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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Independent Voting

That the head of the Democratic party of this state is a confirmed optimist is evidenced by the fact that he proposes to ask the legislature to provide separate ballots for state and national elections.

Inasmuch as the incoming state administration owes its victory very largely to the fact that the two tickets were tied together and that the state ticket profited by the popularity of Hoover and fear of Smith, it can hardly be expected to be enthusiastic for any measure that would prevent a repetition of such an outcome.

Of course, the argument is not only for separate ballots but for most drastic changes which would divorce the state from national issues.

There is no real reason, except that of expense, for holding the elections on the same day.

The issues in national campaigns can never be the same as those in state campaigns. The functions of the two governments differ. There is no reason why those who think alike on national matters should necessarily think alike on state matters.

The demand for a separate ballot is a mild measure. It might help some. But it is not the whole remedy.

The intricacies of the ballot are really taking the power of self government away from the people.

It is difficult to avoid passion and prejudice in national campaigns. It would be better if there were no other considerations or problems presented at the same time.

If there is to be any real advance, the elections should be held on different dates and the ballot so shortened as to permit intelligent study and full discussion of each and every candidate.

But, of course, the politicians will find many reasons for not doing the obvious thing.

Raskob Takes on a Real Job

Chairman Raskob has some job on his hands in reorganizing, or in organizing, the Democratic party. It is something quite different from organizing a great industrial concern like General Motors. In a way, it is a chemical job as intricate as making a good mixture of oil and water. Especially if Congressman Garner of Texas is right when he says the Democratic party must be one of liberalism.

For a long time there was a foundation upon which to build—the well-known democratic principles of Thomas Jefferson and the solid Democratic South. But that foundation isn't what it used to be. Jeffersonian democracy has surrendered to sumptuary legislation, prohibition, fundamentalism, and Ku-Klux Klanism, and the shrewd Republican politicians who manipulate the Anti-Saloon League lobby have helped the G. O. P. to split that historic southern solidarity into warring factions.

In the meantime, they have helped to build up a Republican solid north, east, and west.

With Jeffersonian principles thrown overboard, with the Bill of Rights gone the way of Santa Claus, Mother Goose and Grimm's fairy tales, with the tariff-for-revenue only consigned to the habitat of the dodo and state's rights sitting in Calvin Coolidge's lap, what new ingredients will Raskob start with when he begins to organize a synthetic Democratic party?

And what does Garner suggest by way of liberalism?

Woodrow Wilson tried liberalism, idealizing and humanizing the old Democratic party, but when the Anti-Saloon League lobby said "boo" the Democratic congress turned tail, ran away from him and Jeffersonian and passed the Volstead act over his Jeffersonian veto.

Wayne B. Wheeler, Ohio Republican, had more influence with a Democratic senate than Democratic President Wilson had. Republican prohibition politicians sat in a nearby hotel in 1924 and controlled more than 300 votes in the Madison Square Garden convention across the street.

The funny thing about it all is that these Republican powers, headed by the Anti-Saloon League lobby, always support the Republican party after the nominations are made, but beforehand have a powerful influence in making up the Democratic ticket and platform. They pick, clean, stuff and cook the Democratic goose and then feed it to the Republicans.

There ought to be a vigorous opposition party, of course. Under our party system of government there should always be a strong minority to which we may turn when the majority party needs punishment.

The Democratic party seems to have as many lives as a cat. It has taken powerful punishment and has come back. Even after three tries Bryan couldn't kill it.

It has been knocked down and dragged out, but always had enough life left in it to keep on kicking. But some people got the impression that about all it could do was to kick, and that it couldn't even kick liberally.

It seems to have lost the soul with which Jefferson endowed it; and political parties that profess liberalism can't very well get along without a soul. So Raskob's first job is to buy the party a new soul, or resurrect Jeffersonian democracy and renew the soul with which it started; and that involves sweetening the old Jeffersonian soil that has done gone sour.

How Many Children and When?

Every day there occurs a head-on collision between sex urge and economic determinism. The result is a smash.

Take the case before Judge Harrison J. Ewing of the Court of Common Pleas in Cleveland. Wanted: A divorce. He 25; she 20. Married three years. Result, three children. Total income, \$24 a week—some weeks.

Judge tells them to go home and practice birth control.

Of course, the judge really can't sentence them to three years of birth control. In fact, Ohio is one of the many states which make it a statutory crime to dispense contraceptive information through the mails. And it is probably one of the many states where doctors hesitate to give the information personally.

Perhaps the judge could tell the young people where to apply for the information. He could give them the names of Margaret Sanger or Mary Ware Dennett. But would he?

Having children when the parents have not the income to properly keep and train the children—is it a crime? Is it an economic offense? Is it an undue burden on the institution of matrimony? Is

it a good thing for the race? Is it a kind thing for the child? The wife?

There are sharp differences of opinion about these matters. Certain powerful religiousists hold that all must be left to nature. That little souls must be born into the church and that all else is as God wills.

And then there are those among the intelligentsia who say God has nothing to do with it, and that it shall be as the family doctor and the intelligent parents will. And that if they have any sense they will consult the family budget before starting a new member of the family.

There is a bill before congress to remove the penal barriers on information, and to send the United States along the same road taken by England and most of the continental countries of the Old World.

