

**THE LEON REPORTER**  
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**THE NATION DEMOCRATIC.**

Practically the entire nation has gone democratic. No man believes that it was an accident. There must have been a cause for it. Democratic leadership has not been of such exceptional merit as to have attracted the vote by its own magnetism. The verdict of a people must be read as a rebuke to republican leadership in the nation. President Taft, Senator Aldrich, Speaker Cannon and their conferees must accept responsibility for results. Hereafter there should be a shaking up at officers' headquarters of the party. A tariff bill passed as was the Payne-Aldrich bill should never be ventured again. A railroad bill drawn by railroad attorneys and loaded with a clause repealing the anti-trust law should never return to the United States senate with the O. K. of a republican president. The reactionaries of the past generation should no longer be permitted to sit upon the legislation of the lower house. The people of the nation have passed on these things and there is no ambiguity in their verdict.

And dark as the disaster does seem to those who believe in the fundamental righteousness of republican principles there is good to come from it all. The necessity of such internecine struggle within the republican party has been largely due to the overconfidence of leaders who believe that the party could boat with any kind of a load coming to the special interests. Had there been more fear of democratic success there would have been far more care exercised in piloting the republican party. We have now seen our beloved ship aground on the rocks and having been jolted out of our bunks of serenity, we will all of us be more careful hereafter in the selection of our party pilots.

This lesson in navigation applies equally in the state of Iowa and in the nation at large. The next two years prior to 1912 is going to do more for the regeneration of the republican party than twenty-five years of continued success could have done. And it is going to help the democratic party as well. Hope will shake the bar-room bosses to the bottom and elevate the Woodrow Wilsons, the Harmons and men like Foss to the top in democratic leadership. There will be a distinct improvement in leadership within both parties and a gain to the public service.—Marshalltown Times-Republican.

**WARNING TO DEMOCRATS.**

Democrats who are jubilant over their triumph must not forget that victory brings its responsibilities. The landslide of yesterday does not mean that there are more democrats today than there were two years ago.

Thousands of honest republicans disgusted with slavish subservience of their leaders to trust, voiced their indignation by voting the democratic ticket.

The tremendous vote polled by Foss in Massachusetts, by Harmon in Ohio, and even the overwhelming majority by which the democrats swept Cook county were made possible by republicans who took this method to protest against the further control of their party organization by selfish interests.

Whether these allies shall be retained depends upon the manner in which the democratic party fulfills its trust. If its leaders, like their republican predecessors, bow down before the golden calf; if they in turn become servants of privilege rather than representatives of the people, republicans who aided them in their victory will return to their former allegiance at the next election.

The democratic party is offered an opportunity such as it has not enjoyed in many years. If it acts and legislates to alleviate the burdens of the people, yesterday's victory will be followed by a still more notable triumph in 1912.

But if the party leaders sell out to the moneyed interests, then democrats will return to their diet of husks, on which they have been feeding for about eighteen years.—Chicago Journal.

**A ROOSEVELT WATERLOO.**

And whether Mr. Roosevelt has been beaten he has been beaten by republican votes.

This is no partisan Democratic victory in the ordinary sense of that term. While it is a defeat for the Taft administration and for the republican party, it is peculiarly a defeat for Theodore Roosevelt and his 1912 ambitions. It was brought about by the help of republicans who were dissatisfied with the record of the Taft administration and the Aldrich-Cannon revision of the tariff. But it was also brought about by hundreds of thousands of patriotic republicans who still believe in the constitution of the United States, who still uphold the supreme court and who will tolerate no third-term ambitions in any man, whatever party name that masks his pretensions.

The World repeats now what it has said time and again during the campaign. Republican victory would have been a Roosevelt victory. Republican defeat is a Roosevelt defeat. When the republican convention in 1912 looks for this mysterious force whom Ellihu Root has so eloquently described it will not look in the direction of Oyster Bay.—New York World.

