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J. B. JONES: Editor and Publisher.

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Republicans for Fair Districts

Special Correspondence.

JEFFERSON CITY, Nov. 27.—The campaign of 1912 in Missouri will be preceded by a movement on the part of the republicans to have the people determine, by direct vote, the boundaries of senatorial and congressional districts. No definite action will be taken for redistricting the state into senatorial districts, however, until the legal status of the Major-Roach gerrymander is determined.

It will be remembered that when Attorney General Major and Secretary of State Roach, both partisan democrats, met with Governor Hadley as a board empowered by law to lay out senatorial districts, they presented an arrangement for creating 34 districts, with the counties so grouped as to insure the election of from 24 to 30 democratic senators, thus practically disfranchising the republicans of the state so far as the state senate is concerned. Governor Hadley did not get a chance to present a better proposition and would not have been treated with consideration had he proposed a fair re-districting arrangement. The gerrymander offered and adopted by Major and Roach had been agreed upon at a conference at Excelsior Springs, where lesser democrats sat at the feet of Senator Wm. Stone and prepared the most infamous division of the state into senatorial districts for partisan democratic purposes, and left to Major and Roach the task of getting it in the statute books. Those two partisans adopted it against the protest of Governor Hadley, who pointed out its unfair and unfair features, refused to approve it and refused to promulgate it as a law, a necessary part of the procedure provided by the constitution for making effective the work of the three state officers in senatorial re-districting. He also forbade its publication in the session acts as a law of the state. He and other able lawyers hold that the Major-Roach gerrymander therefore has no legal standing and that the 34 senatorial districts created ten years ago must remain until the state shall have been legally re-districted. The democrats contend that the districts outlined by Major and Roach last spring are the legal districts now, and will proceed next August to nominate candidates in the unevenly numbered districts as established by the gerrymander, from 1 to 33 inclusive, unless that gerrymander is meanwhile set aside by the courts.

The St. Louis circuit court, having been notified by the secretary of state of that provision of the gerrymander requiring that the city of St. Louis be divided by the circuit judges into six senatorial districts, according to law, will consider the matter Friday, Dec. 1. If a majority of the judges of that court agree that the Major-Roach gerrymander is legal and binding, they will proceed to divide St. Louis into six senatorial districts (it is entitled to seven); but if their decision is against the gerrymander, it will doubtless be thus destroyed, as the action of that troug, able court is apt to be regarded as conclusive.

Whether the democratic gerrymander be sustained or destroyed by the courts, the republicans, led by Governor Hadley, will prepare and submit to the people a bill for direct vote, re-districting the state

into 34 senatorial districts, in conformity with the requirements of the constitution that "the state shall be divided into convenient districts, as nearly equal in population as may be," and the counties or wards of cities composing such districts shall be contiguous; and that "such districts shall be as compact as may be." The democratic gerrymander utterly ignores these requirements of the constitution. It is arbitrary and unfair.

These is nothing to hinder the people from creating, by direct vote, sixteen congressional districts, the congressional apportionment bill having allotted that number of congressmen to Missouri again, and Governor Hadley, Congressmen Bartholdt, Dyer and Catlin and others having defeated the efforts of the two democratic senators and thirteen congressmen of Missouri to place in that bill a provision that the districts in each state shall be created "by the legislature thereof." The republicans will prepare and submit a congressional re-districting bill, to be voted on at the election in November next year; but the present districts must stand unchanged for the election of congressmen in 1912.

Of the sixteen congressmen who now represent Missouri, only three are republicans—from the three St. Louis districts. A fair apportionment will give the republicans at least eight, and possibly ten. The republicans demand a square deal.

Of all our national holidays none is more universally or more joyously celebrated than that of Thanksgiving Day. Though of New England origin and for many years confined almost exclusively to that section, it has slowly but surely extended itself all over the our great country.

