

THE CANTON LEADER

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FOR PRESIDENT 1908
THEODORE ROOSEVELT
By Will of the People.

Christmas Joys.

Peace on earth brings Christmas joy, and Christmas brings good cheer and happiness to those who appreciate the blessings of prosperity and plenty. Our people have been blessed with abundant crops and prices are high and the demand for farm products ever increasing. The great Christmas holiday is at hand and our people are amply prepared to enjoy it. The demand upon the purse is cheerfully granted because we love to see the little ones enjoy the annual visit of Santa Claus, and nothing brings so much joy to the home as the delightful pleasures of youthful anticipation and realization. Santa Claus to the child is the one event that is never forgotten. Make Christmas for the children as happy as you can, for soon, almost too soon it seems, they pass from childhood to men and women to take up the burdens of life.

Those of middle life and older can look back and see through the sweet visions of memory the days when they too hung their little stockings by the fire place and awaited the coming of dear old Santa Claus, and don't you remember how anxiously you jumped out of bed in the morning to see what that dear little stocking contained, how pleased you were with what the dear old fellow brought you. He wasn't so rich then as now, but skates, candy and a drum did very well, while a new suit, boots and mittens helped to make the boys feel rich. Dolls and numerous little trinkets made the girls happy and Christmas joys ruled the household.

Childhood is just the same today as fifty years ago, and the little ones are just as anxious to hear from dear old Santa now as then, and Santa is much richer now than fifty years ago and has an endless variety of good things to select from.

The stores are crowded with beautiful presents, high priced and low, and the "old fellow's" pocket book is heavier now than it used to be, hence we trust his liberality will be in keeping with his ability to bring genuine Christmas joy to every home.

Make Christmas joy abundant. Make it a day to be remembered from year to year. Do something to make those around you happy. We must part from those we love as time rolls

on, then do your full duty while you can.

The Leader wishes all its readers, and everybody else, health, happiness and a royal Christmas feast, with a full measure of good things for the little ones.

THE PRIMARY LAW.

In as much as there appears to be a settled conviction that a primary election law of some kind will be enacted by the coming legislature, interest mainly centers upon the question: What kind of a primary law will it be? The platform demands the enactment "of a comprehensive and practical primary election law." Two questions are therefore left for legislative determination. Comprehension and practicability. If the law is made applicable to the nomination of all state and county officers, this would seem to be sufficiently comprehensive for present needs; so that upon this phase of the law it may be assumed there will be very little difficulty in securing sufficient unanimity of legislative opinion.

The second proposition will doubtless encounter greater diversity and persistence of opinion, as there already exists a considerable number who favor a law making the persons receiving a plurality of the votes cast at the primaries, the party nominees; while others insist that only those receiving a majority of all of the votes so cast should be declared the party's nominees. That sound arguments may be made in favor of each proposition may be admitted.

In considering the question however, it will be well to keep in mind that our platform demands the enactment of a practical primary law. This certainly means a law adapted to conditions as they now exist, as a law lacking such adaptability would be impracticable. At the present time the administration of the affairs of this state is maintained and carried into operative effect by means of party organizations. It is a government by parties. This condition, it may be safely assumed, will continue for many years to come. It therefore follows that a practical primary law must be in harmony with, and adapted to this condition. I am fully convinced that any primary election law must retain the convention feature, or fail to win popularity sufficient to perpetrate its existence. I believe the convention to be an essential to party organization, and without which, its maintenance becomes impossible.

Parties stand, or ought to stand, for the maintenance and promotion of certain cardinal principles. The difference of opinion on public questions or policies, produces parties, and constitutes what are termed the "issues of the day."

One party is distinguished from another, by reason of the difference of

its platform declarations upon public questions and policies.

While the pledges made in a party platform are not always fulfilled, and occasionally a plank is inserted for the purpose of catching votes, still a party's platform is, generally speaking, the embodiment of its principles upon public policies. Whatever the law enacted if it is practical, it must retain this essential feature. And while it is true that a number of states have enacted plurality primary laws, most of them are comparatively recent enactments, have not been sufficiently tested by time to establish their absolute practicability, and in some instances have already proved unsatisfactory.

