

Fergus County Democrat

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ON BEING A GOOD LOSER.

The American people, and more particularly, western people, like a good loser. The man who plays the baby after he has been fairly licked, it matters not whether the contest be physical, business or political, does not win for himself either a great deal of admiration or sympathy out here in the big, broad West where men strike hard, forget defeat easily and recuperate quickly. For that reason, the second installment of lamentations, published in the editorial columns of the Argus last Friday, will meet with small approval among the readers of that paper. His extended howl over perfidy to party can arouse only pity, if not contempt. In placing upon hundreds of voters in Fergus county the brand of "taritor," simply because they have chosen to exercise their God given privilege of voting for themselves instead of being voted by the party bosses, he is not likely to improve a situation of which he so bitterly complains.

In this hour of his great trouble, we would refer our esteemed contemporary to the example set by thousands of democratic papers all over this country. The democratic party has been licked into a pulp. For a third time its champion, a man who has a personal hold upon the heart strings of millions of his followers, has gone down to defeat. All of the great departments of the government are persided over by republicans. A quarter of a million public offices in the nation are held by republicans, none by democrats. Republicans are supreme in two-thirds of the states. Four fifths of the money paid to newspapers as a result of political or official patronage goes into the pockets of republican editors. Crushed, mangled, completely overwhelmed, democracy lies, a prostrate form, at the feet of a victorious, proud, puissant republicanism.

But there is mighty little kicking among the democratic newspapers. Spent, as it were, by the crushing defeat which has just been sustained, we are resting a bit, getting our wind before renewing the conflict which, at times, does seem so hopeless.

In view of these facts, how childish does appear the petulant attitude of our contemporary. Gorged with the political wealth which victory after victory has brought his party, he snarls and whines and rails at the poor democratic Lazerus who, perchance, snatches a crumb or two here in Fergus county. And acting as though he was a spoiled child in a tantrum rather than a responsible adult, he even suggests that his party, in the future, refrain altogether from putting candidates in the field.

Come, brother, brace up for, who knows but that the worst is yet to come.

We would casually suggest that our contemporary might be arguing from an incorrect premise. Because Fergus county usually gave the republican candidates liberal majorities in the past, it is argued that there can be no changes and that it must be counted a republican county until Gabriel toots his horn on resurrection morn. What though every man on the republican ticket is defeated, old Fergus remains a "republican county" according to our contemporary.

It is argued that it is republican because the men at the head of the republican ticket usually receive the larger votes. In 1896, the Bryan electors carried the county. Is it not just as good reasoning to argue that since that occurred, the county has been democratic. In support of this argument it may be shown that a majority of the democratic candidates below the head of the ticket have been successful at the last three elections. When it comes to proving that Fergus county is normally republican in politics, the democrats are willing to rest their case on the election returns which show that for three elections, the aggregate vote for democratic candidates has far exceeded the aggregate vote for republican candidates. That is the only way to arrive at a solution of the problem.

We are not insensible to the absolute necessity for political parties with their accompanying organiza-

tions and leaders. We have not one word to say in criticism of the man who, believing in the principles for which his party stands and has faith in the integrity of the man or men administering the affairs of that party, votes for the men which his political organization places in the field. We would not gainsay the victorious republican party its right to reward, with office or patronage, those individuals or institutions which were faithful in working for the party's success.

But as a matter of fact, the people of Fergus county, like the people of the entire nation, are breaking away from the bondage of party lines. Taken as a whole, the electors of this country are better acquainted with the great questions of government than ever before. A higher degree of education obtains. Cheap newspapers and lots of them, an increasing number of libraries, better schools, more colleges, large and small, and more ample opportunities which are given the average American boy and girl to attend them, have brought about a greater diffusion of knowledge; have enabled an ever increasing number of people to do their own thinking, to reach their own conclusions on all questions, including those pertaining to political affairs. It has changed tens of thousands of men from mere automatons at the polls into thinking, independent men who irrespective of party, vote for what they conceive to be for the highest welfare of their nation, their state or their county.

