

THE Farmington Times

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WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY?

Several Democrats are already on record as favoring a thorough reorganization of the Democratic party. Among this number are noted several that have held high place in party Democrats, and alleged party leaders, councils.

The Times would like to ask these just what they mean by reorganizing the Democratic party. Surely Democracy is now as thoroughly organized as any party could be, which is preparing to step down and out of power and control, let us say for a time.

The fact of Democracy's recent overpowering defeat does not mean that it has therefore been disorganized. The principles for which the party has stood are unchanged and unchangeable.

It appears to The Times that the wrong word has been used in this connection. It is not "reorganization" that Democracy now stands in need of. Instead it is "rejuvenation."

It needs a tonic that will enable it to sluff off a lot of barnacles and dead matter. Such a tonic would also prove a stimulant, that would result in the accumulation of necessary "pep", in which the party has been sadly deficient for some time past.

But had there been a most strenuous "rejuvenation" in the Democracy immediately preceding the late election, it is doubtful if the result would have been in any way changed. Practically everything that counts was opposed to the continuance of the Democratic party in power. As to the justness of such a condition, it is not for us to say. The people had made up their minds months before election day, and anything that could have changed their determination.

The returns indicate that even the service men are very generally opposed to the proposed League of Nations. The same returns also strongly indicate that even organized labor was in no respect united in its support of the Democratic administration; also that the woman vote was disastrous to the success of Democracy at the recent election. The last mentioned proposition can be largely accounted for by the fact that many American women either failed to register, or through lack of appreciation of what their votes might mean for the country's welfare, were remiss in their duty.

On the other hand, all the undesirable women throughout the country—and they are legion—did vote. And all such votes were cast the same way.

But there still remains enough Democrats in this country for seed, and with a fair season, an immense Democratic crop will be garnered two years hence; then, if Democrats will but remain sane and reasonable, four years hence the crop will be almost beyond measurement.

But there is no call for reorganization of Democracy. All that is necessary to bring back the invalid again to robust health is a little tonic and a few really big men to again take command.

A grain of comfort: Cantwell returned a Democratic majority.

There are yet enough Democrats throughout the country for seed, and with a fair growing season, a wonderful crop of Democrats may be expected two years from now.

Already the workingman who voted the Republican ticket is beginning to wonder if it is not possible that he made a mistake. He will still have several chances to figure it out to his own satisfaction.

THE 1920 ELECTION

The election of Nov. 2, 1920, will go down as one of the memorable events in American politics. It is the first year in which the women in every state in the Union had equal privileges at the polls. The heavy returns show that they exercised the privilege.

The returns, as well as admissions of leaders, show that the party has won a victory that surpassed their expectations. There is naturally a cause for the great change in political sentiment that has come about during the four years since 1916 and the charge is directly attributable to the war.

The people wanted a change and they voted for a change. The aftermath of a war in which we participated, that cost ten million lives and three hundred billions in property, brought about economic conditions that caused much dissatisfaction. The same dissatisfaction would have followed regardless of what party happened to be in power when such a great event was staged.

Despite all claims to the contrary, America's part in the war was conducted in a manner that brought victory two years earlier than the world expected and investigations after the war conducted by an opposing party, have shown that no official act besmirches the record of the most tremendous achievement in history. Let it be said here that in winning their great victory, the pen of Woodrow Wilson played a part that is not now understood or appreciated. It was a pen directed by a master mind—inspired by lofty ideals, that fired the zeal and aroused the patriotism of a nation to a point where acting in unison, they surpassed what seemed to be beyond the limits of human possibilities.

To act with dispatch, it required decision and courage. Parliamentary delay and platitudinous discussions were intolerable. A one-man government under the exigencies of the hour, became necessary. By virtue of his office Woodrow Wilson became that man. He led the way along unblazed trails and across un-charted seas successfully, but in shattering precedents and cutting away legislative tape that circumscribed freedom of action or shackled progress he incurred the opposition of many members of the House and Senate. No sooner had the war ended than he became the target for criticism and political intrigue that developed, what will some day be looked upon as an unhappy chapter of American politics. Political malice followed him to the Peace Table and after helping to frame a treaty and a covenant that was approved by the leaders of the great nations of the world and which has since been approved by the people of these nations, he returned to find their political malice intensified. Partisan propaganda was started to weaken and destroy his influence. It was started at a time propitious for its growth. Unsettled economic and industrial conditions hastened its spread. It found expression at the polls on last Tuesday.