Election laws like revenue laws cannot be made perfectly satisfactory; and as no revenue law has yet been devised, whereby all persons can be compelled to pay their just proportion of the taxes, so no primary law is likely to be enacted that will in all respects prevent dishonorable methods in politics or make the party's nominations a perfect reflection of the will of its electors. Such perfection in a law involves the ideal, and is attainable only under ideal conditions.

It should further be borne in mind that civic evolution can only proceed, by graduated steps, each of which must precede the other or failure becomes inevitable. This is as certainly true of all reformative measures as of any other. If the principles in a law are too far in advance of the public conscience repudiation is almost certain to follow. The wisdom of the measure will not suffice to save it. What potency would an emancipation law have had at the time of the execution of John Brown? Attention to existing conditions are essential to the success of all reformative legislation, as the elimination of the vice or mischief is desirable.

If party organizations are maintained it must be done by nominating persons for the various state and county offices, who are in sympathy with the principles maintained by their respective parties. There must also be, some body or collection of individuals authorized to speak for the party, i. e. formulate its platform of principles. It must possess the elements of cohesion and organization in order to carry into effect its platform principles. Its nominees should be the choice of at least a majority of its adherents; otherwise the organization is not representative in character and must ultimately cease to exist. Aside from these apparently necessary limitations, the greatest freedom of individual choice should be given in the nomination of candidates.

A practical primary election law would at least embrace the following essential elements: A fixed day on which all primaries should be held. This at a suitable season of the year. The one designated in the present

caucus law seems to be about as good as any that could be named.

The election conducted by two judges and two clerks under the Australian ballot system. No electioneering permitted within one hundred feet of the polls. Where the voter is from any cause unable to read and mark his ballot, such voter should be allowed to select the person he desires to assist him. Judges of election are human.

Only candidates receiving a majority of all ballots cast by his party to be nominated, all others to be nominated by delegates chosen by ballot at such primary in proportion to the fixed ratio, in convention assembled thereafter on a day fixed by law. Poll books to be properly verified and election returns made to the party central committee, who should constitute the canvassing board, a majority thereof being sufficient to make such canvass. An abstract of the canvass to be furnished the secretary of the forth-coming convention for its use. Proper provisions for a contest whereby the canvassing board could be compelled to verify the returns by a recount of the ballots prior to the day fixed for the convention. Delegates to vote viva voce and upon a call of the roll for the nomination of all candidates. Two ballots to be taken before any candidate can be dropped after which the one receiving the lowest vote at the primary to be dropped. No electioneering by delegates permitted after a candidate has been dropped. Those whose candidate has been dropped to cast their votes for the candidate or candidates still before the convention as they deem most in accord with the choice of their constituents. This process to be continued until some candidate receives a majority of all votes of the convention. Candidates should not be permitted in the convention until nominations have been completed. No person should be permitted to electioneer among the delegates after the convention has assembled. Hiring teams for the ostensible purpose of getting the voters to the polls should be prohibited by an adequate penalty unless the voter is unable to get to the polls by reason of actual sickness or other infirmity, let him remain at home if he does not choose to come. Primary systems similar to the one outlined above are not an untried experiment in the nomination of county officers but have been in constant use in some of the states by both republicans and democrats for the past forty years and have been abundantly satisfactory. If enacted into law in this state I have every confidence to believe the law would become in the near future as popular as the Australian ballot system now is. On the other hand I am firmly convinced that under present conditions a plurality law will be unpopular from start to finish. No political party will long tolerate a

primary law, under which questions that are wholly non-partisan may and often will foist upon it nominees who are in no wise in sympathy with the principles it represents. Neither will it favor for any considerable time a law that make a bare plurality final in nominations. A political party has the undoubted right to require its nominees to be the choice of at least a majority of its electors. Any law which deprives a political party from making this essential requirement, will ultimately work a dissolution of the party. If from any cause the majority of a party are prevented from exercising control it ceases thereupon to be representative in character.

