

POLITICAL POT-PIE



The campaign of 1900 is now over, and King county, which has been a seething cauldron every day since the first of the year, can now take a long, long rest. The county ticket which was named by the Republican convention was for the most part successful, but the pie-maker exceedingly regrets the defeat of two of the leading county candidates on the ticket, viz: Sheriff A. T. Van De Venter, who was a candidate for re-election, and W. H. White, candidate for prosecuting attorney. Both of these gentlemen are the most loyal of loyal Republicans, and if any one on the ticket deserved success, it was certainly Mr. Van De Venter and Mr. White. However, the fates of the gods seem to have been against them from the very outset, and the concentrated efforts of the opposition party were thrown against them as soon as they had been declared the Republican nominees, and it was very apparent that they would go down to defeat, owing to the fact largely that both Mr. Van De Venter and Mr. White were leaders in the late Republican factional fight in King county. For this they were never forgiven by the defeated faction, and that faction seems to have taken special delight in knifing both of them during the entire day. The defeat of Mr. White was certainly a calamity to both he and his family, at least apparently so, for on the eve of election a message flashed over the wires from Mr. White's old home in Pennsylvania announcing the death of his father.

Election eve is a great time in the United States, and to the observer of passing events, it affords a most excellent opportunity to study humanity under civilization influences. The work in the outgoing districts has been finished, and the campaign spellbinders have all returned, and can either be found on the streets, where are gathered great crowds of enthusiastic partisans to hear "how it looks," or at their respective party headquarters, where they are giving their versions of the outcome of the next day's battle of ballots. Here, too, are to be found the candidates, who are careworn from labor and worry, and on their faces are depicted the mental anxiety as to the outcome. These spellbinders may crack their jokes, tell of their ludicrous experiences in the rural districts which may evoke roars of laughter from the assembled crowd, but all this is as salt without savor to the candidate, for he knows that the spellbinder has been fully paid for all he has done and for all that he is saying, and paid at his (the candidate's) expense. The election eve means a great deal more to the candidate than a final round up political rally. The various candidates are very anxious over the successful outcome of their particular case, for "On the success of the morrow's vote the happiness of my household depends, as all has been risked on the fight." American like, however, he braces himself up to the situation and on that fatal tomorrow, he is as eager for the final fray, as if naught was at stake.

Every chairman is fully given his final instructions. The election officers are being carefully instructed on the various points of law connected with the voting. The challengers are named and are armed with p-ll books, showing how every man in the precinct will doubtless cast his vote, and is started on his post of duty. He and all of them are previously well paid for their day's work, and, in most instances, they give value received for the money they have been paid. From the rural districts the election officers have come in for the ballot box, for the official books and a few words of good cheer from their partisan leaders. Last, but not least, are to be found the political bickers and grafters, who, not only make life miserable for the chairman of the central committee, but likewise every candidate that they can get close enough to talk to. "I have so and so many votes in my vest pocket, and if you do not show me something substantial, they will turn you down on tomorrow," is his tale of woe. It is generally too late for such tricks to be turned, but they are occasionally turned. The grafter of all men is the man the candidate dreads most. Strange to say, he is the last man that the office seeker dares to turn down or refuse his requests.

The campaign committee is very busy, even after it has looked after its partisan henchmen, for the work of the campaign must be closed up, and the books and cash balanced. This requires considerable time, and no committee wants the election to come off without having its books in the proper shape for the final reports, hence the election eve to the committee is doubly busy. To sit idly by in the campaign headquarters on such an eventful day,

and observe the officers and their assistants hurrying, skurrying hither and thither, checking up books, closing up final accounts and all other work incidental to the same, is amusing, as well as interesting. In King county the state and county committees were located in the same building and with rooms on the same floor, their relations being very reciprocal, both of the committees resolved themselves into one great headquarters, with the two chairmen giving their orders as two great military chieftains on the eve of battle.

The results of the King county election are certainly disappointing to every Republican in King county, that is, every Republican who is a true Republican.

It is quite plain to be seen from the returns, which are slowly but surely coming in, and from those that are already in, that the Republicans cut their ticket worse in the late election than was ever before reported, while on the other hand the Democrats voted their ticket straight. From the very outset it was evident that the friends of Mayor Humes, who had been defeated in the Republican primaries early in the year, had resolved to knife the leading candidates on the county ticket and the head of the state ticket, apparently to play even for having been defeated in the primaries. In King county Senator Frink, Sheriff Van De Venter and W. H. White were made the targets for their concentrated fire, and as a result Mr. Frink lost the county by three hundred and over votes, while Mr. Van De Venter lost it by fully two thousand and Mr. White by a less number. Each of these candidates was foremost in the primary fight and succeeded in sending to the state convention an anti-Humes delegation, which so incensed the friends of Mr. Humes that they knifed the Republican ticket as a revenge, or such would appear to be the facts.

