

The Plattsmouth Journal

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What a lot of difference the immediate circumstances sometimes make in one man's opinion of another. The "good fellow" today becomes a scoundrel of deepest dye tomorrow, if in the meantime he has tread upon our toes. For instance, Peary has lately expressed his opinion of his rival, Cook, in the euphonious terms of "lar" and "faker," but it was not always thus. In Peary's book, "Northward Over the Great Ice," the writer referred to Cook in gentler terms as follows: "To Dr. Cook's care may be attributed the almost complete exemption of the party from even the mildest indisposition, and, personally, I owe much to his professional skill and unruffled patience and coolness in an emergency. In addition to his work in his special ethnological field, in which he has obtained a large mass of most valuable material concerning a practically unstudied tribe, he was always a helpful and indefatigable worker." This tribute, it hardly need be said, was written before Cook became a rival of Peary in the quest of the north pole.

WHEN TAFT MEETS DIAZ.

On Saturday, Oct. 16, President Taft is scheduled to meet President Diaz of Mexico, on the border line of the two countries, shake hands with the octogenarian ruler of the southern so-called republic and indulge in the platitudes and high-sounding phrases of diplomacy with a man who, if a tenth of what is told of him is true, rivals in despotism and heartless cruelty the lately deposed sultan, Abdul Hamid, or Abdul the Damned, of Turkey.

It has been difficult to get at the actual conditions in Mexico, owing to the fact that the press of the country is either subsidized or intimidated and that almost insurmountable difficulties are thrown in the path of tourists seeking enlightenment. But enough has been learned to make it reasonably certain that Diaz has been a blight upon Mexico's progress and a disgrace to civilization.

In the American Magazine for October John Kenneth Turner begins a series of articles based upon his personal experiences and researches in Mexico, that will startle and should arouse the liberty-loving people of the United States. Unless the conclusions of Mr. Turner are grossly exaggerated, the country is in a deplorable condition and, in view of the high character of the magazine which vouches for Mr. Turner's articles, and the fact that they are corroborated in large measure by other information at hand, there is no reason to doubt their truth.

A large proportion of the population of Mexico is living in virtual slavery. These slaves get no money. They are beaten, half starved and worked almost to death. Sometimes, if they become refractory, they are beaten to death. They have no hope of better conditions so long as Diaz remains dictator of the republic in name but despotism in fact. But a while on Saturday, October 16, President Taft is pouring honeyed words of compliment into the ears of the wrinkled old vulture who fattens upon the miseries of his unfortunate people, it will be well enough for the people of the United States to pause and reflect upon the conditions in Mexico and to ask themselves if there really is any good reason why this nation, through its official representatives, should profess absolute blindness to the terrible conditions existing on its borders and profess to see only virtue and prosperity where crime and degradation stalk hand in hand?

STANDPAT OR NON-PARTISAN?

Is it the duty of a progressive Re-

publican to vote his party, when it is headed toward reactionary policies under reactionary leaders or to vote against it?

If he votes with the party, and all the other progressive members vote with it, is it not certain to keep on going in the same direction, and with greater confidence?

If, on the other hand, so many progressives cast a "vote of protest" that there is no mistaking its significance, is not the party more likely to adjust its policies so as reasonably to satisfy the demands of these numerous members whose continued support is indispensable to its success?

Progressive Democrats were confronted with this same question of policy in 1904, when the reactionary element captured the party and nominated Judge Parker for president. So many thousand of them, in all sections of the country, voted for Roosevelt, by way of protest, that reactionary control of the Democratic party was dead as a mackerel the morning after election. If their votes had been cast unanimously for Parker, however; if he had perchance been elected, the Democratic party might still be serving Mammmon, just as the Republican party is doing under Taft, Cannon and Aldrich.

Ex-Congressman Foss of Massachusetts takes the view that it is better to do as the progressive Democrats did, and vote to rebuke one's own party when it has proved flagrantly faithless. In a letter explaining why he is a candidate for Lieutenant governor on the Democratic ticket, he says:

We have been intimately associated in this long and arduous struggle to induce the Republican party, our party, to redeem its solemn pledges, honor its avowed principles, regarding these great and dominant issues of reciprocity and tariff reform. I have at last, as I believe have tens of thousands of other Republicans, get completely out of patience. I feel that the time is now at hand when the best men of both parties must stand together, regardless of party designation, and demand the legislation that the interests of Massachusetts need, and which will lighten the burdens of the people. President Taft, in his Winona speech, asserted that those who had voted against the Payne-Aldrich bill had "abandoned their party." If they have, thank God for it! If Republicanism of today means subserviency of public welfare to the ultra-protected interests—then it is time that we know it. Wherein does my course essentially differ from that of so many insurgent Republican senators and congressmen who joined the Democratic party on this tariff measure—just as I am doing? How long are you going to stand for this sort of thing? For my part I am going to fight. When I see the cost of living, the high prices of food, clothing and other necessities of life, I think it is time that party considerations give place to higher motives. "He serves his party best who serves his country best." The standpat Aldrich-Lodge hierarchy of the Republican party has succeeded and bluffed us to the extreme limit—and it would seem that their time and our turn has finally come.

