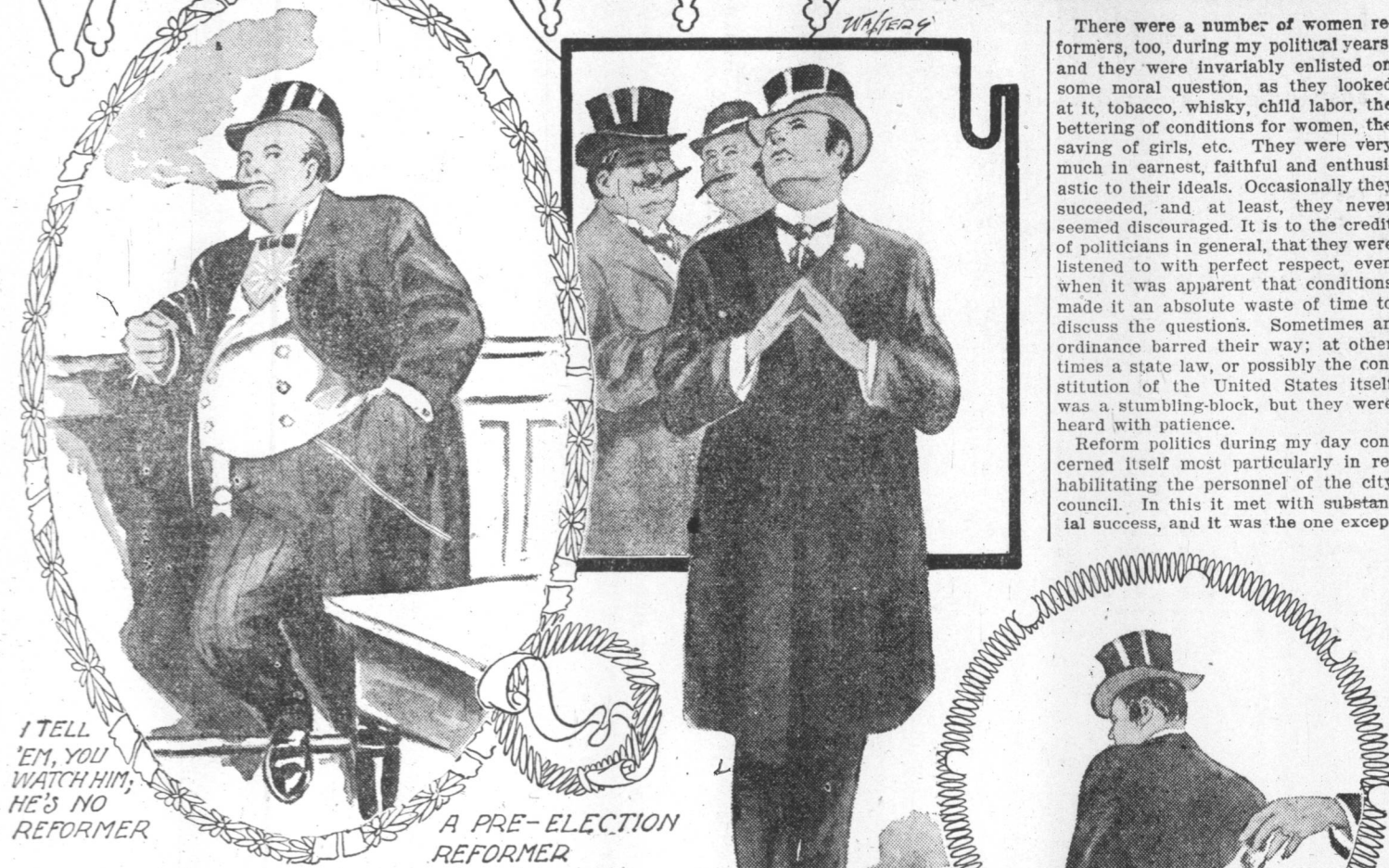


POLITICAL REFORMER SOMETIMES DYSPLEPTIC

BY ERNEST McCAFFEY



I TELL 'EM, YOU WATCH HIM, HE'S NO REFORMER

A PRE-ELECTION REFORMER

REFORMER in politics is sometimes a dyspeptic, but not always. He is also sometimes actuated by motives entirely impersonal and unselfish. But not always. And reform politics may be classed as of two kinds: the counterfeited variety and the genuine.

