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THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

On the Somme river the French have been holding their gains of the first of the month. The British have made further gains and are now about four miles beyond the original first line of the Germans? The English claim that the second line of the Germans is not so strong as was the first line. That the French and English expect to methodically follow up the advantages thus gained this month seems to be a settled fact. This also means that they are prepared and preparing to sacrifice lives in this Titanic and critical struggle.

The more intense fighting at Verdun has given way to practically the ordinary cannonading and assaults of trench fighting, both sides alternately losing or gaining in certain sections. But it is apparent that the great assaults of the Germans are over for the present at least.

The Russian columns on the three hundred mile front are gradually crowding back the Austrians and Germans at many points against very stubborn resistance.

In the Caucasus reports are somewhat conflicting but on the whole favorable to the Russians.

The Italians claim important successes against the Austrians and are at least keeping a large number of Austrian troops busy that are badly needed in other directions.

Thus on the whole after two years of aggressiveness and offensive we see the Teutons practically on the defensive at nearly all points. Whether they can ever again assume the offensive is the question of the time for war critics. While both France and England have no doubt about their full possible strength in the field, yet it is apparent that they can keep up that strength in both men and munitions for a considerable length of time. Whether Germany and Austria can stand the strain is a question to be answered only by future events. These are the questions when answered will also answer the question of when will the war cease.

On the Mexican border we now have about 50,000 sweating militia men "watchfully waiting" for somebody to come and attack them. Isn't it a farce,

We have neighbors across the street who are bandit murderers and thieves. Eor protection the city furnishes us 50 policemen who camp in our front yard. They must not cross the street and arrest the bandits. You see that the bandits are supposed to own the house in which they sally forth to murder. With the policemen in our front yard we are safe. It is rather costly though, especially as we know that later the police will necessarily have to cross the road.

A NEW ROOSEVELTIAN PHASE.

A few weeks since we wrote of some of the strong characteristics of Theodore Roosevelt. That was before the meeting of the Republican and Progressive conventions. Since that time he has distinguished himself in an entirely new direction, though his previous history had proven a very remarkable versatility.

In all his previous life his one great characteristic was his faculty of getting to the front. What ever he might be doing, he was sure to be in the front rank, and always with a prominence that kept his name on the front pages of the daily papers.

Since the adjournment of the Republican convention which nominated Hughes and the Progressive convention which nominated Roosevelt, the world has been astonished to discover in Roosevelt a new characteristic, that of self-abnegation or self-effacement; Roosevelt has resigned in favor of Hughes.

In this case there is no possible question of motive. Mr. Roosevelt had reason to believe that after the result of the election of four years ago and the present war-like sentiment of large numbers of the American voters that he had a fair chance of election. But he also knew for almost a political certainty that if he were not elected that Hughes would be defeated and Wilson elected. He knew that to make a Republican victory certain that either he or Hughes must resign.—And he resigned.

It was a great and patriotic act. Even his political opponents must concede that much. We at this time remember only one incident of self sacrifice of equal political portent, that of Samuel J. Tilden the greatest Democrat of all, who acquiesced in the supposed but doubtful election of Hayes and bade his followers to accept the decision of the commission to whom Congress had given the power of arbitration though there was no law existing for such a body.

In this new phase of character, perhaps Mr. Roosevelt has shone more strength than any other act of his, for he has shone his power of self-government and we have the Biblical authority that such are greater than those who take a city.

Theodore Roosevelt, the citizen, is today the greatest man in United States. He has the greatest number of personal and political followers and he commands the respect of the United States but the majority of presidents have not been big men and the majority of the real big statesmen have never reached the presidency.

LOST TIME AND OTHER THINGS

The opening sentences of the penultimate note which Lansing sent to Carranza on June 20 revealed the constant factor of dilatoriness which has characterized the entire conduct of foreign relations by the Wilson administration. "I have read," says Mr. Lansing, "your communication which was delivered to me on May 22".

It took the State Department four weeks and a day to make reply to a note which Mr. Lansing described in his answer as marked by a "discourteous tone and temper" such as to cause "surprise and regret".

It would have caused, instead, indignation and resentment; and it should have

provoked an instant and vigorous retort. What was the occasion for delay? Surely, there was nothing in the situation in Mexico which would lead to even a hope of better manners from Carranza. Surely, there was nothing in the situation which could provoke even a remote notion that better order could be secured. Surely, there was nothing in the situation which could warrant the belief that the United States could further postpone the duty which its long submerged self-respect imposed.

Yet Wilson and Lansing waited four weeks and a day—and then sent a note couched in language such as the files of the State Department have long since familiarized us with, and added to these words a precipitate call for the mobilization of the National Guard. Four weeks were lost. Indeed, more than three years have been lost. If Wilson and Bryan had acted in 1913, just after Wilson came into office, in the same manner that Wilson and Lansing have now acted in 1916, just after Wilson has been renominated, the whole Mexican question would have been settled. We would have saved the lives of hundreds of American citizens, we would have spared the American flag innumerable insults, we would have preserved the purity of scores of American women, we would have maintained our prestige among the nations of the world—for the unhappily results of our dealings with the belligerent powers of Europe are in direct consequence of our manner of dealing with the revolutionary bandits in Mexico. Time has been lost, it is true. But other things quite as irrecoverable and even more precious have been lost also.

LET THE PRIMARY

LAW BE REPEATED.

The greatest farce upon the statute books is the Australian ballot and primary law.