There is no other state this fall in which progressive Republicans can so easily and safely follow Mr. Foss' advice as they can in Nebraska. They can register here their votes of protest without involving the sacrifice of a single office essential to party supremacy.

There are only non-partisan offices to be filled at the coming election in Nebraska. Judges of the supreme court and regents of the university control no party patronage. They cannot legitimately use their offices in any way to further party advantages, in a campaign or at any other time.

The Democratic candidates, moreover, stand squarely on a non-partisan platform. They are making no partisan appeal. Neither they nor the party to which they belong could construe their election as a partisan victory.

On the other hand, the campaign of the Republican candidates is a distinctly partisan campaign. It is not only partisan, but factionally

partisan, in that it is entirely in the keeping and under the auspices of the standpat element of the party. Should this campaign win it will be hailed as a standpat victory, reflecting the sentiments of the people of Nebraska.

This is why, should the Democratic candidates be elected, the victory would be more a non-partisan than a Democratic victory,* just as the defeat of the Republican candidates would be not so much a Republican defeat as a standpat defeat and a repudiation of Republican reaction.—World-Herald.

A Pennsylvania man has slept for twenty-one years in a chair tilted against the wall. To what heroic measures we men must go to keep cold feet off'n our backs.

Gifford Pinchot, having left the president's traveling company, is back at Washington, and is again making a good deal of noise. All the same, the relations between the president and Ballinger and himself seem to be serene. Notwithstanding the bitter antagonism between Pinchot and Ballinger, according to the president both the contestants are right. The logical interpretation of the settlement is that the natural utilities in water power which belong to the government are to be retained for impartial distribution and, at the same time, to be turned over to monopolies, all of which means that monopolies are to have the whole. This disposition of the matter is precisely the same in effect as the pretended reduction of tariff duties. In that case monopoly triumphed over the masses of the people; in this case, notwithstanding Pinchot's bluster, monopoly will get the best of the government's possessions.

PAYING FOR WASTE.

A few days ago President Taft said that he would ask congress to appropriate \$10,000,000 to be used for planting trees to take the place of those that have been wantonly destroyed. The object is good, and no doubt the appropriation is necessary. Nevertheless, the Chicago Journal is right when it says that the proposition is one "to tax the plain people \$10,000,000 to replant forests laid waste by greedy lumber barons in haste to garner vast unearned profits through their tariff privilege."

"The American people," it says, "pay a special tax to the lumber kings to destroy our forests and another special tax to plant new trees." This, of course, is quite in line with our general policy. We talk about conserving natural resources, and are very anxious lest our coal and ore beds fall under the control of monopolists, and yet by "protecting" coal and ore we put a premium on the exhaustion of those deposits. We tax the trees off the face of the earth and then propose to tax them back again into life. And so of coal and ore.

The same thing is true of our shipping. On this subject the Journal says:

The American people pay a special tax to enable the steel trust to destroy our once great shipbuilding industry by charging the American shipbuilder more for raw material than his British competitor pays for the same material from the same mills. Mr. Taft coolly demands that the American taxpayers furnish another special tax of \$8,000,000 a year to restore the shipbuilding industry. Why not equalize matters at the expense of the steel trust by the very simple process of reducing the tariff on their products to a point where American shipbuilders can save that \$8,000,000 a year by low costs?

But that is not our way. Our way is to hire men to waste our resources and then to hire other men to repair that waste, while at the same time continuing the conditions which have produced the waste and also continuing paying wages to the wasters. It is not fair, however, to hold Mr. Taft responsible for this foolish and fantastic policy—or at any rate it is not fair to hold him solely responsible for it. He is but following a precedent of many years' standing. His policy in this regard is that of his party, and also, be it said, that of his predecessor. For a generation and more the country has been engaged in just this sort of business. We have been toiling feverishly at

the task of exhausting our natural resources, apparently feeling that, unless we used them up, they would get away from us. And now that we find that they are getting away from us through our prodigal use of them, we suddenly realize that we must do something to save them.

The people want public officials who comply with the law in every respect.

Is he not a fine officer who waits to be requested by the county commissioners to make his quarterly reports long past due? We ask the voters of Cass county.

The Weeping Water Republican has opened its "mud batteries" on the Journal. We are not in the business of skinning skunks at the present time, but will wait until the prices are higher.

The idea of a little one-horse Republican sheet pitching into the Lincoln Star because that paper has come out in favor of a non-partisan judiciary! It reminds one of the old saying of "a mouse gnawing at the heels of an elephant."

Oh, no, the Journal does not have to be in a hurry to convince the voters of Cass county that C. D. Quinton has already failed in his duties as sheriff. If an officer is requested time and time again to perform his sworn duty and then fails in that duty, we say he is not a fit man to hold the position.

The county attorney, the county clerk and the county treasurer have nothing to do in the way of compelling an officer to present his quarterly reports to the county commissioners. The county commissioners are the officers to see that the law is carried out in this respect, and nearly everybody knows it.

