

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

Published every evening, Sunday excepted, by the
Tonopah Bonanza Publishing Co., Inc.



W. W. BOOTH, Editor and Manager

Member Nevada Press Association.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION BY MAIL

One Year	\$12.00	Three Months	\$3.50
Nine Months	10.00	One Month	1.25
Six Months	6.75	One Week	.30

Delivered by Carrier \$1.25 Per Month

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Entered at the Postoffice in Tonopah as Second-class Matter.

**For President---1912
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT,
Of Ohio.**

"THE PEOPLE'S VOICE."

It is one of the peculiarities of the Roosevelt campaign that when he wins a victory, that victory is the people's voice and is precisely what it ought to be. Whenever he loses, the victory is not of the people, but of the bosses, of the "interests," and of scoundrelism generally. His blatant self-conceit and inordinate greed disqualify him from considering any questions of this kind dispassionately or upon their merits. The measure with him is always his own advantage; whatever tends to that is good, and whatever works against it is evil.

And yet the evidence is clear that there is no greater participation by the people in the primaries which yield Roosevelt delegates than in those which yield Taft delegates. In Illinois, for instance, the republican vote at the last presidential election, amounted to 629,000. Of these, 230,000 sufficed to give Roosevelt a tremendous victory over President Taft in Illinois. That is to say, a little more than one-third of the total republican vote cast for Roosevelt gives him a majority of upwards of 100,000. Results like this can hardly be considered conclusive in favor of primaries, or in favor of the proposition that the people are better represented in primaries than in caucuses and conventions. We doubt very much, says the Salt Lake Tribune, whether any political contest which has been decided by caucuses and conventions where the interest was as keen everywhere as it is this year, was ever participated in by so small a number of the party voters with such tremendous results for the successful candidate. When but little more than one-third of the total party vote will give a majority like that to any candidate, there is good ground for challenging the proposition that the people speak through caucuses and conventions.

On the general proposition that the presidential primaries are the correct thing, and that whenever they are for Roosevelt they are good and whenever they are against him they are bad, the New York Sun, under the title "Thus Spake Zarathustra," has the following biting bit of irony:

I am for presidential preference primaries in every state where I know I can't get them. Presidential preference primaries that show a preference for anybody else than me are the tyranny for an unscrupulous minority over an honest majority. There is but one absolutely trustworthy and wholly incorruptible presidential preference primary; it is in my mind and my count. It is as much the duty of decent citizens to oppose a presidential preference primary that does not produce a plurality for me as to support any district or other convention that produces delegates for me.

And we are to have this sort of thing indefinitely prolonged, according to the colonel's most recent talk. "I think we are going to win the fight this year, but if we don't we are in for three years of the war," said he at Croston, Iowa, recently. It's a dismal outlook. Clearly, it is Roosevelt's idea to intrench himself in his relation to the republican party in the same position that Bryan has so long occupied toward the democratic party, and then we are to have a party dictator and agitator in each of the two great parties, and the people will have no rest from their aggressive clamor.

Ex-President Roosevelt's indefinite classification of trusts as "good" and "bad" is now much clearer. The steel trust, prosecuted under the Taft administration, is a "good" trust; also all others that will help finance the third term movement for what they hope to get out of it.

Congress is always ready to come to the aid of flood sufferers in the Mississippi valley after great destruction of property and life has taken place. What's the matter with appropriating a sufficient sum enough to properly construct substantial levees before the next floods arrive. In the long run Uncle Sam would be the winner.

That the Almighty dollar can stick to the wily and oily Rockefeller is now an assured fact.

OWNERSHIP OF POTASH LAKE.

According to Salt Lake and California papers the potash lake discovered by government engineers in the San Bernardino desert in southern California is not part of the public domain, but is located on property owned by an English syndicate, the Foreign Mines Development company, which is a subsidiary of the British South African Gold company. The local manager of the company has announced that a million dollars will be invested in reduction works and to provide means of transportation to tidewater.