This statement in various forms but to the same effect, has been made many times ever since these laws were proposed and passed, by the Pioneer Express.

We refer to it at this time again because the late primary has proved the statement to be absolutely correct, if there was any lingering doubt previously left.

The Australian ballot was imported from another country where entirely different systems of party government and election machinery is used. It fits the American system about like a shirt on a broomstick. In Canada and Australia there are seldom more than four candidates on a ballot. In this country the voter is given "five minutes" in which to make and mark his "intelligent choice" out of from fifty to one hundred twenty five names of candidates. As a matter of common practice, especially at the last election, the voter carried with him into the booth a printed list of names, for all the world just like the old-fashioned party ballot, and marks his statutory ballot according to the printed list. He and the election officers would have saved much time and trouble and red tape if he had been allowed to present his printed list to the judges as his ballot, without bothering to go to a booth and marking the regular ballot. That is to say, that after all the legislation and laws on that subject, the late primaries were carried in this state by printed lists just like the old style of voting; we having gone all the way round the circle with the same result as when a dog chases his own tail.

The primary law which says it is made for the government of political parties was absolutely and completely ignored and made innocuous. A party "which was not a party" held secret caucuses, sent delegates to conventions, nominated candidates, had a regular organization, raised large sums of money, grafted itself on both regular parties without their assent, used old-fashioned ballots and won out, the statutes of the great state of North Dakota to the contrary notwithstanding.

And the farce of it all is that while the primary law is opposed at least in spirit, to all of the immediately preceding proceedings that constitutionally the "no party" people were strictly within their rights. The peaceful assembling of the people is guaranteed by the constitution of the United States and caucuses and conventions are peaceful assemblies—generally speaking.

Furthermore the action of the Non-partisan party proved far more effectual and sensible than the loose organization of the regular parties under the primary laws, which really disorganize and practically puts each candidate on his own initiative, often against pronounced party opposition which many times holds over and is manifested at the ensuing general election.

The primary law and the Australian ballot were both primarily intended to

knock out boss rule. The general results so far have not proven that boss-rule of parties is any less than before. But as a specially remarkable example of its complete failure in this respect the nonpartisan movement at the late election was conspicuous.

Five men got together and formed an organization. They invited all farmers to join them and pay six to nine dollars for the privilege. And thousands of said farmers did. Nobody had or has any authority in this remarkable aggregation except the five originals and they are dominated by Mr. Twonley. All business matters which confessedly run into hundreds of thousands of dollars, all political methods and nominations, are run by and pertain to these head officials who were not even elected to their official positions.

And again the farce of the whole thing is that these five men are now apparently "bosses" of not only the nonpartisan party but through the workings of the primary law they have become the "bosses" of the Republican and Democratic parties, so that if they can control the votes in November as well as they did in June, no candidate can be elected unless he gets the consent and support of President Twonley.

And that is how the primary law knocked out "boss-rule" in North Dakota.

Then our learned legislators thought they would go a step farther and take the judges and the educators out of politics altogether by making the names of the candidates appear on what they called a "nonpartisan" ballot.

In this case the law however, proved a complete success. The "nonpartisan" ticket was selected all right—though perhaps the learned legislators had not thought that the words "nonpartisan" which seem so simple were capable of so many different meanings.

There isn't a redeeming feature in the primary law.

We never have found one intelligent man who had any real use for it.

Let it be repealed and let parties (which are and must be independent of law as parties) govern themselves in any old way that suits the members of the parties.

Less mileage of track built than any year since 1864, and 41,988 miles of railways, with a total capitalization of \$2,264,000,000, in the hands of receivers, is the Free-Trade record of railway "prosperity" for 1915. Stick that in your hat, Mr. Voter.—American Economist.

Republican Committee Meet.

As required by law the Republican precinct committeemen met at Cavalier Wednesday afternoon and organized a county committee. There was a good attendance and everything went off harmoniously, the only place contested was that of the state committeeman, where J. E. Lee and E. H. Restemeyer were nominated. A vote was taken by ballot and Mr. Lee won out by a good majority.

The organization for the coming two years is as follows: J. R. Gibson, chairman; A. Robbie, secretary, and J. E. Lee, treasurer. The executive committee are J. H. Well, Cavalier, Swain Thorwaldson, Mountain, Dr. Waldren, Drayton, J. H. Rowe, Hamilton, G. G. Thompson, Pembina, Norman Mattson, Crystal, J. W. Harvey, Walhalla.

Chairman Gibson, in his remarks to the delegates advised all to support the straight ticket as nominated, for they were all believers in the fundamental principles of the Republican party which should take preference to any local issues that might have entered the primaries.

A committee on resolutions was appointed relative to the death of Dr. James of Bathgate, who had served as chairman of the county committee for many years, and the following was adopted:

Whereas, it has pleased Him, in whose hands are all the issues of life to remove from our midst Dr. H. J. James of Bathgate, who departed this life on Sunday, July 16th, 1916, at Almont, Ontario, and Whereas, Dr. James having faithfully served as Chairman of the Republican County Committee for several years, and as a member of the committee prior thereto, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we as members of the Republican County Committee sincerely deplore the loss of Dr. James as a citizen and the loss to the community in his professional capacity. Be it further Resolved, that the members of this committee in convention assembled, tender to the relatives and friends of the deceased our sincere sympathy in their irreparable loss.

The convention adjourned to meet at the call of the chairman, after he had been instructed to fill certain vacancies on the ticket.

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