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THE OWOSSO TIMES
EDMUND O. DEWEY, EDITOR.
OWOSSO, MICH., NOV. 29, 1912.

"A Crooked Proposition."
Editorial from the Saginaw Courier-Herald.

The astonishing report comes out of Lansing that an attempt will be made to nullify the expressed will of the Republicans at the primaries—which was that William Alden Smith shall be voted for by Republican legislators as the party candidate for United States senator. It is intimated that this will be attempted by sharp trickery, whereby the mandate of the voters may be upset and rendered void.

According to the report, in some 20 legislative districts Republican candidates had no opposition from Progressive (Bull Moose) candidates, it being now stated that the third party made no nomination in these districts because the Republican candidates, already nominated at the primaries, would be expected to combine with Democrats and Progressives in the legislature to encompass Senator Smith's defeat. That is, plainly, these bastard Republicans got into office on false pretenses and through trickery—a sort of political confidence game on the voters—and therefore would carry out the secret crooked compact.

This would be about the rottenest specimen of perfidy and dishonor that has yet been exhibited in this year of perfidy, dishonor and rank treachery in politics. It is a proposition so dishonest and crooked that we would be amazed if there could be found a legislator elected on that alleged basis who would have the hardihood to stand up in his place in the legislature and proclaim before the people of Michigan that he had sneaked his way into the body through deceit and treachery and was shameless enough to boldly and brazenly pay the price of his own dishonor.

For be it remembered the law for direct primary nominations of United States senators in this state is based wholly and solely upon the honor, integrity and moral sense of the individual legislators. It was passed and accepted by the people as the only obtainable equivalent of the direct election of senators—that the vote of the people would be an effective notice to the legislature of their choice of nominees and that the legislators would conscientiously obey that expression of will in the primaries. Every legislator who accepts a party nomination is morally in all duty bound and pledged thereby to vote for the candidate for senator chosen by his party in the same primary that nominated that legislator. The obligation upon the legislator is practically the same as that which rests upon the presidential elector—purely a moral one.

William Alden Smith is the unanimous primary choice of the Republicans of Michigan for senator. Any legislator elected as a Republican who votes against him in the legislature will brand himself for all time in the eyes of decent people of all parties, as a dishonest man.

The Outlook for Free Sugar.

Beet sugar stock declined seven points in a single day after election. That is the result of Mr. Wilson's approval of the Democratic Free Sugar bill. What a shame it is that an industry with over \$200,000,000 of invested capital and which with a little encouragement would save to the nation over \$100,000,000 annually now sent abroad to pay for foreign sugar, should be threatened with extinction solely for the benefit of the Spreckels and Arbnuckles and the Sugar Trust. Even the "revenue" tariff was withdrawn from sugar to help the trust and Mr. Wilson has approved that course. But unless the Louisiana senators want to annihilate the \$200,000,000 invested in the sugar industry in that state, it looks as though the Democrats would not have votes enough to pass a Free Sugar bill in the Senate.—American Economist.

While official figures from all the states are not as yet available the returns show the popular vote for president to be as follows: Wilson, 6,156,748; Roosevelt, 3,928,140; Taft, 3,376,422; Debs, 878,573; Quinn, 100,044. In 1908 Free Taft received 7,687,576 votes and W. J. Bryan, 6,893,182, the latter thus receiving 236,434 more votes than did President-elect Wilson this year.

The results that could be expected to follow if the people of every county in Michigan would vote "dry" and would insist upon keeping their counties free from saloons are shown through conditions in the state of Kansas at the present time. The per capita consumption of liquor in Kansas is now \$1.48 per year as compared with \$24 in Missouri. One half the county jails of the state contain not a single prisoner. Eighty-seven per cent of the 105 counties of the state have no insane; fifty-four no feeble minded; ninety-six counties have no inebriates and thirty-eight county farms have no inmates. Pauperism in Kansas has been made a negligible quantity, there being only one pauper to each three thousand of the population. An experience of thirty years proves that prohibition not only prohibits largely the sale and consumption of liquor in Kansas but it has reduced to a minimum poverty, insanity and crime. And results almost as praiseworthy have followed the several years of "dry" experience which have been maintained in several counties in Michigan. The banishment of the saloon is a relief and a blessing that yields results not equalled by any other civic or moral improvement.—Cadillac News and Express.

B. J. Vincent and J. P. Devereaux, the Republican and Democratic candidates for prosecuting attorney in Saginaw county, were college classmates and have long been warm personal friends and decided at the commencement of the campaign that their friendship should not be broken. On the face of the election returns, Mr. Vincent was elected by two votes; Mr. Devereaux asked for a recount and when he had established a lead of sixteen votes, with a few precincts yet to be counted and with the probability that one ward which gave a heavy majority for the latter might be thrown out entirely, the gentlemen decided between themselves that the winner should name the loser as his assistant. This was done to avoid court expenses both to themselves and to the county, as it was agreed that the canvassers' decisions on a number of disputed ballots were very questionable.

The official returns for this senatorial district show a plurality of 369 votes for Senator W. A. Rosenkrans over Fred C. Holbeck, Progressive candidate, and 655 over Judge C. P. Black, the Democratic candidate. The vote by counties gave Rosenkrans 3,846, Holbeck 4,126 and Black 4,240 in Ingham; Rosenkrans 2,963, Holbeck 2,314 and Black 1,847 in Shiawassee. Totals: Rosenkrans 6,809, Holbeck 6,440, Black 6,114.

By the death of Senator Rayner of Maryland the U. S. Senate loses one of its leading members and perhaps the strongest debater in the body. He was suggested to the Democratic national convention by W. J. Bryan as a suitable candidate for the presidential nomination. His death will make uncertain the political control of the senate after March 4 next as his successor will be a Republican until the legislature makes a choice in January, 1914.

Unless stopped by mandamus proceedings the Saginaw county canvassers will begin the work Monday of recounting the vote cast in that county on the question of woman suffrage. The returns from all of the counties in the state—a part of them unofficial—show a majority of 594 against the amendment. If this proves to be the result after the Saginaw count active work will be at once commenced to have the legislature submit the question at the April election.

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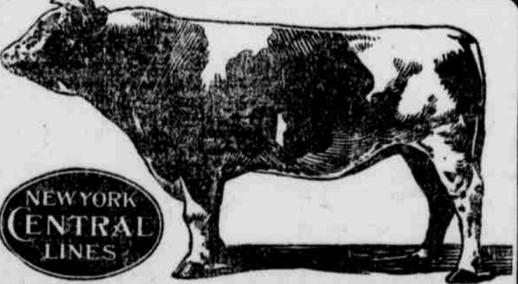
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