

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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The Election of 1916

The election of 1916 has passed into history—the nation has set the seal of its commendation upon the administration of President Wilson. He not only has a majority in the electoral college but, what is even more significant, he has a popular plurality of some four hundred thousand. A constitutional victory, that is, a mere majority in the electoral college, without a popular plurality would have been very unsatisfactory. A President could not put much heart into his work if he KNEW that a plurality of the voters favored the election of another man.

The victory is more than a party triumph—it is highly creditable to the country, and especially to that part of the country which is responsible for the result.

The record endorsed was of unparalleled excellence—so complete that it left little to be hoped for during the next four years in the way of remedial legislation. Gratitude for favors done is not nearly so active a force in politics as expectation, and in this case expectation had been more than realized.

The peace argument had more weight than arguments based upon economic progress; the country is against war. It is opposed to intervention in Mexico, and it protests against being drawn into the war in Europe. But for the high tariff delusion, still cherished by a majority of the republicans, the victory would have been even more sweeping than it was—but it was enough.

And its value is greatly increased by the fact that it was won BY THE WEST AND SOUTH WITHOUT THE AID OR CONSENT OF THE EAST. The scepter has passed from New York, and this is sufficient glory for one year. And, blessing upon blessing, Chicago had as little to do with the party's success as New York. Even Indiana, which has rested its quadrennial claim to the vice-presidency on the ground that its electoral vote was necessary to success—even Indiana has abdicated the political throne and is now in the "others also ran" class. It very much simplifies politics. Heretofore, New York has entered the conventions of both parties arrogantly offering no choice but surrender to its dictation or defeat and, it must be admitted, New York has usually been on the winning side. But this time the people broke away and left New York "high and dry," or rather, high and WET, for it was the DRY states that furnished most of the electoral votes. TWENTY-THREE DRY STATES AND SEVENTEEN OF THEM CAST THEIR VOTES FOR WILSON AND MARSHALL. Here is the list: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. Oregon and West Virginia came near doing so,

MR. BRYAN CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT WILSON

Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 10, 1916.

Hon. Woodrow Wilson,
President,
Washington, D. C.

The returns are now so nearly complete that I shall not longer deny myself the pleasure of extending to you heartiest congratulations upon your re-election and earnest good wishes for the success of your second term. Am proud of the west—including Nebraska. The states beyond the Missouri have rallied to your support and saved the day, and in doing so have honored themselves no less than you. They have been largely benefited by the great reforms secured under your leadership, and they stand with you for peace, prosperity and progress.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

and in addition to these the President secured the votes of four more in which the amendment will soon be submitted. In Utah and New Mexico both parties have declared in favor of submission, and the democratic primary has declared for submission, and the democracy

The party is now to take up its fight against the saloon—it must do so unless it is willing to exchange the support of those who saved it from defeat for the support of those who in the year of our Lord 1916 would have led it into a slaughter house.

W. J. BRYAN.

What is the difference between Mr. Hughes and George Washington? Well, there are several, but one is enough. Washington did the damage with a hatchet; Hughes played havoc with a hammer.

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The Great Moral Issue

The prohibition issue is here, and here to stay until the saloon is driven out of the United States. It is the great moral issue of this generation and the democratic party is the party to lead the fight in the nation.

The election just held has unexpectedly released the party of any obligation it may have been under to the liquor interests. They threw their influence to the republican ticket and went down to defeat with it. And the democratic bosses lie in the same dishonored grave. They must confess EITHER THAT THEY WERE REALLY AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OR THAT THEY CAN NOT DELIVER THE VOTES WHICH THEY CLAIM TO CONTROL. Which position will they take? Did they betray the party or are they impotent to aid?

Let the dry democrats begin work at once to secure control of the democratic organization, state and national. Nearly half the states are now dry, and the number will be swelled to nearly, if not quite, thirty before 1920. To take the side of the saloon is to invite disastrous defeat. To take the side of the party is to draw to the party the strong young men who are coming out of the schools and colleges and who will, within a few years, be the dominant force in politics. AGAIN IN THE NATION'S LIFE the old question demands an answer: "Choose ye this day whom

The Commoner is in the struggle which is its readers to organize for the struggle which is to determine the party's attitude and its future strength. Space will be given to letters reporting the situation in different parts of the country. Let the work of organization begin, and begin NOW.

W. J. BRYAN.

NEBRASKA DRY

Nebraska voted dry—do you catch it? Dry, D—R—Y. The majority is about thirty thousand. Only thirteen counties out of ninety-three went wet, so decisive that the question is settled. And, to make it still better, it is surrounded by dry states. The grand old state is again on the firing line where she has been for twenty years. Let the battle begin.

THE WOMEN DID IT

It is not too much to say that it was the women who turned the tide of battle and won the fight for the President. Little did he think when he trudged down to Princeton and cast his vote for woman suffrage that the women of the nation would save him from defeat and give his party an opportunity to add to its already long list of reforms a still greater reform which will bring into the arena of politics a new moral force destined to make its influence felt whenever the welfare of the home is involved—but these women will not stay with us if we take the side of the saloon.

W. J. BRYAN.