

VALUE OF ASSOCIATED PRESS SERVICE WILL BE REALIZED IN COMING ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7

Great News Service Concern Will Have Returns Ready for the Masses Short Time After Polls Close; System of Compiling Accurate Figures of Big Event Is Explained

New York, Oct. 28.—F. L. A. S. H. IS ELECTED! On the night of Tuesday, November 7, the missing name in the foregoing sentence will be supplied by The Associated Press.

In the business of news-gathering as developed by this world-wide organization, the first word sent over the wires telling of any extraordinary event is "Flash!" It is the signal of a thrill. The ordinary routine of The Associated Press bureaus and their hundreds of newspaper-members is often punctuated with the "Flash!" Operators from Bangor to San Diego, from Tampa to Tacoma, tighten their lagging nerves, and editors come scurrying to the wires to hear a Pope is dead, a Titanic sunk, another country at war, a Lusitania torpedoed, a battle won, a king deposed, or a President elected.

This latter thrill has a recognized periodicity, like the passage of a comet, and the experience of it is again imminent. Within a few hours after you have scratched your ballot, The Associated Press will have flashed the verdict which you and sixteen million fellow voters have rendered—will have flashed it perhaps within a few minutes after the last of those sixteen million ballots has been dropped in its box in some of the western states, where three hours difference in time makes late the closing of the polls.

Method is Astonishing. How, in this brief time, anything approximating an accurate accounting of these sixteen million votes can be achieved, the returns assembled, and the result made known throughout the land is a process both simple and marvellous. It is true, of course, that all of those sixteen million votes are not counted, but when The Associated Press announces the elec-

tion, that announcement will be as trustworthy as if they were.

Co-operation Necessary This Year. The gathering and distribution of returns this year will mark one of the greatest co-operative efforts that has been made on any similar occasion to accomplish this purpose. In previous elections The Associated Press, relying more largely on its own resources, has done notable work in the prompt and accurate reporting of the election figures. In the Roosevelt-Parker contest of 1904 the organization was able not only definitely to announce the result but also to indicate the full extent of the victory as early as eight o'clock on election night. Equally remarkable service has been rendered in other elections, and the value of The Associated Press' figures has been such that defeated candidates themselves have, on the strength of them, sent their telegrams of congratulation to their victorious opponents. The service has been such that it has invariably brought to the executives of the organization a flood of telegrams on the day after in tribute to the "comprehensiveness," "speed" and "accuracy" with which the work has been done. This year it is possible that all records will be broken, for The Associated Press has for the coming election enlisted the co-operation of its members from coast to coast in a more concerted effort than ever before.

Papers Work in Union. More than two years ago preparations were begun, under the direction of the general manager of The Associated Press, to "cover" the news which will be served to the public on the night of November 7. Election experts of the organization have during these two years canvassed every state in the union and arranged with the papers of each state to work to-

gether on a co-operative basis under the supervision of the established Associated Press bureaus. Thousands of special forms have been prepared for the systematic conduct of the service, thousands of typewritten sheets distributed listing candidates and showing votes four years ago as a basis of comparison, special correspondents appointed and special wire facilities arranged for this particular work.

County is Made a Unit. In the collection of returns, the county is everywhere made the unit, and it is the purpose of the system to hear definitely from every election district of the more important states. In New York state alone these districts number 5,700. In Illinois there are over 5,000 and in other states a proportionately large number of districts to be heard from. Taking New York state as typical of the system that will be followed in principle at least by other states, the service there is worked out broadly as follows:

New York is Center. Having arranged for some competent man to take charge of each county up-state and for co-operative effort with the New York City News Association for the collection of the metropolitan returns, the New York headquarters of The Associated Press is made the center of tabulation. The up-state county man is stationed at the most convenient center, usually the county seat, from which he throws out his net for the gathering of his local returns.

For the special work in hand, twenty-five extra wires are strung in New York, giving direct and exclusive connection with the principal cities. Before the operators are stacked a varied assortment of printed forms, whose blank spaces await the figures that tell the story. There are pink forms, blue forms, buff, green, yellow and white to make the various complications of the vote for president, governor, senate congress, and the two houses of the state legislature.