**NEW DEMOCRACY AS WELL AS EFFETE REPUBLICANISM.**

When it is considered, as now seems to be the fact, that barely two-thirds of the Republican vote in the middle western states came to the polls, and the further fact that factional differences had aroused unusual bitterness among the Republicans, the result of today's election is not at all surprising.

Every effort to promote harmony was made by the committee, in many instances with success.

The revision of the tariff always has proved a disturbing element in American politics, and this year has been no exception.

Fact and sophistry are interestingly mingled in the foregoing words of the chairman of the Republican National Congressional Committee—W. B. McKinley—after the deluge of Tuesday. That "factional difference had aroused unusual bitterness among the Republicans" is too patent to need comment, and we pass over likewise the pathetic declaration that "every effort to promote harmony was made by the committee." In noting, as one of the causes of the great Republican defeat, the fact that in the Middle West barely two-thirds of the vote came to the polls, Chairman McKinley but follows the logic which accounts for a business failure by the magnitude of liabilities and the lack of assets. It's very well as far as it goes, but a trifle incomplete.

As for the inevitable disturbance incident to tariff revision, we do Mr. McKinley the credit of believing that he understands that it was not revision that has arisen to trouble the revisers, but the direction in which they revised. Nor do we conceive him to be blind to the fact of the vital importance of other issues than the tariff as a producer of that indifference which kept Republican voters at home in the middle west.

The important question, from the Democratic point of view, is whether the gains of the Democracy are positive or negative. In the political tennis game, has Democracy "made a good return," or has Republicanism simply served all its balls into the net? Is it positive merit that is winning, or simply fatuous folly which is reaping as it sowed?

On this point we believe, there is "light out of the east." The most significant events of Tuesday are chronicled in the reports from New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and Ohio. And in scrutinizing them we are impressed by a fact of capital importance:

There is neither consolation nor humiliation in the returns from these states, for either of the two camps into which the Democratic party of half a dozen years ago was divided. Neither Judge Parker nor William Jennings Bryan has been "rebuked" or "vindicated" by anything which has taken place in the past three months in eastern Democratic politics. The stain has come upon the "new wood."

The several members of the newest group of political leaders in the United States have conducted their armies to the present victory. Where were Wilson, Baldwin, Foss, Gaynor, Dix, just two short years ago? There is more in the present situation than an effete Republicanism; there is a rejuvenated Democracy, youthful, virgile, militant.—St. Louis Republic.

**SCRATCHING POPULAR.**

Secret Ballot has Resulted in Much Independent Voting.

The enormous increase in independent voting is given credit for the fact that it is not easier now to get and tabulated election returns than in the days before rural phones and automobiles. It is a fact that will hardly be disputed in any newspaper office in Iowa that getting election returns is a more difficult matter, and less satisfactory, now than twenty-five years ago.

Where the voting machines are in use there is no way of knowing how many persons voted a "straight ticket" except by having the machine watched, and this is not absolutely accurate. Some men will spend as much time voting a straight ticket as others voting for individual candidates.

But where ballots are used, the reports indicate that a very much larger number of the voters may be classed as independent voters than ever before. It used to be, prior to the secret ballot system, that anywhere from 90 to 95 per cent of the ballots were straight for one party or another. More recently, under the secret ballot system, the proportion of scratched ballots has gradually grown to from 20 to 25 per cent.

But this year in many places more than half the ballots were scratched. The independent voter is becoming frequent.

A great deal of misapprehension exists as to the completeness of the machinery for getting returns. As a matter of fact neither the republican nor democratic state headquarters had, at midnight Tuesday night, actual reports from to exceed 100 precincts. By noon Wednesday they could not have got together and figured up on more than twenty counties, giving majorities on the head of the ticket. This was in part due to the mixed character of the result and in part to the fact that those who did not much care how the election went didn't care very much whether anybody found it out, hence there was surprising indifference as to sending in reports from the counties.