God never created a fairer, squarer man than J. M. Frink, and the hundreds of men who have been employed in his shops and works for the past decade or more will verily testify to this self-same fact. Each and every laboring man has a warm friend and sympathizer in J. M. Frink, and when laboring men make a concentrated effort, as did they on last Tuesday, to defeat a candidate like Mr. Frink, who has stood by them in every particular for so many years, it appears that laboring men have no appreciation or no desire to be fair with those who are fair with them. The small county that Mr. Frink got in King county is one of the inexplicable things of the whole campaign.

In these columns before the election it was predicted that Mr. Cushman would not run two hundred votes behind his ticket in King county, notwithstanding the fact that herculean efforts were being made by J. T. Ronald and his friends to antagonize the King county voters against Mr. Cushman because he hailed from Pierce county. It will be seen from the returns that Mr. Cushman in King county was led by Mr. Ronald not to exceed 250 votes, he even running ahead of Mr. Frink, King county's candidate for governor. King county may have been disloyal to her own candidate, but it is very clear that she was very loyal to Pierce county's candidate, and far more loyal than Pierce county was to King county's candidate. The election of Mr. Cushman and Mr. Jones is assured, and this is very gratifying to Republicans, who desire to have the state of Washington represented in congress by Republicans instead of Democrats, rebels and dynamiters, and thus give McKinley a strong arm of support.

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The election of the entire Republican county ticket with the exception of sheriff and prosecuting attorney is very gratifying to the Republican county central committee, and reflects great credit upon Chairman Morris, who has conducted the county campaign with such signal success. Mr. Morris is unquestionably one of the shrewdest politicians and ablest campaign managers in King county, and bids fair to become a great political leader in the state of Washington. His campaigns are conducted with vigor and with a business-like air which meets with the hearty approval of a great majority of the Republicans of the county.

"There is no longer any doubt but that J. M. Frink has been clearly defeated for governor of this state by John R. Rogers, the present pessimistic incumbent. Business men seem to have lost their reason in turning down so able a business man as Mr. Frink for a political freak of nature like Mr. Rogers, who looks

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on the black side of every subject; on the black side of every transaction; on the black side of every political situation. When Washington state gave its plurality vote for Mr. Rogers over Mr. Frink, it simply cut its nose off, politically speaking, to spite its face. J. M. Frink was as much deserving of the Republican vote of this state as was President McKinley.

Judge W. H. White carried every county in the state for the short term of supreme judge. He had no opposition.

Van De Venter has decided to become a farmer again and give up politics. He has been four times a candidate for sheriff and defeated two of them.

Spokane county gave Governor Rogers a majority of 1300, which, to say the least, is remarkable in view of the fact that it gave a majority for McKinley.

To the observer, it would seem that factional politics promises to disrupt Republicanism in King county completely and cut quite a swath in Republican state politics as well.

Levi Ankeny's strongholds over the state gave Rogers good majorities over Frink, which, itself tells the tale. There will come a time some day when they will regret it.

The pie-maker suggests to the Republicans of King county that in the future they do something more than make flimsy promises to the colored voters. Their action toward Sheriff Van De Venter is proof sufficient that patience ceases to be a virtue at some stage of the game.

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Last Saturday there was placed upon our table a weekly paper published in this city known as the Seattle Court News. To describe that sheet as low, immoral and vulgar theories permit it to be published and distributed upon the streets of our fair city. Houses and resorts of the lowest and most vile nature are freely advertised in its columns, and yet the newsboys are permitted to sell it without molestation upon the streets of the city. If such publications are a proof that this is a progressive age, then we feel that less progressiveness would be much better for the boys and girls of this country. That paper is no better than was the Sunday Mercury, which was formerly suppressed by the police of this city, and, if justice would be done by the police, the Court News would likewise be suppressed before another issue made its appearance upon our streets.

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The many friends of Attorney W. H. White sorely regret to learn of the death of his father, Judge J. W. F. White, at his home in Pittsburg, Pa. Judge White idolized his son Billy, and hoped to live long enough to see him succeed him as a judge on the bench at some point in this country. Mr. White left for Pittsburg last Wednesday to attend the funeral.

