

THE WINDHAM COUNTY REFORMER

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Windham County Reformer

BRATTLEBORO, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1903.

The Only Sure Remedy.

Illinois has now joined the list of states which have passed resolutions calling for the popular election of United States senators. While in principle the legislative method was considered preferable at the time our system of government was formed, experience has turned popular sentiment more and more strongly away from it and the recent exposures, in the legislatures of some states, of corruption in connection with senatorial ambitions, have given a powerful impetus to the movement in favor of popular elections.

The change desired will undoubtedly be made sometime, but much must be done to achieve it. Two-thirds of the 45 states must petition Congress to call a convention for the amendment of the constitution and, should this be done, the work must be ratified by three-quarters of the states. It is generally admitted that the people and the lower house of Congress are ready to do their part toward bringing about this amendment; but great unwillingness exists in the senate. For that body, it would mean a radical change of composition and character, and its members are too well satisfied with their present positions, privileges and powers to wish any change whatever made in the method by which they are elected.

But the root of the matter of honest elections lies deeper than this question of method. The method may help or hinder a little in the plotting of the unscrupulous ambitious; but a dishonest election is the direct result of the dishonesty of the individual voter; and if a state has purchasable voters enough, and the unscrupulous candidate has money enough, he will still have his way, regardless of method.

The only sure remedy for political corruption, with its attending injustice and injury to the general welfare, is in the education of individuals. If each person who votes could be made to understand the real meaning to himself and his own little circle of that vote; if he could be made to see how surely his own dishonest vote goes on and on multiplying in dishonesty and finally comes back to him in the shape of extortion and oppression and the other evils he is complaining about; if he could be brought to realize that its effect for good or ill is infinitely more to him in the end than the paltry price of its market value, there would not be so much selling and trading of votes and influence.

It depends on the individual voter and not, very greatly, on election methods, whether we shall, as a people, be free and prosperous and contented; or whether we shall be the slaves of trusts and unprincipled autocrats—forced into a treadmill life to meet their demands and to carry the burdens of their increasing taxation.

More than anything else the people need to understand where their true power lies.

Political Corruption and Degeneracy.

Serious charges are made against the farm workers of Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Delaware where political corruption is admitted prevalent. They are said to make up a larger proportion of the purchasable voters of the communities than any other class and to sell their votes more cheaply and readily than any other. Leslie's Weekly says that its own observations tend to confirm these charges.

It is argued that while this is explained in some quarters as due to agricultural depression and the temptation born of scarcity of money, the real cause is found in the degeneracy of the people of the rural districts—the moral, mental and spiritual degradation which, it is claimed, has sunk the population of many of our isolated communities to a depth as low as that of the slums of our great cities.

Whatever may be true in other states, we do not believe that such depth of degeneracy has been reached in any of Vermont's farming communities. We do not believe that our farmers are unduly or disproportionately responsible for any political corruption that may exist, as charged, in the state. But we do believe that public sentiment generally needs to be aroused and the public conscience quickened on that subject. When it comes to be admitted in the state, as well as outside of it, that the bribery of voters has played an important part in the state elections, it is time that some home missionary work was done by the thoughtful, intelligent, sincere element of the citizenship, for something is surely wrong with our people.

If, out of pure indifference, or from the Yankee love of a dollar, or from any selfish or unworthy motive whatever, we have failed in our political duties, have lowered our political standards or

grown careless of the honor of our state—so that we are deemed degenerates—it is time we studied a few things.

It is time we learned the value and privilege and power of a man's vote; it is time we learned the difference in the results, both to ourselves and to the whole country, of a vote cast honestly and to the best of our judgment and one sold to the highest bidder; it is time we learned something of our duty and the importance of it to ourselves, our neighbors, our state and the country.

If we have fallen so low as to be classed with degenerates, it is time we lifted our standards a little higher and climbed up after them.

The Simple Moralities of the Liquor Question.

