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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

WHY DON'T THE PEOPLE VOTE?

Many years ago a popular song stated, "Why Don't the Men Propose, Mamma; Why Don't the Men Propose?"
Important as that question may have been to the young women of that age, it was not nearly so important as the present-day question, why didn't the voters vote? Unless that question is properly answered and the remedy applied, this republic will be in danger.

At the last general election approximately 26,000,000 voters out of a possible 60,000,000 went to the polls. In other words less than 45 per cent of American citizens were interested enough in the kind of government they are to have to take a part therein. President Coolidge, elected by 16,000,000 votes, received less than 27 per cent of the total possible vote. Yet his victory is hailed as one of the greatest ever scored in the country. Despite the almost superhuman efforts made to interest the voters and get them to the polls, the vote in 1924 is just about the same as the vote of 1920.

Clearly there are reasons for this seeming indifference; for this refusal of men and women supposedly interested to take a part in government. It therefore behooves patriotic citizens to locate these reasons and apply the remedy.

Is one of the reasons too many elections? In Nebraska we have a primary election every two years, followed a short time later by a general election. The primary ballot is filled with unfamiliar names and even the best informed voter is often at a loss to know anything about a majority of the candidates seeking nomination. It is possible that this inability to make intelligent choice tends to keep voters away from the polls?

In many instances the candidates selected at the primary are unknown men, successful by securing a small plurality over a dozen or more candidates for the same office. In most instances they are men whose ability is unknown and whose principles and policies are open to question. Is that one of the reasons why the voters decline to go to the polls and express a choice between unknown candidates?

Is one of the many reasons the fact that too many questions little understood and too often backed by ulterior motives are submitted to the voters? At the last election in Nebraska one constitutional amendment was submitted to the people. Supposedly intelligent men were misled into believing that it was merely a question of removing the party circle from the ballot. It was, in fact, a question of putting the present chaotic primary law into the constitution and completely changing the fundamental plan of selecting public officials. Are the voters tired of being called upon to vote upon questions that are likely to be merely the desire of a small clique to engraft their peculiar notions upon the fundamental law? In Illinois the voters were called upon to vote upon the question on a separate ballot: "Are you for or against a law to amend sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 14 and 17 of an act to revise the banking law of June 23, 1919?" Is one of the reasons for the small vote the fact that the people are disgusted with being called upon to vote blindly upon such questions?

Is one of the many reasons for the small vote the fact that our primary and election laws have become so complicated that it is financially impossible for the average candidate to defray the expenses of a campaign that will adequately inform the voters of his ability and trustworthiness? Are the people weary of going to the polls and voting for men unknown for any other ability than to spend enough money to make their names familiar, having the question of their fitness unanswered?

There must be some other reason than indifference for the failure of a majority of the voters to go to the polls. It is inconceivable that more than 50 per cent of the voters have no interest in the government of their republic, their state and their county. May it not be possible that the failure to vote is based upon the realization that nothing is to be gained by voting blindly? That there is little to choose between unknown candidates, and that the ultimate result will be the same whether they vote or not.

What is the answer? Is it the short ballot? Is it fewer elections? Is it a simplified code of primary and election laws? Whatever the answer it must be sought after and found. The failure of the voters to exercise their right of franchise is the gravest menace that confronts the republic.

PIONEERING IN WYOMING.

It was in accord with the eternal fitness of things that Wyoming, the first state to enfranchise women, should be the first state to elect a woman governor. By a peculiar coincidence Texas, almost the last state to ratify the suffrage amendment, divides honors with Wyoming in the election of a woman governor.

Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, governor-elect of Wyoming, was elected without making a campaign. Her husband died while occupying the gubernatorial

chair, and the democrats of Wyoming unanimously nominated her to succeed in that high office. Her ability is above question and her campaign statement proved her grasp of Wyoming problems and her fitness for the position. Nellie Tayloe was living with her parents in Omaha in 1902 when she married the young lawyer who afterwards became governor of Wyoming. Mr. and Mrs. Ross moved immediately to Cheyenne.

Mrs. Ross' nomination and election was not alone an expression of the chivalry of Wyoming men. It was attributed to the man who had made a splendid record, as well as a tribute to the woman who had been his constant companion and helpmate.

Because Mrs. Ross will be inaugurated in advance of Mrs. Ferguson, she will become the first woman governor of a sovereign state. And the chivalrous gentlemen of Wyoming who made her nomination and election possible, may be depended upon to accord to the pioneer woman governor of the pioneer equal suffrage state the utmost support and consideration.

LEONARD W. COLBY.

A picturesque character in Nebraska history passed from the scene of action when General Leonard W. Colby died. He was among the veterans of the Civil War who turned eyes westward after that struggle was over. Thousands of these veterans settled in Nebraska, one of them the young commissioned officer who had studied law after the war was over.