This is the reason why William J. Bryan has just polled over one million more votes than were polled four years ago by Judge Alton B. Parker. It explains why John A. Johnson, a democrat and the better man, was elected governor of Minnesota by a plurality of 20,000 when the republican candidate for president carried the state by 100,000. It explains why Judson Hammon, democratic candidate for governor, carried Ohio when Mr. Taft also went out of that state with 50,000 plurality. It explains why a democratic governor was elected in Indiana when that state gave her electoral vote to the republican presidential candidate. It explains why Hadley, republican, and the better man, was elected governor of Missouri, it being the first time in almost forty years that a republican has occupied the executive's chair in that state. It explains why Edwin Norris, democrat, and infinitely the better man, was elected governor of Montana, although not another man on his ticket was saved out of the wreck. And, last of all, it explains what appears to our contemporary to be a really astounding phenomenon of nature, why a majority of the democratic candidates in Fergus county were successful at the polls.

Utterly disregarding any temporary local advantage which the democratic party may have gained, this paper hails with pleasure the ever growing army of independent, untrammelled, unfettered voters. We can see in them speedy relief from the tyrannical oppression and corruption of any party, too long in power.

The democratic party was in power in this nation for fifty years and so arrogant did it become in its might, so corrupt was it at the core, that the greatest civil war of ancient or modern times was precipitated when it was dethroned from power. Except for two terms, the republican party has now been in power for fifty years and it too, is manifesting alarming tendencies to take the functions of government from the hands of the people and place them in the hands of the favored few. The people are long suffering, but it is our solemn conviction that unless the now reigning party can be rescued from the control of those who practically control its machinery, there is soon to be another revolution but the weapons will be harmless paper ballots in the hands of the millions of independent electors of this nation.

FRANCIS J. HENEY.

Almost providential was the escape of Francis J. Heney from death at the hands of a desperate saloon keeper in San Francisco last Friday afternoon. The bullet was aimed well, but in some way failed to strike a vital point and the chances are most favorable for the fighting attorney to live to continue the fearless work of prosecuting the boodlers and black-legs who have caused the great city on the Pacific to bow her head in shame since the exposures commenced, two years ago.

That they would try to kill Heney was not altogether unexpected. He,

more than any other one man, has broken up the gang of robbers, of which Mayor Schmitz and Abe Reuf were the chiefs. He has caused the light of public investigation to be thrown on the city's municipal affairs and it has shown that the unspeakable Schmitz and Reuf were not more anxious to receive bribes than were some of the biggest financial leaders of the city to give them. His work has caused the proudest heads in 'Frisco to bow in shame but this has not detracted from its thoroughness.

Heney has simply demonstrated what one absolutely fearless, intelligent, honest man can accomplish.

Although the recipient of numerous dire threats against his life, he prosecuted the land thieves in the state of Washington and Oregon. As a result of his work one U. S. senator went to jail, another has a close call and two members of congress had to fight for their liberties. Scores of others who have been stealing the government's land up there in the forests of the northwest and were growing rich and ever more powerful as a result, were either placed behind the bars or everlastingly disgraced through Heney's exposures.

From Portland, Heney went to San Francisco and the country knows of his work there. That he will survive the assassin's bullet to continue the great work of exposing crookedness and prosecuting the crooks, high and low, is the prayer of millions of citizens of this nation.

We would not criticize our president unnecessarily but it would appear that he permitted his spite and pique to get the better of his common sense when he snubbed Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor by refusing to invite the labor leader to a dinner at the White house with the other big labor leaders of the nation. President Gompers went out in the open and fought fairly and squarely for what he and his associates believed to be for the best interests of the working men of this nation. And the fact that his ideas were in direct opposition to the ideas and wishes of President Roosevelt does not necessarily indicate that he was wrong. President Roosevelt, although the biggest man in the nation, has the very unfortunate habit of exhibiting traits of insufferable smallness at times. His snub of Gompers is his latest outburst.

His Royal Highness, the German Emperor, whom our own beloved Teddy Roosevelt is said to admire so immensely, is into all sorts of jack pots because he talked too much. He submitted to an interview for the Atlantic Monthly in which, it is said, he took a few falls out of his friend Teddy, but this article was suppressed for fear of further complicating international complications. Mr. William, of Germany, would better be careful how he is jumping astride of Teddy or he will wake up some fine morning over there on the Rhine and find himself an undesirable citizen, a malfactor of great wealth and a full fledged member of the Anannias Club.