The public is beginning to see where the real evil of the liquor question lies is evident by the change that is coming over public expressions on that question. One of the holdest, plainest and most unequivocal of these is made by Rev. Dr. S. D. McConnell, rector of All Souls' church, New York, in a recent sermon. He says that various theories, appetites and interests have co-operated to baffle the simple moralities of the matter. He holds that men have a moral right to sell intoxicating liquors, the same as in the case of drugs and firearms. The placing of the blame on the liquor seller and the designating of the drinker as a "victim" and helpless in the matter, he thinks, is most unwise and unjust; and its natural result is to make the drunkard sorry for himself instead of ashamed of himself, as he should be. He holds that the man who gets drunk is the real criminal and the one who sells him liquor only the accessory before the fact. He says: "Let us direct the machinery of correction against the man by whom the offence comes."

He argues as follows: "Nothing would so certainly and so quickly put an end to drunkenness as would the introduction of a right moral judgment of the offense. Let us point public contumely first at the man who gets drunk. He is the principal in the offense. The man who sells him the liquor is only the accessory. Suppose some hot-tempered fellow in his rage shoots a harmless citizen and thus bereaves and distresses a family, leaves it without a breadwinner, puts the public to the expense of a coroner's inquest and a trial for murder, who would think of letting him slip in pity while the public should denounce the hardware dealer who sold him a revolver? It is true, of course, that the hardware man knew that the pistol possessed a lethal quality. But he knew also the responsibility for its use rested upon the man who bought it. Let us get rid of cant and face the facts."

This is a sensible view and one that goes to the very root of the drink evil. It is a view that the public should seriously consider.

The president hit it off prettily well with some of the fathers and mothers when he promulgated his famous "race suicide" views; but out in western New York, the old maids are buzzing like angry hornets over them. At their convention last week they roasted the president unmercifully, advising him to attend to the trusts and the coming election and to leave the question of babies to the women of the country. Being only the father, and not the mother of a large family, himself, they allow his opinions on babies are of no account, anyway. The president would best keep awhile longer to the vague and safe seclusion of the Yellowstone region.

The Wabash railroad trouble has been settled, an important concession on the part of the road having been made. This concession increases the pay of trainmen on the western division from 12 to 15 per cent, affecting a great body of men and a large range of shipping country. The men on the middle and eastern divisions will also receive an advance in wages when competing roads grant similar advances. This is a most satisfactory outcome of the long and bitter pay war that has been raging "on the banks of the Wabash, far away."

Vermont legislators who have in the past helped to slaughter weekly payment bills may feel themselves upheld and vindicated in their decisions by the Indiana supreme court which has just held such a law unconstitutional. The court declares that a weekly payment law is in conflict with the bill of rights and also with the fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution.

If anybody wants a crown, let him go to Morocco. The sultan of that country has one that he wants to give away. He is a progressive man, with a leaning toward automobiles and telegraphs, which the Moors can't abide; and so the crown has become a burden to the sultan. No automobilists need apply.

Interpretations of the license law continue to be many and varied; but the commissioners, generally, have shown good judgment in making their decisions and have then stood firmly by them. It is the only sensible way to do.

Senator Hanna says there is only one Republican candidate and that's Theodore Roosevelt.

Tourist Cars. Via B. & M.—W. S. NICKEL PLATE Roads are famous for their completeness and luxurious comfort, are positively unexcelled, having same bedding, linen and toilet supplies as standard Pullmans, also colored porter, and personally conducted by special agent. Second class tickets available. See local agents or write L. P. Burgess, N. E. P. A., 258 Washington St., Boston, Mass. 17-3t

TIMELY STATE TOPICS.

And What Vermont Editors Have to Say Concerning Them.

Vermont has got almost as many prospective governors as it has "colonels."—Barre Telegram.

School meetings will soon be in order. What action will be taken on the proposition that the average salary of a Vermont school teacher is less than half of a day laborer's?—Vergennes Enterprise.

The Rutland News is inclined to think that C. J. Bell's chances of being governor of Vermont next term are good because he is not troubled with a "barrel." Heretofore the fact that a man had a "barrel" was not a particular deterrent to his chances of being governor, but it is changed by the feeling which comes in with the "new Vermont." The bars should not be put up against a man just because he is rich, neither because he is poor. Quality should be the controlling factor.—Barre Times.

