordinate branch of the government had neither right nor authority to decide a question of foreign policy such as the treaty and the League of Nations made. Consequently he made two famous swings around the country, appealing to the people directly, to support him in his contention and force the senate to ratify the covenant. The people's mandate would be accepted as final.

The senate in the meantime twice refused to ratify, and twice returned the document to the president. The president in turn forced the issue in the national campaign, making the people both judge and jury. Campaign orators of renown in both political parties plead in piercing tones for endorsement of their case, while the people, as judge and jury, sat in silence until these "lawyers" of "humanity" placed their case before them. On November 2 this popular court rose up in the strength of its own judgment and passed on the case. The result was the largest republican majority ever recorded in the history of the nation. Even the "solid south" cracked, and Tennessee, Oklahoma and Missouri fell over fish and feather into the republican fold. The people will not be fooled all the time. They know their needs and interests, and when they find these being juggled by those to whom they have entrusted them, they very soon, and emphatically, repudiate them. The voice of the people is the voice of God.

## ARMISTICE DAY

THIS is the second anniversary of the signing of the armistice which stayed the strife and silenced the death-hurling guns in the world-enthralling war. It should be a day of thanksgiving. For all the people of the world who were engaged in that war it should be kept as a memorial

of rejoicing and thanksgiving for the cessation of blood shedding between children of a common Father. For all Americans it should be a cause of profound gratitude that guns were silenced on that day, for had it not been so hundreds of thousands of the flower of American manhood would have been slaughtered in the strife. For Americans of color, too, it is a day of profound significance; for our gallant sons had been marked for slaughter, the charge upon Metz, strongly fortified and deemed impregnable, had been planned. The Ninety-second division, composed of America's black soldiers, were to be used as shock troops. They were to lead the advance on Metz. White American troops were to follow them up. We know how great the slaughter would have been. The Ninety-second division would have been annihilated. Others would have met the same fate. But by that Providence that overrules the strife was stayed and slaughter ceased. Armistice Day should be kept as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God for His goodness to the children of men.

## A GOODLY FELLOWSHIP

WERE it true that President-elect Harding were of Negro ancestry he would find himself in a goodly fellowship. Men like Alexander Hamilton, John James Audubon, Alexander Dumas, Alexander Pushkin, Frederick Douglas, Henry M. Tanner, S. Coleridge Taylor, Stanley C. Braithwaite, Charles W. Chestnut, Benjamin Banneker, Dr. Daniel Williams and Alexander Crummell, just to mention a few of the immortals of Negro blood and ancestry, who have risen to eminence constitute a goodly fellowship to which one should esteem it an honor and privilege to be admitted. None of these were or are either intellectual or moral weaklings, but men of renown to whom the world pays tribute.

## SYNCOATED SPASMS

### REFINEMENT

EVERY once in a while you hear a man or woman say something about refinement and if you ask eight out of ten folks what he or she is talking about, they will tell you that it is some sort of Greek or Latin word that nobody pays much attention to these days. The latter part of this sermon is all right, but the former is all to the ragged. The word is not Greek or Latin, but good old fashioned English. Refinement means smoothing down the rough spots and varnishing up a little. It means getting a struggle hold upon our roughneck proclivities and allow our gentle nature to take a peep at the world without getting scared. Many people imagine that if they tried to be refined, the general public would take them for an easy mark and start handing them the hot and heavy. Such an idea is as moth eaten as an ancient disposition. The truth is just the opposite. The more refined a dude or dudess is, the easier time he or she is going to have going through this ping pong world. A refined person can go a heap more places than a person with a buzz-saw temperament and do a lot more things that are impossible for a human onion with a megaphone mouth. Even a lion pauses to wonder when he meets up with a bunch of refinement. He is just like the public. Refinement is so

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