That the primary system herein favored is not the ideal may be frankly admitted. That existing conditions are not ideal, ought to be conceded. This system lies just mid-way between a plurality system and the present caucus law. It approximates the ideal as nearly as present conditions will permit. It is the evolution

ary steps which must be taken before the ideal is possible. It deals with the electorate as it now is, and not as it should be, or under wise legislation may eventually become. It assumes that selfishness still exists, and to some extent influences a considerable portion of the electorate. It assumes also, that until civilization shall have so advanced as to make patriotism and civic righteousness all potent with the voter, the necessity for party organization will continue. That as long as the necessity for party organization exists, the limitation requisite for its preservation must be imposed.

ARTHUR R. BROWN.

This ought to be a Merry Christmas for all especially for the good people of Lincoln county, whose prosperity and growing wealth indicates comfort and plenty.

The republicans of South Dakota have in mind a successor to Senator Kittredge and his name is Coe I. Crawford.

The Leader wishes all a merry, merry Christmas.

What will the anti-Gamble boys do now? Their stupid falsehoods were answered by Gov. Crawford in such a way as to bring confusion to those who wanted to make the public believe that Governor Crawford was not an honest man and a square politician.

God bless the children. Make Christmas a happy day for them all. The eye never saw a more beautiful picture than the smiling happy face of a child. A little Christmas tree adorned with presents, surrounded by children, will make a more beautiful picture than any artist's brush can produce.

Turkeys! Turkeys!

Get your Christmas turkeys at Harry Stein's Syndicate Block market. Order early and you will have your order filled.

ROYAL
BAKING POWDER
Made from
Pure Grape Cream of Tartar

The only excuse for buying anything but a Pure Grape Cream of Tartar Baking Powder is to save a few cents in price.

ROYAL costs you a few cents more per can than Alum or Phosphate of Lime powders, but it is worth far more than the difference to keep your biscuits, cakes and pastry free from the injurious effects of these cheapening substitutes.

Continued use of Alum means permanent injury to health.

Avoid Alum Ailments—Say plainly
ROYAL BAKING POWDER

DR. A. G. NOID'S GREAT HOLIDAY DISPLAY

Largest Stock and More Beautiful Than Ever.

THE BEAUTY AND MAGNIFICENCE of Dr. Noid's Holiday Display reminds one of the birth of Cupid in the home of Santa Claus. Gorgeously attractive and dazzlingly beautiful fails to give you an idea of what Dr. Noid's store looks like this year of glorious crops and human happiness.

Cut Glass, Hand Painted China, Sterling Silver Goods, Haviland China, Souvenirs, Toys, Anything and Everything.

In this magnificent stock of Holiday goods you will see many new toys and mechanical contrivances that will please and make old and young laugh. These new creations represent the genius of invention, the ambition to please and a desire to make the little ones happy.

Under this head we may mention "a genuine loop the loop," a steam engine that runs by steam, dancing bears, and many other attractive parlor games, including the "siege of Havana," where you must carry your ship past the belching guns of Spain to win.



It is no trouble to fill up a store with Christmas goods, but it is a task to select the cream of the market—things that are handsome, durable and amusing. This is the kind of goods I selected for my customers this year. Come right in and see for yourself. Our store never looked so handsome—that's what they all tell us.

*Beautiful Cut Glass
Haviland China in Great Variety,
Hand Painted China from 5 Cents to \$5
Sterling Silver Goods in New Designs,*

Including beautiful souvenir spoons, knives, forks, jars and chocolate dinner sets. Then we have hand organs, mouth organs, phonographs, musical albums, printing presses for boys, loop the loops, rocking horses, steam engines, air guns, dolls, doll beds, doll carriages, and an endless variety of mechanical toys.

*Beautiful Toilet Sets in Handsome Designs,
Smokers Goods and Cigars
in special boxes for presents.*

*Elegant Albums and Illustrated
Postal Cards.*

Come and admire them.

*Come in and Admire Everything--It Will
Pay You.*

The Eagle Drug Store

IS YOUR HEADQUARTERS THIS YEAR.

A. G. Noid

A \$15 Doll Baby To be Given Away

to the young lady or party receiving the highest number of votes. This beautiful doll is enough to make any girl happy. Every 10 cent purchase will entitle the purchaser to cast one vote for their choice. A dollar purchase is good for 10 votes, a five dollar purchase is good for 50 votes.

This beautiful doll is on exhibition. Look at it and then pick some sweet little girl you want to vote for and proceed to vote.