An Explanation is in Order. We do not even yet see any light breaking in the St. Johnsbury firmament. Here is a town enjoying a persistent prohibition record on paper which has maintained an agency that has done a liquor business amounting up into the thousands. Its agency is gone, the drug stores are not licensed and the town is apparently dry. Now where is St. Johnsbury to get a supply of liquor? The drink habit of St. Johnsbury is no gentle thing of beer and light wines. Year in and out its liquor agent has been buying from 150 to 200 gallons of pure alcohol per month at about \$2.50 per gallon and selling it for \$4 per gallon. This constituted practically half of the agency business. The alcohol customers of the agency were in the habit of "spilling" it; that is, diluting the alcohol with water by about 100 per cent. Thus nearly 100 gallons of alcohol a week was consumed as a beverage by prohibition St. Johnsbury before the closing of the agency. How do these alcohol drinkers manage it now? It really is a serious question.—Rutland Herald.

"Is the State Twins"

"There is a tide in the affairs of men." Candidates ripen just as other opportunities do. But many a fine class Vermonters has been lost to the state because he lived on the wrong side of the mountains, a second-rater was chosen in his stead whose only recommendation in public favor was that he did live on the right side of a clump of pine trees, and then, when the probation were over, the changes of time and circumstance stances had seen out as the opportunity of the man who should have been elected in the first place. The "mountain line" has been the dead line of Andoverville to more than one political life.

The man Vermont should elect governor is the best man in the whole state, no matter where he lives, and not likely to produce more good men than we can use. The best will be none too good, but it is the very madness of folly to sometimes ignore the best and take up an admitted inferior because it is the "turn" of this side or that state twin. In this playing must be passed from one to the other in rotation, or is this one autonomous state and its governorship the servant of the whole people and not the bauble of the politicians of a district?—St. Albans Messenger.

The Aspirations of the "Sacred City."

Our St. Johnsbury neighbors are not at all discouraged on account of the falling through of the Judge Ide boom. The Caledonian immediately throws out another reminder that the "Sacred City" would be a nice place for the governor to live in. Political comment, coming from that direction at this time is of particular interest. It is the unknown character of the Caledonian will be the headquarters for one of the two factions that take part in the campaign of 1904. The purpose of that faction will be the defeat of any local option measure. The Caledonian says: "Judge Ide's announcement that he will return to the Philippines in August, and the fact that the commission removes a formidable candidate in the governor race, but there are others." St. Johnsbury can furnish at least two if necessary, ex-Senator Ross and Alexander Dunnett, and Caledonia county has another eligible in Charles J. Bell of Walden. Then there is Robert J. Kimball of Randolph, Frank Plumley of Northfield, Horace W. Bailey of Newbury, Curtis S. Emery of Chelsea, J. L. Martin of Brattleboro, W. E. Johnson of Woodstock, Zed Stanton of Roxbury, and last but not least J. A. DeBoer of Montpelier. In fact, we are inclined to think Mr. DeBoer is the unknown character of the Caledonian suggests. The calling of Mr. DeBoer "an unknown character" is not entirely pleasing to Washington county.—Barre Telegram.

A Chance Worth Trying.

This last proposition of the bureau of forestry to allow any state to find out where it stands without much cost to itself is most generous. It would not be a bad idea for those in authority in Vermont to take steps toward accepting the offer. Vermont was naturally well supplied with forests, but we think few people realize the inroads that have been made into the supply within the last few years or the rapidity with which the land is being literally "stripped" in many parts of the state. Our spruce trees are being searched out in every corner and ruthlessly cut down, large and small, for pulp wood or other commercial purposes. Even the little spruces which must be depended upon to form the supply in coming years are being sacrificed to axe and every year we see train load after train load shipped out of Vermont in the shape of Christmas trees. Now the government proposes to find out at great expense to herself and tell us in what condition our forests are, and we would like to see it done. If the information in their possession Vermonters might accomplish something. Certainly they should not stop with the investigation if it shows that the Vermont forests are being wrecked. A state forester will in the end become a matter of necessity, and the sooner we find out his value the less our timber lands will be permanently damaged. First, however, we want definite information to work on and here is a chance to get it. We think it's worth trying.—Rutland Herald.