Bankers Furnish Accountants. In the adjoining room there have been assembled a staff of a hundred men to serve as tabulators. Previous to the election The Associated Press has arranged with some of the best banks in the city to furnish expert accountants for this work. They work in relays, the first crew reporting at the close of the polls at five o'clock, completing the figures until two o'clock in the morning.

Less than ten minutes after the closing of the polls, the work begins. The first returns in New York are invariably from some of the up-state cities where voting machines are employed. There are, however, some localities on Cape Cod, and down in Maine which have priced themselves on being the first in with their vote. In such small places the law permits the opening of the ballot boxes as soon as it has been made certain that the full vote of the place has been polled, and the result is then made known.

First Figures Come Slowly. It is only by degrees that the first figures come in, but once the avalanche is started there is no let-up to the tick of the telegraph sounders, and a swarm of the colored blanks is kept flaking from the receiving operators to the tabulators. The figures are first entered by the tabulators and passed along to the designated chief who keeps a "Doomsday Book," showing the running total of the vote throughout the night. Every fifteen minutes the business of tabulation is punctuated by the issue of a bulletin on New York state, which is rushed to the leased trunk lines of The Associated Press—and over these main arteries and secondary ones—some 47,000 miles of them, some eighty different circuits—blanks are sent, keeping all of the nine hundred and forty newspaper-members of the association posted on how the country is going.

The form of these bulletins is known to thousands who have seen them flashed on the election screens: "506 election precincts out of 5,700 in New York state, for president give: Wilson _____; Hughes _____.

So, district by district, these bulletins grow until it looks so certain to some of the experts that one paper or another will concede somebody's election. But The Associated Press concedes nothing. It must know. Severe Test in 1900. In the year of the Odell-Coler fight for governor in New York in 1900, its system had a severe test. Coler ran up a big vote in New York city, and the heavy vote of Odell up-state was overlooked by many of the newspapers which conceded Coler's election. The Associated Press, in the midst of this confusion was led to wonder if its figures were right. The general manager had an abiding confidence in his men and figures, but in face of concession that some of the papers were making of Coler's election, something must be done to check the matter. He ordered a recount. The system provided for just such an emergency, and this Odell-Coler year is the only time it has ever been called into play. All of the county returns, after being tabulated, are hung on a large rack of hooks, classified by counties, where they are immediately available for recount. Off the hooks came these hundreds of telegrams, and in just fifteen minutes time the entire state vote was recounted. The head tabulator, forgetting for the moment that he was in a newspaper office instead of his bank, exclaimed: "Mr. Stone, we check to a penny!" The recount tallied exactly with the figures The Associated Press had previously given out, and the newspapers which, independently of The Associated Press figures, had conceded Coler's election, had eventually to admit their error.

Accuracy Seldom Questioned. The accuracy of The Associated Press figures has seldom since been questioned. In connection with the recent New York primary, in the fight between Calder and Bacon for the Republican nomination as candidate for a seat in the United States senate, the majority given by The Associated Press was only 79 votes at variance with the official count. In a Massachusetts state election last year the Boston bureau scored a record by

announcing the returns only three votes off from the official figures. The election machinery of The Associated Press is at work in all the states, but it is developed to its highest pitch of efficiency in the states having the largest electoral votes and the smallest average of consistency in presidential years.

Difference in Time Handicap. Given a definite line on New York state, on Massachusetts, which is invariably prompt, and a reflection of the vote in the central and western states, where a difference in time is a handicap to early returns, the result of the presidential election may be pretty definitely announced at an early hour, and often the full extent of the victory indicated, so accurately has the gauge of election figures been fixed by previous experience.

Knowing with a near certainty whether it is Wilson or Hughes will be sufficient for the throngs at the bulletin boards on election night, but The Associated Press goes on to a still bigger task than the mere announcement of the result. That would not go far to complete the morning paper. There are columns to fill with state tabulations, with lists of governors elected, the detailed constitution of the next United States senate and house of representatives, and similar tables for each state, locally handled, on the constitution of the state legislature. There are comprehensive "leads" to write in summary of the figures, and contests in particular states to be explained.

