

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

once or twice in his whole life—and that is remarkable. He is singularly honest and clean in his private life, and he would be honest in his politics; but boyish enthusiasm, and the desire to create an effect, have led him over the border line of sincerity.

W. MORTON SMITH.

POLITICAL POINTS.

The most important problem that will confront the city central committee next spring is as to the different methods of making nominations for city offices viz. the convention system or the Crawford-Lincoln system.

While consideration of this vital question will not detract any interest from national politics, its importance strikes the average voter with greater force because it is nearer.

Last spring this new voting system captured the republican voters of Lincoln by storm. It was adopted for making the nominations which were made at that time. Its results, while disastrous to a few candidates, indicated that thorough knowledge and careful management of the municipal campaigns under this rule brings the matter of choosing candidates closer to the people. Immediately after the nominations were made, some few began registering long and loud kicks against the inefficiency and awkwardness of the new voting plan.

The republicans who were nominated under the new rule at that time were all elected. The chief objection made to nominations was that none of the nominees received even a fair representation of the republican votes in this city, and such being the case, they did not reflect the sentiment of the mass of local republicans. While it is true that none of the nominees received a vote equivalent to one-fourth of the republican strength of the city at the primaries on nominating day, and were not perhaps in one instance, the choice of the main body of their party, the fact that they were elected by good majorities in itself should suggest the intrinsic worth of the new plan.

Under this system the people vote directly for their nominee for any public office, yet under it as much fraud and corruption can be practiced as under the convention system, provided, the people permit it. With the Crawford Lincoln system, no corporation, no money nor machine power can triumph if the voters will but employ the same tactics the machine or political combines use in conventions or primaries and that is the method of absolute concentration.

But at this stage appears what has been called by some the inefficiency of the system. It is asserted that the mass of voters never will combine on any one candidate, and this being true, the vote will invariably be split and scattered between numerous "good men" to the extent that any of the above enumerated influences can by concentration of their forces, nominate any man whatsoever, whether he be good, bad or indifferent.

Some of our most prominent republicans refer to the nomination last

spring of a city official to prove their opinion that the Lincoln system is weak and defective. But the results of the first experience with a political innovation should neither condemn or recommend it. If the full import and technical provisions of the system were overlooked the first time, the voters are now sufficiently familiar with it to give it a more thorough and convincing trial.

Grant, for argument's sake only, that all the men elected last spring were not the real choice of the people. Does that reflect at all upon the system? If the officers in question were not the most popular nominees why, then, were they elected by the large majorities and pluralities they received? It is very easy to assert that a man is not popular but the vote he receives is usually a reliable thermometer.

Of course, as I have said, corrupt tactics may be employed in this new voting system. It is just as convenient for a democrat to vote at the republican primaries as before. Numerous candidates can be brought out by certain factions for the sole purpose of accomplishing the defeat of some one or of several men. The power of money effects greater changes at times in results, and on some occasions a large corruption fund can secure the few votes which may be necessary to nominate a man with much more ease than it could in a convention. It is also an incontrovertible fact that a campaign under the Lincoln system is much more difficult for a candidate to conduct than a ward primaries or a convention contest, as his efforts, instead of being confined to his ward and ward delegations are necessary all over the city.

But regardless of all the shortcomings of the Lincoln system, it certainly is an improvement over the convention style of nominating. The coercion, intimidation, promises and deception which have been characteristic of conventions are conspicuous by their absence. There is no such thing as "unit rule" and "instructions" connected with it. A candidate can go into office untrammelled, and politics is certainly benefited by this new rule or any other which will bring the selection of candidates completely into the hands and control of the people.

Without the virtue of concentrating strength, however, the people under this system, as well as any other, may as well subside and turn their affairs entirely over to corrupt and intriguing politicians. Without centering their power on some clean man, all their efforts in that direction will prove futile, while, on the other hand, they are complete masters of the situation if they are willing to unselfishly accept any capable and honorable man who is eligible for office.

Purity in politics naturally starts at the primaries, and while every man has the privilege, under certain prescribed laws, to run for office, the people will sooner or later realize the great importance of concentrated power, and give unto the best and most available man their combined support. Further, the time is coming when each candidate's chances for election will be considered with much more interest than they are now. No party can positively vouch for

the election of a man just because he has received the nomination, whether he receives it under the new or the old system.

At present the various candidates for municipal office next spring are busy cogitating this one point. They can see the defects and the benefits of the system simultaneously, but that fact does not relieve them from their quandary. The so-called "ring" has a certain "pull;" anyway the primaries may decide as it can call its concentrated power, or at least a part of it, into requisition either in a ward or over the entire city.

However, most of the present aspirants for municipal office favor the Lincoln system for the reason that intimidation of voters can not be accomplished in so high-handed a manner as at a ward fight, owing to the generality of the contest, and it is much easier for the political "boss" to attend to the details of a ward fight than to oversee his numerous interests all over town. Further, it does not permit the man with a "pull" to lie around one ward and force his followers to vote when he can observe them. But it takes him to several wards during the day. In his absence from a ward considerable of his strength may vote to suit themselves or some one else.

The republican city central committee must consider well before they decide which of the two—the Lincoln or convention—systems will be utilized to nominate candidates for city office next spring. If they refuse to endorse the Lincoln system, much strife in the republican ranks must be expected. The republican party is the party of progress and improvement. The party is aware that the Lincoln system is of great benefit to the people, and it is not improbable that the rank and file of republicans will demand another experiment with the system.

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