Lyman E. Pelton, 96, the oldest lawyer in the state, died at Highgate Sunday night. He was admitted to the Vermont bar in September, 1832, and commenced practice in Highgate the same season, continuing in the same place for more than 50 years.

SOME VERMONT MATTERS.

A GLANCE AT THE STATE'S NEWS RECORD FOR THE PAST WEEK.

Funeral of Thomas W. Wood—A Protest Against High Fire Insurance Rates—The Fatal Hardwick Quarrel—Child Drowned in a Wash tub—Suit in Montpelier Seminary Tar and Feathers Case.

There is considerable excitement caused by the smallpox epidemic in Irasburgh. Seven houses are quarantined at that place and several persons have been exposed.

Capt. Louis Daniels of Vergennes, one of the oldest steamboat captains in the service and well known up and down Lake Champlain, died suddenly Thursday night from heart failure.

The first day's sales of Louis N. Wood of Montpelier under a second class license last week amounted to \$280 and after consulting the license commissioners Mr. Wood decided to close his place before 6 o'clock.

A two-year-old son of Angelo Trueba of South Barre was drowned in a wash tub Friday. The child had been missing 30 minutes when search was made and it was found dead in a wash tub in the kitchen. There was only a little more than a foot of water in the tub.

Hattie Roberts, 16, employed in the family of Heman Rice at Westford, committed suicide last week by taking carbolic acid. She was a young, healthy and pretty girl, and there is no known reason for her rash act. Rumor has it, however, that a love affair was responsible.

The saw mill of L. G. Fullam & Son at Ludlow was totally destroyed by fire Thursday night, with its full contents of lumber, and some of the lumber and in the yard. Estimated loss, \$16,000; insurance, \$8,250. A number of men are thrown out of work. The mill will probably be rebuilt.

Frank C. Partridge, who was offered the position of agent for the United States government in its presentation of claims in Caracas before the arbitration commission, has found it impossible to accept the trust. The state department, however, has been requested by the three European nations preferring claims against Venezuela, to name the umpires and Mr. Partridge will accept as one.

There is said to be a movement under way in Barre to organize the city under the section of the law which reads that if a member of the board "becomes unable to perform or neglects his official duties, his office shall at once become vacant and his successor be appointed. It is expected that at the next meeting of the city council they will be asked to declare the three positions on the board vacant.

The Wells, Lamson & Co. granite manufacturing plant and water power at North Barre and the company's light granite quarry at Westerville have been sold to Dr. V. C. Goodrich, the selling price being \$31,000, exclusive of a new cable way which, completed, will cost in the neighborhood of \$6,000. The quarry includes 124 acres of good quarry land and the manufacturing plant and water power are among the best in the city.

A post mortem examination has been made of the body of Mrs. Joseph Massey of East Hardwick who died last week as the result of a quarrel with Mrs. Dan Aldrich. Death was found to have resulted from sudden congestion of the lungs caused by external violence. Mrs. Aldrich was arrested charged with taking Mrs. Massey's life. Sufficient evidence was produced at the hearing to warrant holding her in \$2000 bail for the grand jury.

Claude E. George of Marshfield, who was tarred and feathered Jan. 19 by four students while at school at Montpelier seminary, has brought suit against James Howard, a student, to recover \$5,000 damages. Howard is the only student on whom papers have yet been served, but others in the case will be taken on civil process as soon as found. George was accused by students of "spying" and they broke into his room one night, gagged him and administered a light dose of tar and feathers.

Owing to the high rates charged by the regular fire insurance companies Burlington will organize this week a co-operative company. Property owners claim that the insurance rates have doubled within a year and that they have to pay for losses sustained by the companies in other towns where the fire protection is not as good as it is in Burlington. This, they do not feel fair and they will now organize a company of a purely local character, and think from the fire record the city has had they can save nearly 75 per cent. in rates.

Several hundred pounds of special photographic apparatus was brought to Swanton Friday by the American Biograph company of New York for the purpose of securing a continuous picture of the work of the United States fish commission. It is planned to get a continuous picture from the time the fish landed in the net, during the process of spawning, until they are returned to the water. The picture will be used as one of a series of the scenes exhibited in part of the government exhibition of this branch of fish culture at the St. Louis exposition.

