

of the public and even the district attorney. Beyond that I have nothing to say."

The state of Texas has brought indictments against the Standard Oil trust and its officers.

In a speech delivered at Red Bank, N. J., Governor Wilson urged freer use of school houses for public gatherings and the exchange of opinion.

The American Bar association in session at Milwaukee, elected Frank B. Kellogg of St. Paul, as its president, and went on record against the recall.

James H. Brady, former governor of Idaho, was elected president of the trans-Mississippi congress, in session at Salt Lake city. Next year's meeting will be at Wichita.

THE REPUBLICAN DRIFT TO WILSON

A straw vote taken by the Press among republicans selected at random from its subscription lists and not living in this city or other large cities gives the following result:

Of the 1,000 first replying, all of whom virtually voted for Taft in 1908, 442 said that they would vote for Taft this year, 335 for Roosevelt, 132 for Wilson and 91 said that they would not vote at all or were undecided.

In other words, 13 per cent of these 1,000 republican voters are for Wilson. If the swing among republicans to the democratic candidate were maintained in the same proportion throughout this state it would mean a gain of over 112,000 republican votes for Wilson, to say nothing of democrats who voted against Bryan four years ago and will vote for Wilson this year.—New York World.

UNCERTAIN

The result in Ohio makes it certain that the voters of the United States will have to reckon with Theodore Roosevelt next November at the polls.—Marse Henry on May 23d.

It does look so, somewhat, Colonel; but who was that wise southland statesman who said, "You can't 'most always sometimes tell what you least expect the most?" So far as one may trust the newspapers, the bull-moose candidate insists that he is going to run, no matter what. Which, being interpreted according to the method of the third cup of coffee, means that he will run some other year, but not this one.—Harper's Weekly.

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MAINE AND VERMONT—EARLY ELECTION DAY STATES

On the first Tuesday in September the Vermont election took place. To most people, the election of its state officers by Vermont, which is always held home nine or ten weeks before its vote for president of the United States, would not appear to be particularly important. Vermont has certainly never exerted by its vote any great influence on the national result. It always goes republican by a handsome majority, and its vote in the electoral college is only four, says the New York Evening Post.

But political observers long ago discovered the working of an extremely curious political or statistical law in the results of Vermont's September election. Experience of more than half a century has shown that the normal republican plurality, in the vote of Vermont for governor, is 25,000. This fact was as true in the days of the civil war as it has been during the past decade. But that plurality is not stationary. There have been years when the republican plurality ran as high as 38,000 and it has fallen on occasion as low as 19,000, and observation has shown the rule to be practically invariable, that when the Vermont plurality for governor at the September election ran above 25,000, the republican party carried the national election in the subsequent November, and that when the republican plurality for governor fell below 25,000, that result was followed by a democratic victory in the national election.

Only three times since 1850, in fact, has his rule failed to operate correctly in a presidential year, and for those there were peculiar reasons. One of the three exceptional occasions was in 1876, when Vermont's republican plurality in September was 23,735, yet when the final canvass of the nation's November vote gave the republicans a majority of one in the electoral college. But the popular plurality, in that same national election, favored the democrats by more than 250,000 votes, and the judgment of history has been that though Tilden was not seated, he was really elected in 1876 on the democratic ticket. So that it may be said that Vermont predicted correctly even in 1876.

One other occasion when it seemed to miss the facts in its September prophecy was 1864, a year when Vermont's republican plurality in the September vote fell as low as 18,977, yet when the republicans elected Lincoln in November by 407,000 popular plurality in the country at large, and with a handsome majority in the electoral college. But Vermont's mistaken prediction on that occasion is perhaps explainable by the fact that the fortunes of the republican campaign of 1864 were at low ebb just before the state's September election. The sequence of dates is, in fact, rather curious. It was on August 23 of that year that Lincoln himself wrote that "it seems exceedingly probable that this administration will not be re-elected." The capture of Atlanta by Sherman's army did not become known until September 3; Sheridan's first great victory in the Shenandoah happened on September 20, and he won the famous battle of Cedar Creek on October 19. Full public knowledge of these events, and of their great significance in the war, caused complete alteration in the trend of the political campaign, but the vote of Vermont was cast on September 4. Vermont's own plurality for Lincoln in November was

29,000, against the republican plurality of less than 19,000 in September.

Finally, the state's September republican plurality in 1860 was well below 25,000 whereas Lincoln was chosen president in November. But Lincoln's popular plurality, if the votes for the three opposing tickets are reckoned in, was really 946,000 short of a popular majority. He obtained a majority in the electoral college because the three other candidates divided the democratic vote in the northern states between them.

The following table, given in three columns, first, the state's September republican plurality for governor in a series of presidential years; next, the majorities of the victorious party, in the electoral college chosen by the nation in November, and last, the popular plurality of the successful party on the total vote for president in each presidential year.

Year	Vermont Maj'ty Sept. Plural Elec. Col.	Pop. Maj. President
1908	29,654 R 159	R 1,269,804
1904	31,559 R 196	R 2,545,515
1900	30,864 R 137	R 849,790
1896	38,072 R 95	R 601,854
1892	19,702 D 110	D 380,810
1888	28,995 R 65	D 98,017
1884	22,704 D 37	D 62,683
1880	26,603 R 59	R 7,018
1876	23,735 R 1	D 250,935
1872	25,333 R 223	R 762,991
1868	27,324 R 134	R 305,456
1864	18,977 R 191	R 407,342
1860	23,370 R 57	R 491,195
1856	23,008 D 60	D 460,865

It is often asked, Why should the vote of Vermont in September be so remarkable an indication of November's results in the nation as a whole? For one thing, the population of Vermont is pretty much stationary. Its inhabitants numbered 315,098 in 1860, 332,286 in 1880, and 355,956 in 1910. The Vermont population is not only stationary numerically, but is largely stationary in its composition and in its general party affiliations. It has not been changed in character from election to election by immigration or by new political relations on account of growth of cities. This explains, perhaps as well as anything else, why it has been so normal an index to the general trend of political sentiment in the nation.—Denver Times.

MAINE MAY GO DEMOCRATIC

Maine holds its state election September 9, two months before other states, with the exception of Vermont, and votes for state officers and representatives in congress. Heretofore, with presidential campaigns pending, returns from the September elections of Vermont and Maine have been scanned with interest by politicians the country over. This year the outcome of these elections will be of no less interest, says a Portland dispatch to the New York Evening Post. For the first time in fifty years Maine went democratic in 1910, a democratic governor and legislature being chosen, two of the four republican congressmen falling of re-election, while the two re-elected received the smallest pluralities ever before known.

Fate played into the hands of the democrats of Maine as though it had decreed that the republicans of Maine should be wholly deprived of power and altogether humbled. To succeed Hale, a democratic senator was chosen. Then death removed the surviving republican senator, William P. Frye, and a democratic governor named one of his own party to fill the vacancy. By legislation every republican officeholder of the state, with one exception, was removed from office. Death created vacancies on the state's supreme



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