The Whole Matter Settled

Ponder no longer upon what to get the loved ones for Christmas. Do not rack your brains and pace up and down the floor worrying over the advertisements. We have settled the whole matter for you by arranging the following list. Each item is guaranteed to give satisfaction and all you have to do is to go and buy them and hang them on the Christmas tree. Following is our approved list upon which we stake the remnants of our reputation as a picker:

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- For daughter—A baby grand piano.
- For Son John—A seven-passenger touring car.
- For Aunt Matilda—A seal skin coat.
- For father—A block of standard Oil stock.
- For mother—A pianola.
- For son Willie—A Wright bi-plane.
- For baby—One hundred shares of United Steel.
- For the janitor—A house and lot.
- For the maid—A watch and chain.

These suggestions are offered absolutely free of charge. All you have to do now is to get the presents the same way.—St. Joseph Gazette.

Don't wait till some one is gone from you to tell their virtues. Don't wait until your sister is far away in another land to tell her how helpful, how pretty or how courteous she is; and don't wait until the weary hands are crossed and the long sleep comes before you make mother know what a beautiful blue are her eyes, how tender her heart, and how dearly you love her. Tell it all now—now, when the walk through life is hard, and the sunshine of praise is yearned for to brighten it, and to warm and encourage the pilgrim by the wayside.

Down to Brass Tacks

The Chillicothe Constitution, one of the leading Democratic papers of the state, does not approve of Champ Clark's attempt to crowd ex-Governor Folk out of the race for the democratic presidential nomination, or of Clark's plan for a primary to settle the contest in which the "dear peepul" will be required to settle the bills, as will be seen from the following editorial in Monday's issue of that paper under the above heading:

Congressman Champ Clark's manager has written to a prominent Livingston county democrat to learn if democrats will serve in this county as judges and clerks of election without pay at a proposed presidential primary election.

The reply given was that it is customary for election officials to receive pay—small as it is—and that he did not believe a competent set of election officials could be found to act without the usual compensation.

And why should they work without pay? And why should they be asked to serve without pay? Speaker Clark is drawing pay at the rate of about \$10,000 a year, including trimmings, besides his income from lecture engagements. If he is spoiling for a presidential primary let him step up like a thoroughbred and pay the price. It would take over two hundred competent business men and farmers to conduct the election in this county. It is a delicious exhibition of modesty therefore for a high salaried official to ask two hundred men to leave their work and their business to conduct a primary election without pay. Those who dance must pay the fiddler.

The presidential endorsement of Missouri democracy was settled over a year ago at the state convention called for that purpose and at which Mr. Clark presided. If he wishes to repudiate that pledge in the interest of his own ambition, the speaker should be willing to pay for election machinery to conduct the proposed contest between Governor Folk and himself.

The rank and file of the party want to elect a state ticket and a full set of democratic presidential electors. Therefore they are not anxious to donate their services to any high-salaried politician in a factional fight which can only result in the certain loss of the state to the democracy.

Put up your dough, Mr. presidential candidate, or get down off the perch. Missouri democracy will support no cheap skate for president. We will start a thoroughbred or we will not enter the race.

No pikers from Missouri.

Writing in the National Printer Journalist, O. Byron Copper, editor of the De Soto (Wis.) Argus, says: "There are several types of mortals whom we editors mutually despise. The first I might mention is represented by that subscriber, who, when dunned for a year's subscription, declares he received only two or three copies of the paper during the year and on that ground refuses to pay. Another type is that kind who accept a newspaper for a number of years and when finally cornered for settlement swear they never ordered the paper. And then there's the man who allows the paper to come to his address for several years without paying for it, and then moves away without notifying the editor, thus cheating the latter out of several year's labor and a considerable outlay of hard-earned cash. And there is another class, who get two or three years behind on subscription, and when asked to settle up their account, insist that they paid up all arrearages the year previous."

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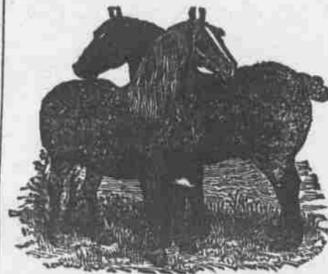
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