Immigration Changes

Recommendations for changes in the immigration law made by Labor Secretary Davis further complicate that problem, on which there already is wide disagreement in congress.

Davis would impose quota restrictions on Canada and Mexico, reducing Mexican immigration by about 90 per cent, but permitting more Canadians to enter the country than are coming in at present.

He would increase annual European immigration from 164,000 to 204,000. Where the quotas under the "national origins" plan are greater than those now in force, he would accept the larger quota.

The proposals made by Davis call for most careful consideration.

Secretary Kellogg previously announced his opposition to the Mexican quota proposal, in the belief that it would antagonize Latin-America. The effect of restrictions on our relations with Canada likewise deserves thought.

The "national origins" clause is scheduled to become effective June 30, 1929. It generally is agreed, however, that the system is impracticable, and there is disposition to abandon it. A commission, of which Herbert Hoover was a member, found it impossible to determine accurately the national origins of the present population, on which it is proposed to base quotas.

Hoover so reported and has favored retention of the present restrictions, which fix quotas at 2 per cent of the foreign-born residents of the various countries as shown by the 1890 census.

The wisdom of any increase in immigration, particularly when based on the defective national origins plan, is open to question.

The existing law has obvious imperfections. It seems fairly well to have accomplished the purpose of keeping the character of immigration in harmony with the racial strains that make up the nation, however.

Later censuses than 1890, if used for quotas, would impose hardships on northern and western European stock, which originally settled the country. Earlier censuses would unduly limit immigration from southern and eastern Europe.

Statesmen at Geneva propose the men who start the wars be made to serve in the front ranks. That would end the possibility of anybody ever winning any wars.

Headline over a Hollywood couple, just married, says "Life Contract This Time." Whoever said the newspapers aren't optimistic?

It's fine to be popular, but the popular vote doesn't seem to get you anywhere.

"Collegian is wounded, mistaken for bandit," says headline over a story from Montgomery, Ala. Who shot him—his father?

A new book lists the famous trials of the last fifty years. Nothing is said about the cigarette lighter, however.

David Dietz on Science

A Fortunate Accident

No. 223

THE collapse of an old Bavarian house was one of the most fortunate incidents in the history of the telescope.

Maximilian Joseph, the elector of Bavaria, was walking along the street when the accident happened. He saw workmen extricate a youth from the ruins and out of sympathy for the boy gave him 18 ducats which he happened to have in his pocket.

The incident occurred on July 21, 1801. The boy was Joseph Fraunhofer. His father, a glazier, had died when Joseph was a baby, and at the time of the accident, Joseph was apprentice to a mirror maker.

With the 18 ducats, Joseph purchased his freedom, some apparatus for polishing glass, and some books.

Within five years, he made so great a reputation through his skill and ability that particular bit of nonsense let us go to Frankfort, Germany, where there is a good-sized row over a play which portrays the Deity in knickers and St. Peter as a benevolent bluffer.

The president of Austria is going to be elected for the third time, but this isn't such a great honor, for there's nothing left of Austria except Vienna and nobody thinks of Vienna any more, except when they go to the bakery.

We should all rejoice that this girl has sued an eastern professor for \$250,000, for it pays a very handsome compliment to a very decent bluffer.

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The national potato conference now is being held in Chicago and will soon be in full blast in the various legislative halls of the several states of the Union.

We are not surprised to hear the exhibition of hoodwink, which the author of such a uselessly offensive skit included.

There is no less rowdiness in offending religious conceptions with such an unnecessary piece of coarseness and vulgarity than there is in breaking up a show.

A roughneck is a roughneck, whether he expresses himself intellectually or with bricks.

These lines are still known as the Fraunhofer lines in honor of their discoverer.

By this discovery, Fraunhofer founded the modern science of spectroscopy, for the spectroscope is only a combination of a prism, suitable lenses and a slit such as he used.

We know today that each chemical element causes its characteristic lines in the rainbow of colors or spectrum and so Fraunhofer gave us a method for identifying the chemical constituents of the sun and stars.

What is the world's record for the standing broad jump?

11 feet 4 1/2 inches.

M. E. TRACY

SAYS:

"This Would Be a Drab World if It Were Not for the Freaks."

SOMETIMES the daily news makes you wonder whether the right crowd is in the asylum for the insane.

Long Island musician and his wife conspire to get him a second bride without formality of divorce; a German play portrays God in plus fours; a New York Judge fines a man \$5 for running a restaurant without a license, though the man asserts it is not a restaurant, but a speakeasy; a New Jersey judge threatens to fine a man \$10 if he cannot produce a dead mosquito; Bolivian and Paraguayan troops stage a miniature war, presumably to show Mr. Hoover how well his good will trip is succeeding.

Then there are those among the intelligentsia who say God has nothing to do with it, and that it shall be as the family doctor and the intelligent parents will. And that if they have any sense they will consult the family budget before starting a new member of the family.

There is a bill before congress to remove the penal barriers on information, and to send the United States along the same road taken by England and most of the continental countries of the Old World.

It is a good thing for the race? Is it a kind thing for the child? The wife?

There are sharp differences of opinion about these matters. Certain powerful religiousists hold that all must be left to nature. That little souls must be born into the church and that all else is as God wills.

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