

THE INDEPENDENT

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The Rogers Democrat supported Brundidge before the primary; if he was fairly and honestly defeated we are satisfied. If he was defeated by fraud, we want to see the dishonest election officials punished and the nomination go to the man who deserved it. We have no opinion as to the question of fraud for we have no means whatever of knowing the slightest thing about it, and we are willing to wait until the evidence is in before we air our ideas.—Rogers Democrat.

There is no denying the fact that when it comes to corraling politicians with their hands behind them, Gene Williams is a daisy and no mistake. He made a visit to Helena just after the gubernatorial primary and seems to have completely hypnotized that willy nilly bunch down there. Wonder what dope he used on them? Was it federal patronage or good, hard Plunks? And the Phillips county Democracy—so called—wears Gene Williams' collar, does it? Oh you cinnamon scented bunch! Crack your whip, Gene, and keep 'em walking about. "How the mighty have fallen."—Marianna Index.

Brundidge And His Contest.

Hon. Steve Brundidge, defeated on the face of the returns as democratic nominee for governor, has contested the count and thereby has placed his political identity in the balance. Should the result be favorable a political vista opens before him. Should he fail to make his charges good his career is ended.

The psychology of this is that the world hates a hard loser—unless the hard loser can make good. If he can't make good he is called a joker for not taking his medicine when it is handed him.

On the other hand, there is the voter to be considered and the good name of the party for conducting clean and honest primaries. If it is true, as claimed, that there has been fraud, the party and people should know it that they may properly punish and spew out those who have smirched the party honor and struck a blow at the root of civil liberty—the ballot. In view of the many charges of this kind made it may not be a bad idea to thresh out the matter, although, under present circumstances, there does not appear to be time enough to make a thorough and impartial investigation. The temper of the people, however, admits of no question; they are in a state of high disgust with the political status of affairs in Arkansas and when some plan is suggested, though it be radical, for getting rid of the job hunting oligarchy that is using the state for base personal ends that plan is going to be enthusiastically adopted.—Fort Smith Times Record.

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How long will the rank and file of the party submit to political thievery and corruption upon the part of those who lead the party and still vote the ticket? Not always, we should guess. Yellow-dogism is dying—dying hard, but it's going. Those who control the party and profit through holding the offices and dealing out the patronage have worked that racket too long now, and our judgment is the average voter sees lights he never saw before. The people are weary and sick of political methods which they know are reprehensible. They will revolt someday. The leaders of the democratic party in this state are as certainly carrying the party to defeat and destruction as the wheels of time move and the mills of the gods grind.

The Progressive party has already nominated Col. George W. Murphy for governor. He is nothing more or less than a democrat disgusted with the methods and chicanery of his own party. He served throughout the war as a Confederate soldier. As a campaign orator he will more than hold his own with most comers. The point we want to make is that with such an array of facts in his hands as we are convinced he will be able to secure before this Brundidge-Hays contest is over, and with thirty days in which to make a canvass of the state, Col. Murphy would give either Judge Hays or Mr. Brundidge the fight of his life. He might not be elected. Th

At any rate it would be a campaign of education, in which the voters would secure a lot of information that they would not soon forget. Neither Mr. Brundidge nor Judge Hays can go before the people with a clean, clear title to the democratic nomination for governor. A clear title can come alone from an honest expression of the public will, honestly counted. Only a clouded title can come from eleventh hour returns, from the state central committee or from the courts.

But the big question does not end with this contest between two men. Shall the democratic party obey the Eighth Commandment?—Sharp County Record.

How It Works.

It is said that there are only about 70 poll tax receipts in Alpena township, democrats and republicans and Bull Moosers all together. Yet according to the returns there were 106 votes cast in the democratic primaries last Saturday.—North Ark. Herald.

And the peculiar thing about the above state of affairs is that Judge Hays carried the township.—Searcy Citizen.

Well, yes, by 102 to 4, there is where the trouble comes in. The Hays men voted every republican they could, and every democrat they could drag across the line from Carroll county. Never mind, something is going to happen some of these days and those fellows over in Alpena will wish they hadn't. Mind what we tell you. The decent and good citizens of old Boone are not going to stand for such procedure any longer. There is another day coming.—Harrison Daily Herald.

Render State a Service.

Judge Martineau in upholding the Brundidge injunction, said in part:

"I am convinced that the committee did not give Mr. Brundidge a hearing within the meaning of the law. The act clothed the committee with the authority and power to compel the production of ballots and poll books in any county where demanded by the contestant. To say the

least, the committee quibbled and evaded this duty. They had the power to command the services of the sheriff or other officers of the state to demand the delivery of the poll books and ballots.

"The pretended hearing given by the committee was a travesty upon justice and a denial of the rights of the contestant. They did not obey the mandate of the court in truth or in spirit and I have said to the attorneys representing the contestant that upon request I would cite them for contempt, and compel respect and obedience to the orders of the court, though I would be compelled to proceed against men who are my personal friends."

This from one of the greatest judges in Arkansas, sounds the death knell to machine politics in Arkansas. It means that henceforth when fraud is committed in a county that the state central committee must produce the ballots and poll books and not defy the laws of the state.

Mr. Brundidge has rendered the state a greater service than any man in recent years in his fight against political corruption and much credit should be given Norwood, Stayton and other staunch followers who stood by him in this great cause.—Jonesboro Tribune.

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