The funeral of Thomas W. Wood, the artist, took place from the Wood art gallery in Montpelier, Friday afternoon, Rev. W. J. O'Sullivan and Rev. Norman Seaver of Rutland officiating. The body lay in state from 10 until 1 o'clock, and was viewed by a large number of people. The remains were buried beside his wife in Green Mount cemetery. Mr. Wood gave the art gallery which bears his name in trust to the people of Montpelier. Mr. Wood's will leaves the bulk of his property, estimated at \$30,000, to the Wood Art gallery. There are several small legacies of \$1,000 and \$500 to individuals. Prof. J. W. Burgess is executor.

Judge Haselton in Rutland county court Monday denied the motion of the defendant to set aside the verdict in the case of F. R. Patch Manufacturing Co. vs. Protection Lodge, International Association of Machinists. He said he considered that the evidence in the case warranted the verdict brought April 3 and ordered that judgment on said verdict be entered. He did not regard Juror Ingleson's conduct in expressing an opinion of the case as of sufficient weight to warrant a new trial; he held that the man had done wrong and ordered that Ingleson be publicly reprimanded. The matter of the new trial of the case will now be taken to the supreme court. The defendants moved for a new trial of the case on the ground that one of the jurors expressed his opinion of the case before the close of the trial. The plaintiffs filed counter affidavits denying that the juror expressed his opinion as forcibly as was claimed.

Miss Katherine E. Benham, for 17 years official stenographer in the county courts in Vermont, died at Burlington Tuesday morning of heart trouble. Miss Benham was appointed court reporter by the late Judge Russell S. Taft.

Alfred Schiffer of New York has made a demand before Chief Justice Sir Melbourne Tait of Canada for a "quo warranto" process against Hiram A. Howe, Dr. W. Seward Webb Percival W. Clement and Frank D. White of the Rutland railroad system. Mr. Schiffer's claim is that the defendants are usurping the functions of the South Shore Railway Co. and have done so since Sept. 16 last.

Early Tuesday morning fire at Bennington destroyed three buildings on River street, entailing a loss of \$7,000. The buildings burned were the Putnam Hose House, the grocery store of Herbert Hines, with tenements upstairs and a house occupied by Thomas Delude. The cause of the fire is unknown. The buildings were all owned by H. W. Putnam, who had \$3,000 insurance.

East Georgia claims the champion eater of the state. Saturday evening in the presence of several witnesses, a young man ate two pounds of chocolate candy, 14 bananas, 1 dozen raw eggs, 1 can of Vienna sausages, 1 pound of fig cookies, and one-half pound of salted peanuts, besides mixing in different kinds of crackers and candy. The last heard of him, he was living, and had suffered no bad effects from his hearty meal.

Manufacturers and business men of Vermont are to meet in Rutland April 30 to form a state association with these objects: To protect its members in their right to manage their respective business in such lawful manner as they shall deem proper; the investigation and adjustment of questions arising between the members and the employer for any person to obtain employment without being obliged to join a labor organization; to protect its members against legislative, municipal and other political encroachments.

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In the Household Department domestic matters are discussed morning and evening and questions and recipes contributed by the brainy housekeepers of all New England. Fancy needlework, crocheting and knitting, the care of plants and flowers, the care of pets and the removal of pests are also discussed.

A distinguishing feature of the Household Department is the beauty talk division, where home toilet prescriptions and advice from the experienced on the care of the complexion, care of the hands and hair, are given.

An entertaining and instructive department, is that devoted to the boys and girls. Here they talk about their favorite books, music, school studies, school amusements, candy recipes, school colors, school yell, and also send in the best conundrums in the world.

The Sunday Globe, without a competitor in circulation, also keeps in advance of all other papers in the number and variety of attractive features and departments. It has the original color supplement, printed in beautiful colors, made famous by the adventures of Kitty and Danny, Professor O. Howe Wise, Billy the Boy Artist, Absent-Minded Abner, Dunsbury and Funsenheimer. The Sunday Globe also has another eight-page section containing beautiful pictures in black and white, and famous works of art are illustrated.

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