

The Falls City Tribune.

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AFTERMATH

The election of 1904 has become part of a nation's history. A nation of eighty million persons has by popular choice selected a head for the next four years.

The citizens of America woke up Wednesday morning to find that the tumult was over, that business was proceeding along ordinary channels without incident or interruption, that the spell binder was no longer abroad in the land and that one Theodore Roosevelt stood silhouetted against the sky line of the future as the most commanding figure of his time.

By a vote well nigh unprecedented the American people have declared that it pays to be honest, decent and fair. By giving the electoral vote of every northern state to President Roosevelt, the citizens of America have encouraged righteousness and courageous conduct, and have done more towards character making than all the sermons since the one on the mount or all the preachments since the days of papyrus.

It is a source of delight to the writer to relate of President Roosevelt's election. It is a matter of mutual congratulation that Nebraska has contributed to the grand total of his vote, the largest majority ever given to any candidate in the history of the state. Governor Mickey is re-elected by approximately ten thousand majority. The republicans have elected all six congressmen in the state and have every number of the legislature except twenty five which fact insures the promotion of Hon. Elmer J. Burkett to the senate of the United States.

A together "we are doing to erably well." But what of Richardson County—poor old Richardson County?

Carrying the county for the President by many hundreds, giving to the state ticket about three hundred majority, we find George Smith and R. E. Grinstead defeated for legislature and W. H. Morrow for county attorney. When the roll call of the joint session of the legislature is had, Richardson County will cast two votes for Hon. W. J. Bryan and one for E. J. Burkett.

Poor old Richardson County; she has about gone over to the opposition and in the aftermath of the struggle we are inquiring

why?

It was last new years day we beleive that the Falls City Journal called a mass meeting of republicans for the purpose of organizing a Roosevelt club. Notwithstanding it was a stormy night and the snow and wind were blowing blinding sheets down the deserted streets, a great crowd of earnest, loyal men left their firesides to attend the meeting which that paper had volunteered to call. A club of splendid proportions was organized by the election of W. E. Dorrington President, V. G. Lyford Vice President and T. J. Whitaker Secretary. These men did not suit the Journal. Notwithstanding their republicanism had never been questioned, they were not the men whom that paper preferred, so this crowd left the hall and no member of the Journal family ever became a member of the Falls City Roosevelt club or ever contributed one penny to its welfare.

Hon. E. J. Burkett was the next offender and was granted the honor of the intense and malicious hatred of this crowd when he appointed G. J. Crook postmaster to succeed E. O. Lewis. What mattered it that a definite and specific agreement had been consummated by which Mr. Crook was to wait a given time and let Lewis hold on a little longer? What mattered it that Crook had the indorsement of ninety nine per cent of the true republicans of this county? He was not the Journal candidate and so Burkett had offended the wish of the mighty and must be the next sacrifice to the wishes and welfare of these rule or ruin men. Then Hon. Joseph Cannon, speaker of the national house of representatives, a man second only to the president of the United States in the official life of the nation, honored Falls City by consenting to deliver a political speech at the Gehling Opera house. In some way the expense of such a meeting had to be raised, so a subscription paper was passed among the local republicans and not one refused to contribute save the Journal family who curtly and decidedly declined to give a penny. Yet the republican party has been supporting this family for ten years and is now the sole support of its newspaper, for without the republican subscribers in this county there would be no Falls City Journal.

On the night of the Cannon meeting a package of tickets calling for the best seats in the opera house was given to the Journal crowd but they were refused and returned. Not one of them could find it in his heart to attend a

meeting addressed by one of the most distinguished republicans in the United States.

It was apparent that this crowd was fighting the republican ticket. This fact was recognized by the committee and by the candidates. This fact was further emphasized by an employee of the Journal distributing scandalous literature in the shape of cards against W. H. Morrow candidate for county attorney. This Journal employee scattered these cards all over Richardson county and worked in and out of season to defeat the republican candidate. Mr. Morrow called upon the Journal and asked them to say something in their paper—a supposed republican newspaper—about this story which was being circulated by their employee, but they refused to do so. W. P. Fergus is known to probably most of the republicans in Richardson county. He has twice been sheriff of the county and is everywhere regarded as a good citizen and a good republican. One of these cards was given to him at his home by a Journal employee and Fergus told the distributor what he thought of such conduct and while no word could be gotten into the columns of that paper for Morrow, the following appeared in the Journal last week under the heading "W. P. FERGUS."

Even in these advanced times, when thinking, reading intelligent men are everywhere the rule one occasionally meets a man so fearfully partisan, so blindly following his leaders, so wonderfully made, that he would vote for a yellow dog afflicted with the rabies, were the said dogs name on his ticket. No argument is convincing enough to make him believe the yellow dog is not pure white and the froth at the mouth as harmless as the froth on Gehlings beer."

Sounds good coming from a republican newspaper edited by a man who is drawing a salary given to him by the republican party doesn't it.

But Morrow was not the only man whom they were fighting. Grinstead and Smith were defeated by the same crowd. Some of our legislative ticket were approached by these bolters with promise of their support providing they would agree not to vote for Burkett for United States senator, but such a dishonorable proposition was immediately turned down. Another one of the crowd sought to convince the legislative candidates that they were not in honor bound to vote for Burkett if they were elected, to which proposition the candidates, be it said to their credit, promptly demurred. Burkett was the man they were after this fall. They have never forgiven him for ap-

appointing Crook.

There were thirty-six republican votes cast in Falls City on which Burkett, Tucker, Smith, Hogrefe and Morrow were scratched and there isn't a man in Falls City who doesn't know who cast these votes. Smith is beaten by four votes and his defeat was made possible and was in reality accomplished right here in Falls City. This crowd has been in constant communication with Miles, Morehead and Gagnon and received the election returns in the First National bank building in company with the above named gentlemen on election night.

In the fight through which we have just passed there was never a line in the Journal in defense of the revenue law. The Journal did not mention the name of a candidate until the last two issues and did so then only because the silence was becoming a source of general comment. If it had not been for the Tribune, and we are merely repeating what has been said many many times in the past few days, the republicans in the east end would have been without defense in the face of the hard fight the News was making.

We do not publish this from choice, we would prefer to say nothing concerning it because many will think it a personal quarrel and the public in general have no interest in such matters. But a great many republicans have expressed the desire to have the true situation made known to the members of the party in the county, and deferring to their wishes we have stated the facts as they are.

It is much pleasanter to speak of the splendid service of John Hossack, John L. Cleaver, Will Rieger, Martin Zook, F. Sebold, G. J. Crook and the many zealous men who have contributed so much to the election of Mr. Hogrefe and Mr. Tucker. Such men as these have earned the right to a vacation next winter that they may attend the joint session and witness the election of Elmer Burkett as United States senator. To the many who have written The Tribune in appreciation of its part, we take off our hat and make our best bow and say to you that we are very glad that we have been of some service.

We will have better luck next time. The influence of the bolters clan is much less this year than it was last, it will be further diminished in the next twelve months. The republicans at large are refusing to contribute to the perpetuity of a paper which is being used as an instrument with which to destroy the party and the few who persist in fighting republican candidates will be class where they belong. In that time there will be no necessity for a scolding aftermath.

State Historical Society