Crushing and decisive was the verdict rendered against the party that in the popular conception tolerated one-man government. Senator Harding has been chosen as the next President of the United States—not because of any particular fitness he has shown for leadership but because he was the candidate of a party that offered a change. Whether he can develop any capacity for leadership remains to be seen. He is confronted with a task that is humanly and politically impossible—that of satisfying one wing of his party that is for the League of Nations with certain reservations and one that is unalterably opposed to it.

Senator Harding does not appeal to us as being the type of a man who is fitted to lead successfully through a period of reconstruction like that which is upon us, but he has been elected as OUR President, and recognizing the serious task that is ahead, it is the duty of every American who wants to see Bolshevism, Socialism and all other "isms" that are inimical to our national welfare stamped out, to render help rather than hinder. Withhold carping and unjust criticism. Express confidence in chosen representatives and our courts. Uphold our laws, our constitution and our institutions. Speak out for America and the things for which she stands. Much depends upon the prudence, intelligence, discretion and loyalty of American citizens. Let's lay aside party partisanship and all pull together to help our country through a period that is serious. To do otherwise may be inviting disaster.—Cape Girardeau Sun.

A DEFENSE OF STATESMEN

This is a defense of statesmen. They are too frequently vilified, abused and scolded by persons no better than themselves. While there is government by the people there will be government by the political parties; and while there is government by political parties there will of necessity be government by politicians. A politician may or may not be a statesman, but a statesman must be a politician. Statesmanship consists in achieving something for the state; politics consists in achieving for oneself by achieving something for the party. One cannot achieve great things for the state unless he holds a place of power, and he cannot win or hold a place of power unless he is a master of the game of getting and holding votes.

Once in office, the politician is confronted by certain problems. While endeavoring to solve them he is swayed by five desires—a desire to serve the state, a desire to please the people, a desire to obey his party, a desire to hold his job, and a desire to follow his own judgment. Guided by these desires, frequently conflicting, he finds a solution and fashions a policy that is a compromise, neither wholly right nor wholly wrong, neither wholly wise nor wholly foolish. His own party will see only the wisdom, and praise it; and the opposition will see only the folly, and condemn it; and only time will reveal how much of folly or wisdom his policy contains.

People voted him into office because as partisans in a heated conflict their enthusiasms taught them to think him a superior being. The dignity of the office itself enhances this seeming greatness, and the people demand a miracle to demonstrate the wisdom of their faith.

The politician in office cannot perform miracles. True, he has great power, and the dignity of the office lends weight to his word. But he is a mere man for all that, and his mind

functions as do the minds of those who elected him. His wisdom is no greater than theirs. Though his intentions be guileless and his purpose pure, he will err as men err in private life. If he does not trust his own judgment and appeals to those whose business it is to advise him he is in little better case, for they are also prone to err. Mortals in high places are mortals still, and not one has yet walked without wavering in the paths of wisdom.

Select four statesmen at random and put to them a fundamental question of national policy. Select also a dentist, a traveling man, a retailer and a brick mason, and ask them to decide the same question. Nine times in ten the decision reached by the group having less of dignity will be as wise as the decision reached by the other. One is grossly unfair who demands of statesmen a greater degree of wisdom than he finds in his business friends.

Concerning many matter statesmen are guided by history and experience, but each decade brings new problems born of new conditions. Where shall they find an infallible guide?

We have a railroad problem. The roads are in bad condition. They need capital for repairs, replacement and expansion. The workers demand shorter hours and greater pay. How shall the money for the roads be provided without imposing additional burdens on a sorely taxed people? How shall the desires of the workers be met or curbed without increasing rates and thus increasing prices or making a general mess of things? Do you know? Does anyone of your acquaintance know? There are theories in plenty, but they remain to be tried. If you have no wise solution, and the sensible business man of your acquaintance can agree concerning none, what leads you to hope that your congressman can find a wise solution? He is no worker of miracles. He is but a man.

There is the treaty. It also is the work of mortals, and no sane man contends that it is wholly just or wholly wise. There are statesmen who would accept it, statesmen who would change it and statesmen who would reject it. It is reasonable to suppose that each is honest in his opinion, as men in private life are honest in their opinions concerning it. When it is adopted in some form it will lead the world into uncharted seas. Neither statesman nor private citizen of this generation can justly measure its wisdom or folly. It will be buffeted by changing conditions, changing ideals and changing ambitions. There is a wise course to pursue, but lacking divine inspiration the statesman will not find it more quickly than the private citizen.