Independent, or reform movements in political campaigns, are intended to be the breaking away of members of the old parties and a consolidation of these "bolters" for the purpose of electing a ticket which is supposed to be better than either of the old-line party tickets. Sometimes an independent movement means this. Sometimes it means that a Democrat or a Republican who has failed of the regular party nomination has been persuaded to make the race on the ground that he has been deprived of the nomination by unfair means. But the basic element of independent movements is always a claim toward a bettering of conditions, and therefore arguing a reform, politically.

Then there is usually the Prohibition movement to be reckoned with, and this is strictly founded on reform principles. Or there may be an educational feature in the campaign which will prove to carry the balance of power as to votes, and which may be adopted in the platform of either of the parties, with a view to secure votes for the whole ticket. Politics is largely a game of expedients, and as the only things that count, in the last analysis, are the votes, it follows, therefore, as the night the day, that votes are the primary necessities, and any expedient to catch votes is considered justifiable.

Other phases of reform politics may enter particularly into national campaigns, and may influence local conditions enough to swing victory to a side which may be weaker on paper than its antagonist.

In every large city and noticeably in my own city, I found two well defined types of the political reformers, with a smattering also of what were known as "crank" "dreamers" and "visionaries." One of the two types referred to was the hard-headed citizen who, regardless of ridicule and discouragement, steadily set himself to work to better the class of official selection. Without caring anything for party affiliations, he associated with organizations which "went after" weak or unfit candidates, and supported and encouraged good candidates for all offices, whether state, county or municipal.

This class of men accomplished, with the aid of decent politicians, a great deal of good. In the beginning, like all men actuated by really high motives, they were derided and lampooned, and their lot, like the policeman's, was not a happy one. But as time went on they became a force which had to be reckoned with, even by the most hardened of the "bosses," excepting in what may be classed as strictly "saloon wards."

In the saloon wards, where the aldermen for instance, were saloonkeepers, or where the saloon influence predominated overwhelmingly, the "bosses" did not mind reform politics any more than a rhinoceros would mind the bite of a mosquito. I never could understand, knowing the absolute hopelessness of it, why the reformers would sometimes try to "break into" such a ward in an aldermanic campaign. I remember very well the occasion of a gentleman calling on me and endeavoring to enlist my services as a speaker in a campaign of this sort.

"You know the disgraceful condi-

tions obtaining in that ward?" he asked, inquiringly.

"Oh, yes," was my answer.

"Well, we want to put up a candidate for alderman there and see if we can't arouse the better element there. We want to go in and fight the saloons to a finish," was his next remark.

"Whose finish?" said I.

"Oh, we will probably be beaten," he admitted, "but we want to give them a campaign of education and enlightenment. What that ward needs, what every ward needs, is a chance to have its higher nature aroused. What they want, I'm convinced, is more opportunity to see the light."

"My friend," was my reply, "I've traveled some in that ward. What they want there is not more light, but more beer."

Yet, despite sometimes misdirected energy, these men and their associations did much in making political conditions better. For that they deserve substantial credit. So long as they were absolutely non-partisan they wielded considerable influence, and properly, but on occasion they allowed prejudice to bias them and did injustice to good men.

