

Proportional Representation
(Article 2.)

Before giving details of the proposed reform in political methods, let us consider how the present electoral system works.

The present machinery may be briefly shown by taking almost any state of the union as an example, and examining the method of electing members to congress or the state legislature.

The whole state is cut up into little arbitrary districts, and in each of these districts the voters elect one member. A voter in one district can not, of course, vote for a candidate who is running in any other district. In each of these little districts or constituencies there are usually several political ideas that desire expression and representation, as, for instance, the republican idea, the democratic idea, the expansionist, and anti-expansionist ideas, the anti-trust idea, the direct legislation idea, the populist, labor, prohibition, socialist and single tax ideas. Some of these may not be numerically strong enough to entitle them to representation, in any event; but others certainly are. Yet all these varying and often conflicting ideas have either to find expression and representation, in the one solitary member sent up from that district, or not to be represented at all. Is not absurdity stamped plainly on the face of such a system?

Of course the result is practically that only one, or possibly two, of the leading ideas are represented, and the voters who hold the other ideas are all disfranchised and unrepresented, including, of course, the members of the people's party.

But, if you like, we will leave out of consideration all the political ideas but the two large ones. Take, as an illustration, a district or constituency containing 4,000 votes. A republican and a democrat are running; 2,050 men vote for the republican candidate and 1,950 for the democratic candidate. The republican is elected. These 1,950 democratic voters are as absolutely disfranchised and unrepresented as if an act of congress or the legislature had been passed declaring that the democrats in that district should have no vote at that election. Consider that this kind of thing takes place all through the United States, and you will see that as a matter of fact nearly, one-half of the voters in the whole country, either on one side or the other, are disfranchised at every election. Is that popular representation?

Do you wonder at the party bitterness which obscures reason and calm judgment, when every election is a fight in which the penalty of defeat is disfranchisement and humiliation? But our elections need not be fights, and would not be under any reasonable and sensible system. An essential part of such a system would be to abolish the "one-member" districts. Instead of these, we can have districts large enough and containing voters enough to elect seven or more members; and we can elect these members in such a way as to give fair representation to every important phase of public opinion in fair proportion to the number of voters holding that opinion.

(Next week I shall deal with the question of nominations.)
ROBERT TYSON,
Toronto, Canada.

Railroad Nationalization

There has never been any question that the railways are public highways in the same sense that the more than millions of miles of common roads are public highways. As a legal fact, this has been settled by the decisions of every state as well as the supreme court. * * *

It is just as well settled that railways represent a function of the government. Succeeding the "king's highway" they are impressed with the same economic and civil characteristics. * * * They are the common blood vessels of the social body, and should be as responsive as the arteries of the human being to the countless cells they serve. * * * Now, then, to the direct question, "Is the railway a function of government?" Let John Stuart Mill, one of the noblest and wisest of mankind, make answer:

"In attempting to enumerate the necessary functions of government, we find them to be considerably more multifarious than most people are at first aware of, and incapable of being circumscribed by those very definite lines which * * * it is often attempted to draw around them. We sometimes, for example, hear it said that governments ought to confine themselves to affording protection against force and fraud; * * * But why should people be protected by their government; that is, by their own collective

strength, against violence and fraud and not against other evils, except that the expediency is more obvious. * * *

"The third exception which I shall notice to the doctrine that government can not manage the affairs of individuals as well as individuals themselves, has reference to the great class of cases in which the individuals can only manage the concern by delegated agency, and in which the so-called private management is, in point of fact, hardly better entitled to be called management by the persons interested than administration by a public officer. * * * This applies to the case of a road, a canal, or a railway. These are always, in a great degree practical monopolies, and a government which concedes such monopolies unreservedly to a private company does much the same thing as if it allowed an individual or an association to levy any tax they choose for their own benefit, etc."—David J. Lewis, Senate Doc. 53.

Watson Votes Not Counted

If it were not that considerable expense would be imposed upon the county the citizens who voted for Thomas E. Watson and Thomas H. Tibbles for president and vice president would be justified in asking the court to summon a number of election officers to ascertain why their votes were not recorded. In the eastern district of the Eighth ward the publisher of the Sunday Call voted for Watson and Tibbles by putting a paste in the last column and writing underneath in the places left vacant the names of five citizens, two of them members of the board holding the election. The names of the five citizens were plainly and legibly written and should have been recorded. That they were not can only be accounted for by charging the members of the board of election with carelessness or incompetency. We do not think they intended to commit any fraud, but that they failed to perform their whole duty is too plain to be denied.