What of profiteers? Would you solve the problem quickly by limiting the profit of manufacturers to ten per cent? Small concerns with a limited output would go at once into bankruptcy.

The present tax laws are admittedly vicious. Have you a substitute that will get the money necessary for public business without imposing unfair burdens or encouraging the practice of extortion? If you have not, why expect great things from your representative or your senator? Heaven gave them no greater wit than yours. Our fault is that we have been trying to make this a government by elected officials instead of a government by the people. We have gone about our little affairs and left our representatives to handle great affairs, pausing only occasionally to scold because they have not made six of two and two and found a paved highway to Utopia.

Problems will be solved when citizens accept responsibility, learn to think, and cooperate heartily and endlessly with the set of statesmen that happens to be in office. Statesmen have not dodged responsibility more frequently than citizens, and their measure of blame for failure is no greater than that of citizens who have left them unaided to fight battles for which they have no adequate equipment.

A DIALOGUE FOR DECEMBER

Publisher—I suppose you know something about smallpox?

Chief Health Officer—Yes; this is the smallpox season.

Publisher—Suppose there will be quite a number of deaths?

Chief Health Officer—Usual number, I expect, unless there is an epidemic.

Publisher—What a pity we must have this condition right along.

Chief Health Officer—Yes, but it's all in a day's work.

Publisher—I suppose lots of these deaths are preventable?

Chief Health Officer—Oh, yes! If the people had good sense they'd soon be cut down to nothing.

Publisher—They don't know anything about smallpox—how to prevent it or what to do when they get it.

Chief Health Officer—That's it. They don't know anything.

Publisher—If they know what you know about it, conditions would be different?

Chief Health Officer—They certainly would.

Publisher—Why don't you tell them what to do?

Chief Health Officer—How can I tell them?

Publisher—Advertise in the newspapers.

Chief Health Officer—Now, my dear fellow, don't be absurd. Don't you know it is unethical to advertise, and, besides, we have no appropriate



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tion for that purpose.

Publisher—Is it unethical to save the lives of American babies?

Chief Health Officer—Oh, that's not the point. You see—

Publisher—Where do you get the money to pay your salary—from the public?

Chief Health Officer—Certainly.

Publisher—Are you not paid to preserve the public health?

Chief Health Officer—Yes, but—

Publisher—Well, why don't you kick to get enough money to do the job properly? Do you think the people would object to putting up the money?

Chief Health Officer—Oh, I suppose they would not, if—

Publisher—If—if—if—if. If George Washington had if—if—if—if we would not have any American babies to save. They'd all be English.

Craig—Cement sidewalks completed in downtown district.

TRUSTEE'S SALE

Whereas, G. G. Miles and Lillie Miles, his wife, by their certain Deed of Trust, dated the 15th day of October, 1918, and recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of St. Francois county, Missouri, in Book 114, at page 573, conveyed to the undersigned Trustee the following described real estate, lying and being in the county of St. Francois and State of Missouri, to-wit:

The surface of a lot of ground in Block twenty-five (25), designated as Lot five (5) of Block twenty-five (25), on a plot of the town of Cantwell, Missouri, on record in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of St. Francois county, having a front of fifty (50) feet on the west line of Vandervoort avenue, by a depth of one hundred and forty (140) feet, to an alley twenty (20) feet wide, and being bounded north by Lot four (4), and south by Lot six (6) of said block.

Which said conveyance was made in trust to secure the payment of a certain promissory note in said deed of trust described; and whereas by the terms of said deed of trust and note, said note is past due and remains unpaid; therefore, in conformity with the provisions of said deed of trust, I, the undersigned Trustee, will, on

Saturday, December 4, 1920, between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the afternoon of said day at the south front door of the court house, in the city of Farmington, St. Francois county, Missouri, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, the above described real estate to satisfy said note and the cost of executing this trust.

CITIZENS BANK OF DESLOGE, Trustee.

CHAS. ADAMS, Sheriff of St. Francois County, Acting Trustee.

Nov. 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3.

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by Earl Hurst

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RAIN!

SPRINTS BACK FOR RAINY WEATHER OUTFIT.

CONGRATULATES HIMSELF ON QUICK CHANGE.

GETS UNLUCKY AND FINDS IT'S THE HOTTEST DAY OF SEASON BEGINS TO FEEL BETTER AND A BIT FOOLISH PEELS OFF BOTH COATS AND TRIES TO HIDE UNDERBELLY