The other type of well-known reformer was the one who continually headed "reform" movements. He might be a candidate for alderman, or the legislature, or congress, but wherever there was a "kick" coming, and a meeting advertised to protest, or organize, this class would be on hand early and get the chairmanship of the meeting, usually coming out in a "ringing" speech of denunciation against the infamy which the citizens had met to combat. This put the reformer "next" if it was a proposition to nominate an opposition candidate, and he often got away with the nomination. Or, if he was a professional man, a lawyer, a doctor, or a real estate man, even, it was a pretty fair advertisement, wasn't it? Not so "poor" to have your picture in the paper next day, with a long account of you, your views and your speech, etc. Some might think that would have cost you to have in the papers, and you got it for nothing. And then the reporters out to interview you and quite a racket started about you.

And in every large city I suppose there are only a few bright promoters like that standing around waiting to sell a gold brick or two.

Some of these "reformers" were pretty fierce when they happened to land in an office. A few of them were swept into the city council astride the top of a wave of "popular indignation" and they were the hungry boys, some of them. They were simply on the qui vive to be "approached." And when they were tempted they fell swiftly and without a sound. Their motto was that of the Hon. Webster Flanagan, with a different interpreta-

There were a number of women reformers, too, during my political years, and they were invariably enlisted on some moral question, as they looked at it, tobacco, whisky, child labor, the bettering of conditions for women, the saving of girls, etc. They were very much in earnest, faithful and enthusiastic to their ideals. Occasionally they succeeded, and at least, they never seemed discouraged. It is to the credit of politicians in general, that they were listened to with perfect respect, even when it was apparent that conditions made it an absolute waste of time to discuss the questions. Sometimes an ordinance barred their way; at other times a state law, or possibly the constitution of the United States itself was a stumbling-block, but they were heard with patience.

Reform politics during my day concerned itself most particularly in rehabilitating the personnel of the city council. In this it met with substantial success, and it was the one ex-



tion to perennial reform which was genuine. Not that the reformers did not occasionally have "an ax to grind," but that, in the main, they aided the best candidates. But at times they saddled themselves with some bogus reformer and jammed him through at the polls, facilitating themselves that they had "put another over the political plate" when they had in reality only added a "cheap grater" to the city's pay roll.

When this happened it made the regulation, gilt-edged grater in the council indignant. Not that the "reformer" should turn out to be "cheap grater for something," but that he so often took anything he could get. This made trade bad, for it scaled prices and such a recruit to the ranks of corruption caused a "bear" market in votes.

A cheap scoundrel earned just as much contempt in the council as an overcoat thief earns from a railroad manipulator of stocks. I recollect the arraignment that one of the "regulars" gave one of these easily purchased "reformers."

Said the "regular," puffing slowly at a big black cigar, the little finger of his left hand adorned with a four hundred dollar "shiner," and his shirt front sporting its mate, presented by his admiring "constituents."

"I reckon I size that guy up right, at the start. I tell 'em I seen what kind of a lobster he is, the first flop of the box. I tell 'em, you watch him; he's no reformer, and he's no thoroughbred. He blows up in the stretch the first time they're off at the gate. An', say! Did he? Well, he's elected all right, and he goes over 'an' hooks up with the greaser in the next ward in the same time he goes in. Them two frames up and goes out for the stuff. Do they get it? Yes, they get it, and how much? Say, on the level now, on the square, they split three hundred between 'em for a little thing they pull off. A hundred and fifty apiece, see?"

He paused and took a fresh puff at his cigar, and resumed: "Why, if any cheap stiff'd come to me and try to insult me with less than \$500 I'd throw the skate out of my office. And the end of his cigar glowed with righteous indignation."

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Not Altogether Painless.

Patience—Is that dentist's methods painless?

Patience—Not all of them. He has a photograph in his office!—Yonkers Statesman.

In the southeast Joe Johnston fired the last burlesque shots and peace came again over the north and south. Then, when relations with Washington had been re-established and the administration's policy was one of magnanimity, Charlotte Hillman counted the notches in the toll-pole and sent her bill to Washington. And the bill was paid.—Metropolitan Magazine.

