

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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DOUBLE ELECTION LAW.

THE success achieved by Kansas in reporting results from the last presidential election has directed attention to the law of that state which brought the returns almost with the close of the polls. While other states were struggling with the final count and California kept the country on the anxious seat for almost a week Kansas was Johnny on the spot with a complete unofficial count that removed that state from the doubtful list and enabled newspapers and political managers to know exactly where Kansas stood in the matter, not alone of presidential electors, but of every office down to the most humble township official. The wonderful achievement has led other states to introduce legislation looking to the adoption of the double election board with the prospect of revising the election laws to the end that the collection of returns may be simplified and the chances of fraud removed. There is no doubt that in close elections the temptation to falsify the returns is increased by the ease with which such a result can be secured through the weariness and exhaustion of election officials. In this state particularly the matter became a subject of grave concern last year when in at least two precincts in Reno the work of counting the ballots dragged out for a couple of days without relief or respite for the clerks and judge of election. These persons were on the verge of prostration from physical fatigue and it would not have been a surprise to find the official count show a considerable discrepancy between the real and preliminary reports. This course of computing the results should not be tolerated. The present system is nothing more than sheer brutality. Especially is this the case since the introduction of suffrage entitles the weaker sex to a share in the spoils of war by serving at elections. A movement has been started to secure the adoption of a uniform election law having for its main feature the double election board. The system does not entail any extra expense on the cities or counties assuming the burden of the election for the work is accomplished in less than one half the time and therefore the cost really effects a saving. Instead of paying weary clerks and judges for two or three days the same work is done under the double board system by two sets of officials working one day. As soon as the polls close the count is completed within an hour or two at the outside, and then the election is over and the anxious electors advised of the results. The only extra expense is that of providing an extra set of ballot boxes which would increase the cost of the first election but after that the saving would be substantial. The two sets of ballot boxes are necessary for the operation of the system so that after the first 30 minutes the first boxes would be turned over to the enumerating officials who would remove the ballots and proceed with the count as though the polls were closed. For this purpose an extra room and privacy are desirable. When the ballots are counted and entered in the election books the boxes would be returned to the receiving board and set No. 2 would be taken into the rear room and alternate throughout the day. In this way the count would proceed as fast as the election and there would not be any doubt about the accuracy of returns. In Kansas, where the system was introduced, the law provides for the double board only at polls where the registration exceeds 250 voters. Where fewer votes are cast it is assumed that the canvass could proceed in the regular way. The measure has many good points and there is no class that would welcome the change quicker than the newspaper men who are compelled to keep long vigils while waiting for the results to be announced from congested precincts where the possibility of error through carelessness or intent might jeopardize the entire election.

PLOTTING OF THE GERMANS.

IT IS not the United States alone that has a crow to pluck with the German government over the perfidious and unmanly method of using a friendly nation as the ground for conducting machinations against the enemy countries. Dr. Zimmerman has thrown off the mask and contents himself with expressing solicitude over the discovery which exposed the nefarious campaign against good government conducted under protection of the flag of these United States. The full extent of the plotting may never be known, but sufficient has come to pass to give the American people an idea of the unfathomable duplicity of the minions of the kaiser. It will be remembered that von Bernstorff on taking his departure from Washington shed crocodile tears over the separation which he declared would consign him to private life for his remaining years. The ambassador expressed regret at the severance owing to the circumstances that his wife was an American and that he professed a profound love for the country which gave him such a brilliant helpmeet. The arrant hypocrisy of these professions cannot be encompassed in words when it is understood that almost every scheme and plot was incubated at Washington under protection of the American flag which gave sanctuary to the myriad spies operating as attaches of the embassy. Not alone was this plotting directed against the British government with the intent of crippling its Canadian loyalists but many of the conspiracies were of the most sordid character aimed at the destruction of American lives and property. The blowing up of munition plants, the disastrous conflagrations occurring in frequent sequence at widely separated points all indicated an absence of humane feeling and a hostility wholly incompatible with the acceptance of hospitality from a friendly country. Under the circumstances it is no wonder that the wireless has been busy picking up the Scandinavian steamer Frederick VIII with anxious warnings for the home coming ambassador not to utter a word about the plotting imputed to him while stationed as a guest of the United States at Washington. The German government is aware of the incriminating knowledge and that the plot was exposed during the search of the Frederick VIII while detained at Halifax. Later developments go to prove that the conspiracy not only involved our relations with Japan and Mexico but ramified through the entire chain of South American republics and across the Pacific to China and India where it was expected to foment strife and thus bring about a rear attack on the allies to distract attention from the west front where the flower of the German armies was concentrated. The lessons of these denouements should not be lost on a nation whose hospitality has been notorious-

ly abused and the first step should be to secure the extirpation of spies and their agents from further operations. The government at Washington evidently is in possession of more information on this score than has been allowed to transpire. The net appears to be closing for each day brings fresh reminders of the vigilance of this government through the arrest of individuals suspected of acting as tools of the governments with which we have severed relations.