General Colby located in Beatrice in 1872, practicing his profession there for nearly half a century. He was an officer during the Indian troubles in 1890, taking part in the battle of Pine Ridge. He volunteered and served in the Spanish-American war, and sought to volunteer in the World War despite his advanced age. He represented his district in the state senate two terms, was assistant attorney general during the McKinley administration, and four years ago was elected district judge, which office he was occupying at the time of his death at the age of 80 years.

Many are the stories of General Colby's life and services. One often told is his defense of a man charged with murder by means of a poisoned cake. A portion of the cake was admitted as evidence. In his plea to the jury General Colby denied that the cake contained poison. As the story goes he proved it by eating the remainder. He hurriedly closed his plea and left the courtroom. Outside, according to those who tell the story, he swallowed a strong emetic. His act of eating the cake convinced the jury and his client was acquitted. He found and adopted an infant Indian girl on the battlefield of Wounded Knee, educated her and saw her happily married.

General Colby was prominent in the early political history of the state and always took a deep interest in civic work. His memory will be cherished by the remaining pioneers who wrought with him during the days when the land was young.

OMAHA'S SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

The second annual appearance of the Omaha Symphony Orchestra is dated for Thursday night of this week, at the municipal auditorium. The future of the organization depends upon two things. First, the support accorded the artist members by forward looking music lovers of Omaha and vicinity. Second, the orchestra itself.

Omaha boasts many fine musicians, artists who would be given instant recognition elsewhere. The Omaha Symphony Orchestra is made up of the pick of these artists, each individual member has given of time and talent to building an organization that will not only be an asset to Omaha through favorable publicity, but will be a tremendous factor in educating the public to a fuller appreciation of better music. By no stretch of the imagination may the symphony orchestra be classed as a profit-seeking organization. Its members are unselfishly giving of their time and their talents for the benefit of all the people. They should have the enthusiastic support of everybody who is interested in better music, in social uplift and in creating love for the higher things of life.

Great musical organizations are not builded in a day, nor in a year. They are the products of long years of zeal and love of the work. The Omaha Symphony Orchestra made an excellent beginning a year ago. It has progressed at a most satisfactory rate during the year. If its members are given the enthusiastic support of the people they will, in good time, make Omaha known to the musical world as a great musical center, where the people are enthusiastic supporters of everything that is calculated to appeal to the better nature of mankind.

The Omaha Bee speaks for the Omaha Symphony Orchestra that enthusiastic support.

MORE THAN ADVERTISING.

Precedents are made to be broken, and most of them are. The Bee breaks one in editorially calling attention to a series of advertisements by the Standard Oil Co. of Nebraska, beginning with this issue. Attention is thus called to them because of their educational value. The series of thirteen advertisements deal with historic events in Nebraska; events that have had a peculiar bearing upon the development of the commonwealth. These incidents are treated in an interesting manner and are worthy of study because of their real historical worth.

As a sample of interesting advertising this series will stand out prominently. If the Standard Oil Co. of Nebraska profits because of this editorial commendation it is welcome thereto because it has contributed largely to a knowledge of Nebraska history.

While Chicago is rounding up her suspected gunmen, Omaha might profit by rounding up her suspected bandits.

Those who shout "dirty politics" rest under the same suspicion as those who are quickest to shout "stop thief."

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Post—
Robert Worthington Davie

CONCLUSION.
There is a place to pause on every journey we take; There is a final stitch on every article we make; There is a fit conclusion for each welcome and goodbye;— And there's an end to everything that blesses you and I.
There is a time to start a task and there's a time to stop; Diplomacy advises when to let a matter drop; There is need for wisdom in the lives of every one, And cause to know exactly when an enterprise is done.
So often is it brought about—for which we vainly rue— That while so much of good is done the most we overdo. There is a time to cease a task whatever it may be, Because an effort done is done, and done eternally!

Getting Busy on His First Case



"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

Drivers' Eyes.

From the Tacoma Ledger.
It should seem strange of one paused to think about it, that the ability to pay for an automobile should qualify an individual as a driver. But the requirements of mental and physical fitness, including good eyesight, are being generally demanded only now. Some communities require a special driver's license, obtainable only by passing certain careful tests, for every driver. Others do not. If father buys a motor car any one in the family may drive it regardless of individual fitness.

The safety council in a city of the latter group has recently found that there are many drivers whose vision is defective and who, therefore, menace their own and others' safety every time they drive. The council has offered to test chauffeurs' eyes free of charge. It cannot compel those it finds with defective vision either to give up driving or to have the defects corrected. But it does expect to complete a list of sufficiently striking examples to impress the state legislature with the need of a driver's license law which would require the examination of all drivers for physical and mental fitness to operate motor vehicles.