Nor was the vote of the writer, in the eastern district of the Eighth ward, the only one that was unrecorded. We have been assured by several persons we can name in that district that they voted for Watson and Tibbles and their ballots were not returned as counted.

Nor is the eastern district of the Eighth ward the only one in which the election officers failed to perform their whole duty. Mr. Elkanah Cusford assured us that he voted for Watson and Tibbles in the eastern district of the Fourth ward and that no return was made of the ballot.

We have the following letter before us from a voter in the western district of the Sixth ward, which speaks for itself:

Easton, Nov. 11, 1904.

Editor Sunday Call:

I had the honor to vote for that distinguished patriot, Thomas E. Watson, on Tuesday, November 8, in the western district of the Sixth ward. Why was the vote not counted? Do the conceited idiots who compose some of the election boards think the spirit of Americans will brook such outrage. They had better have a care. H. W.

If the election officers of the western district want to know who "H. W." is they can call at 717 Washington street and they will find him there.

It may be considered a trifling matter to throw out the votes of a few "cranks," but it is of no little importance and should have been brought to the attention of the court. If election officers can refuse to count the vote of a "crank" they can also throw out the ballot of any other person. The same people are heard prating about a "free vote and a fair count" in the south, when the fact is that we are not having it in the city of Easton.—Easton (Pa.) Sentinel.

A Tentative Plan

A few of the democratic editors are crawling from under the landslide and beginning to say things. The Columbus, Ohio, Press-Post, the leading democratic paper of that state, for the Linqurier has long been nothing more than an assistant republican sheet, makes among others, the following remarks:

Superficially, no doubt, Mr. Bryan's course appeared inconsistent and possibly the ultimate analysis will bear this out. Mr. Bryan may have made a serious mistake either before or after the convention, or both; but, whatever else may be said, he did what he thought was right and this, few question. If Mr. Bryan made a mistake, it was a mistake in judgment. It was not so much the mistake of adhering to the old but threadbare principle of

"party regularity." He could have done this in a far different manner and yet not have laid himself open to the charge of stultification. But his enthusiasm for Parker during the campaign was quite as intense as his denunciation of him before the campaign and this magnified whatever inconsistency there may have been in his general attitude.

In the past fifty years the democratic party has stood for many different things. The fact that lovers of Lincoln are numerous within the democratic party today proves conclusively that at least one big change has taken place. In addition thereto there have been minor changes, all of which have made it incumbent on the party to defend itself against the charge of inconsistency and vacillation.

During eight years of the party's existence it stood for a constructive rather than a destructive policy and in that time it was rapidly endearing itself to the masses. Had it continued on that line, a different story would be to tell. But it wearied in well-doing with disastrous results.

Three changes of policy in twelve years are altogether too many for any party to have. Mr. Bryan has already come forward with a tentative plan. It is in many ways good; but it is also weak in many respects. It is strong in those points where it exhibits a constructive policy, where it stands for well-known reforms that the country is ready to adopt. It is weak in that it does not show a comprehensive idea of economic fundamentals; in that it deals with issues that are in no sense issues and in that it tacitly objects to well-known social phenomena without finding their underlying cause or offering a general remedy.

The new democratic party, if it is to have the people's confidence, must forget its history, and build for the future; it must rally from the disappointments and the failures of the past around a platform based on morality and economic truth. Morality is not sectional, economic truth is not sectional; they are both universal and when the democratic party becomes a party of men who believe the same things, no matter in what part of the country they may live, it can win and not till then.

Nothing so exasperates a man as to have his pump work hard and especially in this so in cold weather. Our readers perhaps have already noticed the small advertisement calling attention to the "Ideal" Pump Equalizer, made by the Pump Equalizer company, 40 Dearborn street, Chicago. This simple little instrument can be applied to any pump or windmill and make the work of pumping water a very easy matter. It is one of the best and easiest sellers on the market and agents are making big money handling them. Every equalizer is fully warranted and can be easily adjusted to any pump. Write to the company and get their terms of sale, and be sure to mention The Independent.