Dangerous to Author.

Perfidy often recoils upon its author.—La Fontaine.

When the common soldiery came the girl again lowered the toll-bar and demanded toll. This was met by jeers from the soldiers, whereupon she wisely raised the guard. All day the dusty troopers passed through and all day Charlotte Hillman stood at her post. For every ten soldiers who passed the gate she cut a notch in the toll-pole. Early fled beyond the Blue Ridge with the remnants of his disorganized army; in the Valley of Virginia, Lee, beaten back by Grant's overwhelming numbers, gave up the



Herman Schaefer, guardian of the second sack on the Detroit team and who has also been playing shortstop, is a hard worker and his good work has helped greatly in making his team an important contender for the American league pennant.

MANY STARS PICKED UP BY AMERICAN LEAGUE

Several Players Taken from Minors Who Have Won Places of Veterans in Major Organizations.

Minor league players are developed slowly for the major organizations, yet the American league has been very fortunate during the season in picking up star-players in the minors.

The Ohio and Pennsylvania league has given two unusually promising youngsters to Ban B's organization. The players in question are Schweitzer of the Browns and Goode of the Naps. The former is a fixture on the St. Louis team. The man with the cheese name has beaten out such veterans as Charley Jones and Danny Hoffman by his all around work. He has played in only about one-third of the games this year, due to a bad leg.

It's a pretty good bet that had he been in the game regularly St. Louis would now have several games in the won column that are on the wrong side. Goode has not shown his real speed, but his batting and running stamp him as a most likely looking youngster.

In Steele and Arrelanes it seems Boston has two young twirlers who are destined to be stars. Steele was secured from the New England league, while Arrelanes was picked up in the Outlaw league of California. While Steele has lost quite a few games, practically all of them have been by one run, due to weak hitting on the part of his teammates. Arrelanes' best feat of the season was performed in a recent game with Philadelphia, when he let down the Athletics with only one bingle, a home run by Nicholas in the ninth.

In Purcell, Chicago has picked up a wonderful fielding third baseman, but a weak hitter. McAleer has developed Butler and Graham into effective southpaws.

In Milan, Cantillon has one of the greatest outfielders in the business. As a catcher Steel has won a place as the Senators' leading backstop, although this is his first year.

Pitcher Summers, a product of this season, has been of great aid to Jennings.

These are a few of the promising youngsters picked up by the American league during the last year, and all of them bid fair to press the veteran stars for their high position in the world of baseball.

BASEBALL ITEMS

Three hundred hitters are scarce, due to the spit ball.

Connie Mack intends to thoroughly try out all his youngsters this fall. He desires to get a line on their ability for next spring.

Cantillon has gotten rid of all his veterans except Tom Hughes, "Jack" Warner and Charley Smith.

When it is considered that Pittsburgh has been without a regular first baseman all year, the showing of the club has been remarkable.

Owner Farrell of the New York team insists there is nothing to the reported deal of Chase for Donahue and Davis of the White Sox.

Connie Mack's new third-base recruit Manush is said to have a throwing arm that will make all the other guardians of that sack envious.

Rube Vickers is one of the few pitchers who cannot give too much work. Connie Mack hasn't allowed him to keep the bench very warm.

Brownie Gessler, of the Red Sox, is one of the best football players that ever pranced on the gridiron.

Copy Hartel is one of the hardest men in the American league for twirlers to pitch to. He is short and crouches. His pass list is extensive.

Strange Exception.

A Staffordshire (England) watering place has been advertised in the newspapers: "Ideal place of picnics, strict temperance, Sunday excepted."

THINKS WALSH'S DAYS AS A PITCHER ARE NEAR END

Eastern Baseball Critic Says Spit Ball Twirler of White Sox Staff Is Being Overworked.

The Washington Star's baseball critic thinks that Pitcher Ed Walsh's days are numbered.