The Paul Revere of 1916. There is one human cog in the election night machine that is even more interesting than the general manager of The Associated Press. He is the Paul Revere of the backwoods districts who gallops his horse or drives his motorcycle on election night to the nearest telegraph station. There are still some remote regions—a great many of them—where the polling of a presidential vote is almost a game of solitaire, and from some of them couriers must ride twenty miles before they can release by wire to a waiting nation the fact that a plurality of one for _____ (it would be partisan to anticipate the name) had been cash at Ranch 49. There are several such remote districts even in New York state, whence news leaks almost as slowly as in Montana or Idaho. And there is no deprecating the importance of the vote cast at Clover Four-Corners. It is the will of the people that rules, and The Associated Press can know no distinction when it comes to the counting of honest ballots. Otherwise it would not pay for that twenty-mile ride.

New Jersey has been a thorn in the flesh of the election tabulators for many years. In the first place it refuses to close its polls until 7 o'clock, and its law requires that the counting of the entire ballot from top to bottom shall be completed before another ballot is taken up. There are upwards of 240 names on the Jersey ballot this year in some of the cities, and it is doubtful whether on election night President Wilson will know how his own state has gone. The Jersey method is employed in some of the central and western states, adding a further handicap to the difference in time, but New York and a majority of the eastern states put the presidential electors on a separate ballot to facilitate the count.

Wire Tolls Are Large. If the foregoing has not helped you to visualize the process by which the greatest news-gathering organization tries to satiate your election curiosity and furnish masses of figures to back up its announcement of the victory, picture to yourself this one fact: On election night the facilities for wire communication over practically the entire country are for the moment devoted almost exclusively to the collec-

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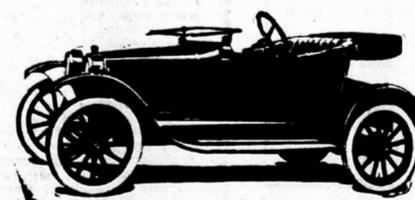
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TRIANGLE PLAY

"The Children in the House"

By Roy Somerville Produced by C. M. & S. A. Franklin
Supervision of D. W. Griffith

THE CAST

Cora, Wife of Arthur Vincent	Norma Talmadge
Alice, Her Sister, Wife of Fred Brown	Alice Rae
Jane Courtenay, A Cabaret Dancer	Jewel Carmen
Charles Brown, Cashier in the Vincent Bank	William Hinckley
Fred Brown, His Brother, A Detective	W. E. Lawrence
Arthur Vincent	Eugene Pallette
Al. Fellowes, "Gentleman" Crook	Walter Long
Jasper Vincent, Bank President	George Pearce
Gaffey, A Crook	Alva D. Blake

Neglected wives are promised a treat in "The Children in the House," newest Triangle drama. The husband who stays out nights is shot in the fifth reel and dies in time for a happy ending to the picture.

2--Reel Keystone Comedy--2

"The Lion and the Girl"

Mack Sennett Production—Enough Said

TOMORROW ONLY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

ORPHEUM

THEATRE

MATINEE AND

NIGHT

RETURNS FROM CANADA.

N. S. Jewett of Third street has returned from Vancouver, where he was called by the illness of his father. Later he visited Dr. Beardsley, brother of Mrs. Jewett, in Eugene, Ore.

Neglected wives are promised a treat in "The Children in the House," newest Triangle drama. The husband, who stays out nights, is shot in the fifth reel and dies in time for a happy ending to the picture. At the Orpheum theatre tomorrow only, matinee and night.

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J. H. HOLIHAN,
Lucas Block.

Chiropractor Moves Into New Office

On and after November 1st I can be found in my office in the Bismarck Bank Building, corner Third and Main Streets. For the past two and a half years I have had a room in the McKenzie Hotel, but my business has increased to such an extent that larger quarters became necessary.

My office will be equipped with all the latest improvements, and I hope to give better service than before.

My office hours will be the same: from 9:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M., every Tuesday and Friday.

I will take this opportunity to thank my friends who have loyally supported Chiropractic in the past, and hope to see you as usual in my new office.

A. O. Henderson, D. C.

Doctor of
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President of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners

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