Once again it becomes our painful duty to chronicle the distressing tidings from Missouri. The sad state of the good old lady may be better imagined than described when it is known that not only did she vote for Taft but also elected a republican governor. It would appear that the only hope for old Mazoo's regeneration is to have a "home coming" meeting about the first week in November four years hence. Such a move would doubtless help Missouri but it would play hob with democratic chances in several western states.

The unjimey arrival of old man Boreas is causing no end of unfavorable comment in this section. He was scheduled to arrive here about January first but came in over two months ahead of time and received, to say the least, a chilly reception. Nevertheless, he is not one whit abashed and has settled down with the evident intention of remaining in our midst for several months. The only people to greet his appearance with any show of pleasure are the gentlemen who deal in coal and wood.

While making your preparations for a bountiful spread on Thanksgiving day, do not forget that there may be some in our city or community

who, through misfortune, are unable to add one solitary delicacy to their meager bill of fare on that day. If you would feel the real joy of Thanksgiving day, look up these people and see that on the great national holiday, they too, have something for which they can return thanks to an all merciful Providence.

Certain dem ocrats running for minor state offices in Indiana, aver that the returns were "doctored," thus causing their defeat. We were thoroughly convinced before twelve o'clock on election night that the returns of thousands of precincts in practically every portion of the United States had been "doctored" but, unlike some other people, we took the medicine and are now trying to make ourselves believe that we like it.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting in Chicago, very considerably waited until after election to announce that the government has once more lost ground in that \$29,000,000 Standard Oil case. This latest decision of one of our superior courts will also do much toward "restoring confidence" on the part of "Jawn" Rockefeller and friends.

It has been authoritatively announced that Uncle Joe Cannon will once more be on the job in Washington during the coming session of Congress and as a result, Miss Reform, who has been primping up in anticipation of a long deferred season of success and attention, will indefinitely postpone her re-entrance into congressional society.

The Montana Outlook, published weekly in Helena by Col. Jere Murphy, recently contained an interesting article telling how rich Montana men acquired their wealth. How much more interesting it would be to print a story telling how certain rich men, notably Mr. Edward Donlan, recently went about losing large gobs of their wealth.

True to their campaign promises, the republican members of the Ways and Means committee in congress have taken up the subject of tariff revision. As has been generally anticipated, the revision will be decidedly upward instead of downward as the people of this country desire.

In the event of the election of Mr. Theodore Roosevelt to the United States senate from New York, it is surmised that Mr. Senatorial Dignity will retire from that body forthwith.

We wish to announce that next week we shall spring the annual joke about the downfall of turkey, demolition of china, etc, etc. Do not overlook it.

And we are reminded at this season, of those immortal words of the poet that the frost is on the coal pile and the wood pile's in the snow drift.

Although he says he has not yet conceded the election of Governor Norris, Mr. Edward Donlan has not yet rented a residence in Helena.

We trust that this habit of shooting editors will be confined to that region of hot bloods lying south of Mason and Dixon's line.

Thanksgiving Proclamation.
 Helena, Nov. 10.—Edwin L. Norris today issued the annual Thanksgiving proclamation. It follows: "In accordance with an old and honored custom, the president of the United States has proclaimed Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and eight, as Thanksgiving day.

"That the people of Montana may properly observe the day named and have opportunity to publicly give thanks for the splendid advancement of the past, for the great prosperity assured in the immediate future, for the many blessings heretofore enjoyed and for those in prospect during the coming year.

"I, Edwin L. Norris, governor of the state of Montana, do hereby designate Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and eight, as Thanksgiving day.

"I earnestly recommend that on this day the people refrain from their usual vocations and, meeting in their homes and places of worship, give thanks to God for the many blessings conferred by him, and ask his assistance and guidance during the coming year.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the state to be affixed,

at Helena, the capital, this, the tenth day of November, A. D. one thousand nine hundred and eight, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-third. (Seal.) "EDWIN L. NORRIS, "By the Governor.

A. N. YODER, "Secretary of State."



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