Seattle witnessed another serious runaway last Monday, in which a vegetable wagon and a soda water wagon collided with serious if not fatal results. It seems that the team driven by N. S. Peardo, an Italian gardener, made a dash down the hill on Yesler way, and before the team driven by George T. Maginnis, from the bottling works, could get out of the way the runaways smashed into it and the two men on the wagons were dangerously wounded. One of the horses driven by George Maginnis was so badly injured that it was necessary to have him shot. Many serious runaways have been reported this season, and so numerous are they that Chief Reed has issued an order for his men to arrest all teamsters who leave their teams not well fastened to either a weight or a post. As a result of this order, already some fifteen or twenty teamsters have been arrested, and each day the officers are sending new men to the headquarters for violating this order.

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Early in January the Puget Sound naval station will be favored with a visit by the famous battleship Oregon, which will be placed upon the docks to be repaired. Puget Sound people are quite familiar with the Oregon, for it will be remembered that she steamed out of this bay when she was ordered around the Horn to participate in the Spanish war. She made the long journey without a break or delay, and was in Eastern waters quite in time to participate in the naval battle at Santiago, and rendered valuable service in sinking the Spanish men-of-war. More recently the Oregon was injured in Chinese waters by running on to a rocky shoal. She was so badly injured that it was thought for a time that she would be a total wreck, but on closer inspection it was found that she was not seriously injured, and that she would be able to make her way across the Pacific to the naval station on Puget Sound, where all necessary repairs would be

made. When the Oregon will have been fully repaired then there will be others of the Pacific men-of-war that will be placed on the dock, as a general order has been issued that all of the vessels in Western waters do undergo an overhauling during the present year. This means much for Seattle, and it is most likely that the business men will make much of the opportunity.

WILL THE BISON SURVIVE?

When Dr. William T. Hornaday, in 1887, told the story of the slaughter of 20,000,000 buffaloes, it was generally supposed that life species was practically terminated. Dr. Hornaday could then find only 1,091 living bison remaining from the vast herds that once filled the plains from the Rio Grande to the Yellowstone. It was believed then that the end of the century would find surviving only a few forlorn museum specimens. Mark Sullivan, in a recent issue of the Boston Transcript, shows that fears entertained thirteen years ago have not been realized. The bison still lives in practically the same numbers as in 1887.

After careful investigation Mr. Sullivan feels justified in asserting that there are at least 1,024 buffaloes in existence. But one herd in its native haunts. This is west of the Great Slave lake, and is estimated by Mr. Sullivan at 200 head. The game warden of Colorado claims about thirty wild buffaloes in that state, but on various grounds Mr. Sullivan doubts the accuracy of his statement. The largest herd in captivity is the Allard, containing 259 animals, on the Flathead Indian reservation in Montana. In Armstrong county, Texas, is the Jones-Goodnight herd, numbering 110 full bloods. The Austin Corbin herd, Blue Mountain forest, New Hampshire, contains ninety-eight. There are probably thirty head in Yellowstone park. The rest are scattered in private collections and in zoological gardens.

Here would seem to be stock enough to keep up the breed, but there are several practical difficulties. The owners of these various herds may be trusted not to slaughter them, for a live buffalo is now worth \$400 to \$600. But the poacher is a constant danger in those very districts where sparse population gives apparently the best chance for buffalo breeding. The poacher has reduced the 400 bison which Grinnell found in Yellowstone park in 1892 to the present remnant. Public sentiment in these Western states often opposes national parks and forest reservations, and protects the poacher. The New Mexico and Arizona delegates in the last congress bitterly opposed the Lacey bill to set aside 20,000 acres of unclaimed land as a buffalo range. Until the people of these mountain states change their ideas no public reservation will preserve the bison.

The danger of deterioration by inbreeding also threatens the bison. On this point experts disagree, not as to the fact, but as to the immensity of the danger. There is another law of animal life that may exterminate the bison. This law is not yet fully understood, but may be stated as follows: When environment is favorable a large majority of animals born are females, and the race propagates freely; when environment is unfavorable this condition is reversed. Mr. Sullivan finds that out of fifty-eight buffalo calves born in captivity thirty-five were males. And, finally, if all these dangers be escaped, the bison bred in captivity will no longer be the magnificent animal it was when wild. "In captivity," says Dr. Hornaday, "the buffalo fails to develop as finely as in his wild state. He gets fat and short bodied, and proportions of the wild specimens."

Scientific interest and the commercial profit to be found in supplying the demands of public curiosity may enable the bison to survive, but he will no longer be the embodiment of vital power as when he swept in countless thousands through the valleys of the Platte and the Republican. Only those who saw the bison then can realize how the description of the warhorse in the book of Job applied to him. His neck was "clothed with thunder." He pawed in the valley and rejoiced in his strength. He swallowed the ground in fierceness and rage. Such was the bison, but we shall never again see him in all his glory.—Inter Ocean.

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