SPECIAL MARKET LETTER
FROM NYE & BUCHANAN CO., LIVE STOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS, SO. OMAHA, NEB.

South Omaha, Dec. 1, 1904.

Receipts of cattle for the past three days have been about 14,000 head here with 60,000 in Chicago. Good demand for desirable beef steers and the undertone of our market seems very good. The warmed-up and short-fed steers are very hard to move at satisfactory prices at all. In fact, very short-fed cattle would bring more money to the feeders had they not had any corn. Our cow market was rather uneven and lower during Thanksgiving week, and will say that it started out no better Monday, but Tuesday it was 10@15c higher on cows and closing firm and today it is steady. Stockers and feeders higher and in good demand for anything desirable. Common grades steady. We quote:

Corn-feds—Choice steers, \$5.25@6.00; fair to good, \$4.00@5.00; cows and heifers, \$2.50@4.00.
Grassers.—Choice killers, \$3.50@4.00; choice feeders, \$3.50@4.00; good feeders, \$3.00@3.40; choice yearlings, \$3.50@4.00; heavy stockers, \$2.50@3.25; good cows and heifers, \$2.50@3.25; canners, \$1.00@2.00; bulls, \$1.75@3.50; veal, \$3.00@5.50.
Hog market is still on the decline. Prices today \$4.35@4.50 with the outlook weak.
Sheep receipts are still light with the market strong on feeders and easier on fat ones.

Harlan County Farms
160 acres, 3 1/2 miles from Huntley; 90 acres under plow, remainder pasture, fenced on three sides, half mile from school. Price \$2,500. 14E.
240 acre farm, 1 mile from Huntley; 60 acres under plow, balance pasture. Price \$3,500; half cash. 15B.
160 acre farm, 5 miles from Ragan; 90 acres plowed, 3-room frame house, frame stable, well and windmill, all fenced. Price \$3,500. 16B.
320 acre farm, 3 miles from Ragan; 160 acres under plow, level land, 6-room frame house, granary, etc. A bargain at \$7,500. 17B.
Harlan county farms are good farms. They are increasing in value each year. Harlan county land produces as many bushels of crop per acre each year as land in eastern Nebraska that costs twice as much. Write Weber & Farris, Lincoln, Neb., for any information you want concerning Harlan county land.

Christmas Holiday Excursion Rates

via the Nickel Plate road, December 24, 25, 26 and 31, 1904, and January 1 and 2, 1905, good returning January 4, 1905, at a fare and a third for the round trip, between Chicago and Buffalo. Three through express trains daily to Fort Wayne, Findlay, Cleveland, Erie, Buffalo, New York, Boston and all eastern points. Through Pullman sleepers and excellent dining car service, individual club meals, ranging in price from 35 cents to \$1, being served in Nickel Plate dining cars; also service a la carte. No excess fare charged on any train. Chicago depot, Van Buren and La Salle Sts. City ticket offices, 111 Adams St. and Auditorium Annex. All John Y. Calahan, General Agent, 112 information given upon application to Adams St., Room 298.

Ranch for Sale

One and one-half miles from railroad town, with good school, church, one general store, hotel and livery, depot and other railroad buildings, with first class stockyards. The ranch consists of 212 acres with miles of range on three sides, enough for 300 head of cattle. 150 acres of ranch are under high state of cultivation, the barn is 24x32, hay loft for 12 tons of hay, has nice cupola on barn; wagon shed, 12x24; granary, 12x28; chicken house, 8x12; "LL" on east of barn for calves, 12x24; "L" on north of barn, 16x24. These buildings are all compact, everything built substantial, shingled and painted. All stock can be fed from inside. Frame house, 24x28, 5 rooms, shingled, painted and plastered. Good well and windmill and cistern; good garden, fenced; nice plum grove; bearing strawberries, gooseberries, etc. Rock reservoir, cemented, to irrigate garden; outdoor cellar, 12x14, all built of rock and plastered inside. Large corral, 80 acres pasture. If sold between now and February 1, price \$1,800. \$1,200 cash, \$300 in one year, \$300 in 2 years, 8 per cent interest. What hay is left will go with place and home machinery. Write me.

J. W. MILLER.

Venango, Neb., Box 182.



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December 15, 1904

R. W. MCGINNIS,

General Agent

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