

Power of One Vote

The vote of one person has frequently changed the whole course of American history. For instance, the following case, as recorded in the political writings of Richard T. Greener:

"In 1811 a Rhode Island farmer dabbled to release his pig from a fence and arrived at the polls too late to cast his vote. The Federalists lost that precinct by one vote; as a result, a representative who favored war with Great Britain was elected to the legislature, which in turn by a majority of one elected a United States senator who favored war. Then the Congress, by a majority of one, declared the war, generally known as the War of 1812."

Jefferson, in 1784, backed an ordi-

nance prohibiting slavery in the territory now comprising Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. It lost by one vote. Von Holst in his "Constitutional History of the United States," says that the Civil War might have been prevented, had the Jefferson ordinance carried.

Marcus Morton was made governor of Massachusetts in 1840 by one vote. Fourteen years later one vote determined that Charles Sumner became a United States senator.

In 1800 Thomas Jefferson ran against Aaron Burr for president. Each got the same number of votes. The election was thrown into the House of Representatives, where the vote of one man decided the deadlock in favor of Jefferson.

And still there are people who say: "Oh, well, if I don't go to the polls, one vote won't make much difference one way or the other."

It is true that one vote may be swallowed up in a political landslide. But politics is uncertain, landslides are never inevitable, and the voter's attitude should always be that the outcome is in doubt and waiting for his or her vote to decide it.

The ballot is the armor and the shining sword of the individual's liberty. It is his direct voice in the conduct of government.

At the Tuesday primaries, every voter should make it his most important business of the day to go to the polls and register his convictions and desires. Important issues can be lost and evil issues can win, if a small group of indifferent citizens neglect their duty to themselves and their fellows by failing to vote.

Go to the polls!—Toledo Ohio, News-Bee.

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FROM A COMMONER READER

Cassius Haywood, Oklahoma.—Mr. Bryan's suggestion in the April issue of The Commoner, that merchants ought to be required to show cost and selling price on their wares, is most timely though the great significance of the proposition is in no sense fully appreciated. It is really equal in importance with any reform measure being discussed today. While the question is not a new one, nothing has been said before amounting to more than notice in passing. The people know Mr. Bryan well enough to know that it means more when he deigns to consider a matter. It means, if he advocates it, that it is vital and urgent. And so it is with this last verily. Nevertheless, it is a proposition that the stubborn and obdurate shysters are going to fight to the last ditch. But they shall be without sound argument on their side, for there is no more reason why the merchants should keep their profits concealed from their customers than for bankers to keep their rates of interest hidden from their patrons. And, while considering this phase, why should the merchant who makes more than a legitimate profit not be subject to punishment, the same as the banker who collects more than the legal rate of interest? They are both of the same reprehensible class. Since the question of legitimate profits is inevitably involved in price showing, the regulation of price will, of course, be contingent upon the latter.

Such a one man agency for things good for humanity and requisite to make the world a better place in which to live was never represented so complete as in Mr. Bryan. Besides the famous inestimable measures for which he has pleaded and seen accomplished—prohibition, woman suffrage and a world peace promoting council, practically assured—now, most important, a single moral standard and the requirement by law, that on especially the necessities of man-

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kind the dealers show cost and selling price, at least. Success to The Commoner and all attached.

HITCHCOCK MACHINE BROKEN

Bryan won his fight in Nebraska against the Hitchcock-Mullen machine. Figures for the entire state are not available but with about one-third of the vote in, Bryan was third man in the race out of eight and with strong probabilities that he would land on top. Probably Shallenberger and possibly Neville will pull through, these two being on the Hitchcock slate, although Shallenberger is not really a Hitchcock man.

Arthur Mullen, the big lobbyist of Omaha, was slaughtered unmercifully. In Jefferson county Democrats rolled up three votes for Billy Thompson to one for Mullen. And it wasn't all the women either. Mullen was easily beaten two to one by the male votes in the Democratic primary in this county. He is also running behind badly over the state.

Hitchcock barely received the endorsement for president in this county, only having 12 more votes than Ross the livery stable nurse maid. Nobody knows who Ross is or cared just so a vote for him was a vote against Hitchcock. Bryan's name did not appear on the ballot for president but he received about 175 votes in the county. Counting the scattering vote

for president there were about two votes against Hitchcock for president to one for him in Jefferson county. In Fairbury Ross beat Hitchcock 135 to 108, and Bryan had 104, making nearly 2 to 1 against Hitchcock in Fairbury.—Fairbury, Neb., Journal.

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