If he is not a pretty specimen of humanity and a noble officer who is delinquent in making his reports to the county commissioners, for at least half the time these reports have been due, to ask for a third term; and then wait so long to do his duty? Candidly, Mr. Voter, do you think such an officer worthy of a third term, even if the third-term proposition is right?

Don't try to lay the blame of Quinton's non-conformity of the law in failing to make his quarterly reports on anyone else but the county commissioners. "Where was the Democratic county attorney? Where was the Democratic county clerk? and where was the county treasurer?" is asked. Why, they were attending to their official business, and complying with the law in making out their regular quarterly reports.

When we confine ourselves to the true facts in the case of Quinton, why should there be any defense? The commissioners know that he is delinquent on these reports. Even should he file these reports on next Tuesday, that would not signify that he had complied with the law. The law says he shall file such reports "on the first Tuesday in January, April, July and October." Has Quinton complied with the law? That's what the people want to know.

WHY WE WONDER.

Commissioner Switzer says that Mr. Quinton made reports for first and second quarters of 1909, and if this is so the quarter ending October 1 is the only one this year for which he has not reported and the commissioners met October 5, not a very long delay to cause such a howl to go up.—Weeping Water Republican.

In the commissioners proceedings of October 5 the following appears: "A resolution was this day received requesting the sheriff to file his quarterly reports according to law, and the board instructed him to file all quarterly reports on or before next regular meeting of the board."

If there is only one report due, why did the county commissioners instruct the sheriff to file "all his quarterly reports?" And why did Commissioner Switzer say that he was after Quinton to file all his reports six months ago?

NATIVE BORN CANDIDATES.

It is with pride the Journal points to the number of Cass county native-born candidates on the Democratic ticket:

Frank E. Schlater for Treasurer. D. C. Morgan for Clerk. Ed. S. Tutt for Sheriff.

Miss Mary E. Foster for Superintendent of Schools.

A. J. Snyder for Register of Deeds.

Five of the nine Democratic candidates for county officers born in old Cass! And how commendatory in the Democratic party of Cass county to recognize true worth and ability in native-born sons and daughters of the county! A most graceful compliment to the products of one of the oldest and best counties in Nebraska. And the voters will not fail to recognize this same merit and ability at the polls on November 2.

THE LINCOLN STAR TELLS WHY

The World-Herald directs attention to the argument advanced by the Lincoln Star why the people of Nebraska should next month elect those candidates for supreme judge who are running on the Democratic ticket.

The Lincoln Star is a Republican paper. Its president and chief owner is the ambassador of the United States to Mexico. He was appointed to this important position, one of the loftiest in the diplomatic service, by Theodore Roosevelt, and has continued to serve under William H. Taft. Nobody has ever questioned the loyalty of D. E. Thompson to the Republican party.

When D. E. Thompson's paper comes to the support of Democratic candidates, for non-partisan reasons, it means that no loyal Republican need hesitate, on his party's account, to do likewise.

And we invite attention to the reasons the Star gives for advising its readers to vote for Judges Sullivan, Good and Dean.

The judiciary and the public schools, it declares, should be taken out of politics.

Partisan courts—courts whose members were elected for partisan reasons and who are all members of the same political party—mean partisan decisions. They result too often, in the forcible language of the Star, in "nullifying good laws, enacted under the spur of public demand, simply because the party which put them into operation was opposed to the party of which the deciding court happened to be a member."

The people of Nebraska do not need to be reminded that this is true. They have had recent proof of the fact; proof that leads the Star to add: "In fact, it is such outrages that have caused the present widespread demand for a non-partisan or bi-partisan judiciary."

The late legislature, the Star recalls, responded to that demand by enacting a non-partisan judiciary law. A partisan court promptly annulled that law, after one of the judges had appealed to the Republican committee for advice as to whether he should proceed, as a candidate, on the assumption that the law was constitutional or unconstitutional!

Low Rates for Autumn

TOTHE NORTHWEST:—Cheap one-way Colonist fares to the Northwest, Puget Sound and California, September 15th to October 17th; daily through trains to the Northwest via the Great Northern; also via the Northern Pacific. To California, daily through tourist sleepers via Denver, Scenic Colorado and Salt Lake City.

ROUND TRIP TO PACIFIC COAST:—Very low Seattle and California round trip excursion tickets on sale during September. This is the last chance to obtain these cheap rates for the greatest railroad journey in the World.

EASTBOUND:—Special round trip rates to Chicago, Kansas City, Lincoln, Omaha, St. Joseph, St. Louis, August 28th to September 5th and from September 11th to September 19th. Daily low thirty day round trip rates from Chicago to Atlantic cities and resorts.

September is the last month for the special vacation rates to Colorado. Homeseekers' excursions September 7th and 21st.

Consult nearest ticket agent; he has latest advice of special rates.

W. L. PICKETT, Ticket Agent.
L. W. WAKELBY, G. P. A., Omaha.