Down in Missouri there was a hard fight between the "wets" and "drys," but the state continued "wet" by about 200,000. In the rural counties big majorities were piled up by the "drys" but this was more than overcome by the tremendous "wet" majority in the large cities.

Mr. Pepper, democratic candidate for congress in the Second, seems to have had plenty of ginger.

**BEFORE AND AFTER.**

With a barn here and there picked up and deposited in the next county, a hencoop or two planted in the tree tops, the hair blown off the family cat, many chimneys scattered, and the population coming up out of cyclone cellars with expressions ranging from rage and grief to covert smiles, or even worse, the political scene offers much to divert, to instruct, and likewise to puzzle and amuse the observer.

From a bird's-eye view, however, the larger outlines of the situation are plain enough, as The Tribune already has said. What has happened is what The Tribune foresaw. During the tariff revision The Tribune interpreted the sentiment of the public, and last winter, when the signs of popular feeling seemed to us ominous and unmistakable, The Tribune said so, instituting, to fortify its own judgment, a nation wide investigation. For this candor The Tribune was charged with treachery, with coloring the truth, with creating sentiment against the administration. Perhaps the standard leaders accept the coming event as inevitable, as the unescapable price of "tampering" with the tariff. Perhaps some were willing this supposed political law should take its course. Only they didn't want any talk about it.

Now that the vent has arrived, The Tribune takes no satisfaction in crying "I told you so" to those who misinterpreted its spirit and purpose. Nor does it pretend at this time to estimate its full effects, much less resort to prophecy. But it is certain that the problem before the Republican party leaders will call for unusual foresight and for a larger and higher statesmanship than has been predominant in its counsels for many years.—Chicago Tribune.

**WATERLOO—AND AFTER.**

There is in some quarters a disposition to deprive Mr. Roosevelt of the credit for the democratic victory in other parts of the country—nobody disputes the fact that he is fully responsible for it in this state.

This is unfair. Mr. Roosevelt should receive full credit for the important part he played in the success of the democratic candidates everywhere. While he was president he split the republican party in the nation, and since his "return from Elba" in his campaign of the hundred days he has "beaten to a frazzle" the party of his own state.

Every candidate for whom he made especially appealing speeches has been defeated, and democrats he particularly attacked have all been elected. No man in public life within the memory of the present generation every received such a signal personal rebuke. Judge Baldwin, whom he attacked, has been elected governor of Connecticut. Mr. Roosevelt's personal friend, Herbert Parsons, is defeated for congress by Jefferson M. Levy. His home congressional representative and friends Mr. Cooks, is beaten by Martin W. Littleton and his own election district, ordinarily republican by 150, gives a plurality of 60 to Mr. Dix.

The Waterloo foreseen and persistently predicted by the Herald has been fought, and whether the would-be dictator is sent to St. Helena or lingers at Oyster Bay his power has been overthrown, his prestige is a thing of the past. To intimate him borrowing from the parlance of the fistic arena "the never come back" and he's "down and out."

It is not a partisan victory for the democrats. The result in other states as well as our own is largely due to the votes of independent republicans disgusted with the reckless, vituperative language and revolutionary principles of the arch-demagogue.—New York Herald (Ind).

For the first time in twenty-seven years Montgomery county elected a democrat to the legislature, Gordon Hayes, who had 5 majority over his republican opponent, notwithstanding that Carroll carried the county by 1025.

The democrats over in Wayne county captured most of the county offices, electing treasurer, clerk, county attorney, superintendent and two members of the board of supervisors.

The voters at large seem to have grasped with some alacrity the opportunity to convey the idea that they do not believe the Aldrich tariff to be the "best that ever was enacted."

In Lucas county Gov. Carroll had a majority of 494, but the democrats elected the auditor, clerk, treasurer and county attorney.

Four women were elected to seats in the Colorado legislature.

It still looketh like a landslide.

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