The story which comes from California is that Searles lake is from eight to twelve miles long and four miles wide at the widest part. It was originally located by Dennis Searles, who mined and freighted out borax. He patented two thousand acres and operated as the San Bernardino Borax company, which in turn was succeeded by the California Trona company.

This company borrowed large sums from the English syndicate and began the manufacture of soda from the deposits found in the bed of the lake. A plant was erected and twenty-five tons of soda were turned out, but never reached a market. It is still sacked and in the old warehouse near the lake. When the payments could not be made the syndicate foreclosed, and, to protect claims which had been bought from the locators, the company was placed in the hands of S. W. Austin as receiver.

The Salt Lake Tribune, a violent opponent of the policy of withdrawing mineral lands from public entry, rejoices that it will not be tied up, even if the profits go to foreigners, of which it says:

It is unfortunate that the deposit is owned by an English syndicate; still, it is better thus than to have it withdrawn from public use, as the United States geological survey, which has recently reported this potash deposit as a new discovery, would probably recommend. We are in a period of conservation; we are treating ourselves in all these matters as a miser treats himself who, with hoards of gold in his secret hiding places, starves himself for lack of food. It is fortunate, therefore, we say, that these deposits have been filed upon and title obtained prior to the government officials waking up to the importance of the deposit. As it is now, it is likely that the potash will be brought into use, and that it will, to some extent, at least, relieve our dependence on Germany, from whence we have been importing immense quantities of this fertilizer.

The English syndicate will take the product to tidewater. The San Francisco Call states that this potash is in solution, and it suggests that perhaps a pipe line would provide the best means of transportation to a reduction plant on the coast.

The land having been patented by Dennis Searles, as stated in the above extract, the validity of the English company's title would seem to be absolute and clear, and it is not likely that the government would undertake to reassert its ownership or possession of the deposit. Clearly it is to the advantage of the present generation that the English syndicate has this deposit and is preparing to put the potash on the market. Otherwise, if it were in fact a new discovery, as the geological survey has intimated (at least the potash part of it), there would be no opportunity for anybody to get this potash during the present generation. It is to be hoped that the English company will hasten its preparations and establish an economical and practical method of getting this potash to the sea for transportation and commercial use.

Californians seem to think the deposit is of almost fabulous value and some estimate it to be worth \$250,000,000. Still it would be unwise to invest money in stock until more definite information is forthcoming. It looks promising, but no one can yet tell what it will cost to produce potash there and lay it down at New Orleans or Galveston. And besides, the German Kali syndicate cannot be relied on to maintain prices if it finds its present monopoly in danger.

The Pope has forbidden priests to appear where women wear decolette gowns and Sheikh-ul-Islam, head of the Mohammedan church has forbidden women from wearing modern dresses, but insist that they stick to the old custom of wearing baggy-knee trousers and also parade with the old custom veil. We cannot agree with the Sheikh-ik-ik-ky or what the h--- his name is. Let the men wear the pants. Progress. Take off the stringy veil, give a man a chance, let him know the features of his lady friends. Do not deteriorate.

One swallow does not make a summer, and neither do the bulk of delegates from Illinois and Pennsylvania come anywhere near making a majority in the Chicago convention. Since his first wild howls of joy, the ex-president seems to have relapsed into sullenness again. His strange moods are seriously worrying many of his supporters.

Heave a joy sigh, brother married man, for there has just left China, several tons of Chinese queues, consigned to this country. That surely should bring down the cost of switches, rats, puffs, and other ornaments that are used to adorn the headgear of our better half.

That French aviator who sailed to a height of 3000 feet then turned his machine over in order to commit suicide, after having a quarrel with his sweetheart, made a good job of it. Poor devil, perhaps he is better off at that.

Reno unites them but leave it to Tonopah to tie them up. Last week two happy couples journeyed from neighboring camps to this city in order that a splicing might be effected.

"Stripped Down to Nature," is the heading over an editorial we have just read. We thought at first glance that it had reference to Eleanor Sears, but we were mistaken.

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