While Dr. Zimmerman is defending vigorously his pet measure for alienating Mexico from the Monroe doctrine it is remarkable how silent Carranza has grown. Usually the first chief of the adjoining republic is as garrulous as an old woman over her third cup of tea.

It remained for a senator from an agricultural county to introduce a bill abolishing the office of mine inspector. It would be enlightening for Mr. Bradshaw to explain on what grounds he thinks the office is superfluous. The legislature recognized the value of the work of this branch of the service by authorizing the appointment of a second deputy to add to the efficiency of the office. There was scarcely any opposition to this movement and it looks like begging the question to come in at the eleventh hour of the legislature to suggest the miner is not entitled to the protection that the inspector's office affords.

EASTERN STATES FAVOR THE REVISION OF THE SYSTEM OF COUNTING BALLOTS

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Mar. 7.—Indications that one of the greatest obstacles to the prompt announcement of election results, such as handicapped newspapers in the last presidential election, may be removed before another presidential year, are reflected in the action of the West Virginia legislature, following the example set by Kansas, in the creation of what is called "a double election board."

The measure is hailed by West Virginia newspapers as one that will be appreciated by the general public to a greater extent than is realized by those not familiar with the present encumbrances which surround ballot counting. They declare that the success of the experiment in Kansas last fall should attract attention in other states as a possible relief from such uncertainty as the whole country labored under for several days after the last election.

This system does not in any sense revolutionize present methods of voting, but simply makes it possible that the ballots may be counted almost simultaneously with the cast of them, with the result that the vote is known immediately upon the closing of the polls.

The Kansas law provides that at all general elections the national and state tickets shall be printed upon one ballot, and the district, county and township tickets shall be printed upon another ballot, and that at each voting precinct five separate ballot boxes shall be provided, two boxes in duplicate for the national and state ballots, and that there shall be two boards of election officers, one to be known as the receiving board, to receive the ballots and guard their proper placement in the boxes, and the other to be a counting board.

The old method, which still obtains in all states except Kansas and West Virginia, requires the casting of the ballot before any counting is done, and this involved in some places from six to 48 hours, delaying a still greater time the compilation of a state or national vote.

The act of the West Virginia legislature in following the Kansas example is called the Wier bill, after James W. Wier, a newspaper man who is a member of the West Virginia legislature and who deemed that some of the clerical and mechanical handicaps of election reporting belonged to the days when folks depended upon the stage coach mail for their news, instead of the present era of the telephone and wireless telegraph. In West Virginia, for example, at the last election it was a week before it was known positively how the state had gone, and it was six weeks before the exact figures were compiled and published.

What little opposition was met with in West Virginia in suggesting adoption of the Kansas method was to the effect that the double election board involved additional expense, but in the argument of the author of the bill, it is as inexpen-

sive to work two sets of men one day as it is to work one set of men for two days.

Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and several of the middle and western states have for many years been particularly slow in completing their returns, and it is such conditions that have handicapped The Associated Press in announcing the definite results of presidential elections on the night of election day. The seriousness of such delays as were encountered last November, when various newspapers announced the result before it was known, has impressed itself upon Governor Cox of Ohio. In an address before the members of The Associated Ohio Dailies at Columbus recently the governor suggested an adoption of a law similar to that of Kansas so that the general result might be known early in the evening of election, instead of, as he said, "about Christmas time."

WOMEN WILL TRY THE EVERETT I.W.W.

FATE OF THE ACCUSED RESTS WITH THE NEW VOTERS OF WASHINGTON

(By Associated Press.)

SEATTLE, Mar. 7.—It is almost certain that a majority of the members of the jury to try Thomas H. Tracy, accused of murdering Deputy Sheriff Jefferson Beard at Everett last November, will be women. Eight women and four men are on provisional jury. Tracy was a member of the free speech expedition which went from Seattle to Everett on a boat and attempted to land, precipitating a fight.

CERRO GORDO CLEANS UP HANDSOMELY

The Cerro Gordo Mine company net profits have been averaging close to \$300 daily for a month past, or at the rate of 10 per cent per annum. The quarterly dividend at the rate of 5 cents per share in January will be increased in April, according to semi-official information, and it is also possible that an interim dividend may be declared. Surplus profits in the treasury as of March 1 approximate \$225,000. Receipt shipments have been at the rate of 800 tons of lead-silver ore per month, 1800 tons of zinc ore, and 1600 tons of lead-silver slags from the old furnace slag pile. The property is the foremost zinc-lead-silver producer in California, and is located near Keeler, in Inyo county.

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