Certainly a driver should be able to recognize danger signals at a glance, to read warning signs readily and to see clearly signals given by drivers ahead of him. Color blindness, myopia, astigmatism and related field of vision have always shown responsibility for many accidents and may quite possibly be responsible for a great many more never traced definitely to their cause. As the automobile traffic continues to increase in volume, such hazards increase, too. The sooner they are wisely checked the better.

French Still French.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.
The French nation is awake to every new wrinkle that means progress. With a radical renouveau after the Poincare and a Protestant president, it is not surprising that things in the land of sunshine and sparkling wines are undergoing tremendous change. However, the idea of a boss beating a labor group by going on a hunger strike is as startling as it is novel. It is not likely to find favor among well-fed American manufacturers.

This boss, who was also an engineer, worked in a co-operative glass works. He did not like the attitude of many of the workers. Either they did not care for the cut of his clothes, and said so, or they made caustic comments on his executive ability. Obviously a boss cannot make much progress against such a situation. This man, Spinetta, complained to the la-

Abe Martin



In spite o' all our speedin' it's still th' style 't be late. Well, it's all over but awardin' th' ambassad'orships 't th' heavy contributors. (Copyright, 1924.)

Weakness of the Opposition.

From the New York World.
Coolidge and Dawes profited by the inherent weakness of the democrats. There is not the slightest reason for thinking that any democratic combination or any democratic strategy could have stopped the victorious progress of Coolidge and Dawes under the remarkable direction of Chairman Butler. Fundamental economic conditions and interests were clearly against them. It was a conservative republican year unless the republicans blundered hopelessly and had all the good luck and they left all the blunders to their opponents.

Opening Tans.

From the New York Evening Post.
Those newspaper Paul Prys and Middletons Matties of journalism who so unctuously and lip-lickingly made public the income tax returns of business men and private citizens have aggravated an intolerable legislative blunder. They have sprung the craze to pry into the personal affairs of every citizen. The income tax payments of Rockefeller, Morgan and Ford interest millions; but the income tax of John Brown may be of equal interest to some prying soul who lives next door to John Brown. The little income taxpayer is just as much at the mercy of the neighborhood

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SERIES
MOIST HEAT
FURNACE

Best for Colds
FATHER JOHN'S
MEDICINE
All Pure Food
Over Sixty-Nine Years of Success

SUNNY SIDE UP

Take comfort, nor forget,
That Sunrise never failed us yet.
Celia Thaxter

Now and then our favorite pastor takes undue advantage of us. He knows full well that we have to sit in the pew and take what he hands us without a grimace. It is unfair for him to intimate that the Missus might tell a few things, were she so minded. It gives the impression that Friend Husband is not all that he pretends to be. We hereby enter our emphatic protest against so many personal remarks from the pulpit.

It is with regret too great for words that we must decline an invitation to foregather with the newspaper men at Broken Bow next Friday. We gather from the announced program that it is going to be our kind of affair. But the chief source of regret is that we will be unable to hear Senator Emerson Purcell explain how he can file as a democratic candidate for senator, get past the primary without any opposition candidate, then poll practically every vote in his district. He has promised to explain, and we have located several gentlemen who express a willingness to pay us handsomely for the recipe.

The purchase of Christmas gifts for ourself from the proceeds of the Nebraska Notre-Dame game will be postponed until 1925. We are not greatly disappointed, however. The chances are that if we had been able to make the contemplated purchases we would have been dissatisfied with them. We now have a bit more than 12 months in which to exercise judgment in buying.

Leah and Leopold have been added to the teaching staff of the Illinois state prison. Their fitness to teach the criminals a whole lot not already known by them is admitted. But it is to be hoped that the young professors will teach by precept, not by example.

Although often requested to do so, we have studiously refrained from expressing our views on the proper method of raising children. The chief reasons for our refusal are eight in number, four boys and four girls. In a short time, however, we will be open to engagements for the delivery of our lecture on "How I Have Been Raised By My Children." It will be our aim to convince the rising generation of the great responsibility they have assumed in properly rearing their parents.

Speaking of good roads, we would call attention to the fact that we are a pioneer in the movement. More than forty years ago we joined with other members of our craft in demanding better spacing of ties on railroads and improved drainage about water tanks.

Although no longer personally interested, we still cherish a grudge against the individual who designed the baggage coaches that are minus platforms. The vestibuled car, too, while adding to the safety of those traveling by rail, certainly discouraged travel to a considerable extent. Nowadays, when we want to travel from here to there we do not care how many stations the train passes up in its flight. But we vividly recall the days when we spoke in derogatory terms of trains that did not at least hesitate at every station.

There are only a few of the old-time tourist printers left, and they should get together and collaborate on a book of experiences. These old-timers were a loyal bunch loyal to their employers and loyal to each other. They had faults aplenty, but backspacing their bread and butter factories was not one of them.
WILL M. MAUPIN.

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