"Love for the limelight and the applause of the fickle fan is liable to play a prominent part in cutting short the career of big Ed Walsh, the famous 'spit' ball artist of the Chicago White Sox," declares the critic.

"Walsh has worked in more games this year than any other twirler in Big Ban's circuit, and if Fledler Jones continues to use him with such frequency he will probably establish a new record for games pitched."

"According to the players, Walsh never comes on the field in Chicago until a minute or so after the batteries have been announced. He waits until the baseball stage has been set, so to speak, and the other eight minor characters assume their position, then, hero-like, he majestically strides forth, much after the manner of the leading man in a ten-twenty-three production. Of course, the bleacherites howl and the grand stand applauds."

"Walsh is a wonderful pitcher and his work alone is keeping the White Sox in the race. His pitching has been well-nigh faultless, but his judgment appears to be bad. The strain to which he is putting his mighty right arm is sure to tell. Notoriety is cheap, but when he fails to deliver the goods it won't take Comiskey long to tie the can on him. Recently Walsh worked in five out of seven games played in one week."

"No man, no matter how strong, can stand so much work. Mr. Walsh better get wise or the fans will soon be saying: 'There goes poor Walsh; he was once the greatest pitcher in the world.'"

IMPROVE THE COACHING

Rules in Need of Thorough Overhauling, Says Writer.

This is what a Detroit baseball writer has to say regarding coaching as conducted at present:

The coaching rules are in need of heroic overhauling.

Clearly the coacher was never meant to be anything but a guide to the base runner. If the pitcher is to be the base runner, he is to be strictly observed, the men in the coaches' boxes would be instantly banished for any effort, real or implied, to disturb the composure of the pitcher, or to give false direction to any fielder.

Indeed, so honorable has the game become of late that the hour is at hand when there should be a heroic reformation in coaching.

It ought to be regarded as distinctly dishonorable nowadays to attempt to put the pitcher "in the air" by any remarks hurled across from one coach's box to the other.

It ought to be punishable with a penalty that would be felt for the coaches of one team to shout false directions to a fielder who is making a hurried play.

The game has grown beyond the methods of the sand lots and the back alleys, and the ball players who do not realize this should be taught a lesson.

To call a balk on the pitcher or to send a base runner back a base—much as a football team is penalized for side line coaching—would soon put a stop to a nuisance that has long been patiently endured.

Many people who might be taught to love the game and to become the most loyal of fans are kept away from the games by that old-style system of coaching that—instead of telling the base runner what to do—trails along on the Kerry-Patch system that seeks to rattle the opposition.

"Rube" Oldring Easily Discouraged.

"If Rube" Oldring only thought that he was a great ball player he would be one of the best in the country."

That is Connie Mack's opinion of the man who has been playing center field for the Athletics off and on for the last couple of seasons.

Oldring is a hard-luck player in the spring. He lost a chance to break in at third base through being injured in an exhibition game one spring. This year, when he was slated to hold down center field regularly Oldring was taken ill.

At times Oldring gives flashes of wonderful ability in the field and at bat. He appears to be easily discouraged, and Manager Mack's opinion that he is too modest seems to fit the "Rube" and acts as a drawback to his natural ability.

SOIL-WASHING RUINING MANY SPLENDID FARMS

Methods by Which the Process Can Be Prevented—By J. G. Mosier, Assistant Chief of Soil Physics, Illinois University.

Nothing will completely ruin land more quickly than washing, especially gullying. A single season or even a single rain, may produce gullies that cannot be crossed with ordinary farm implements. Unless these are promptly looked after, the land soon becomes practically worthless.

On uniform slopes, gullies may be started by very simple means such as tunnels of moles, wagon tracks and cow or sheep paths, any one of which

rolling land is certainly not a hopeful one under the present most common systems of management, or more properly of mismanagement. Increasing poverty will be the future of the owners of this land unless a radical change in methods takes place. It is not an expensive process to protect and improve these soils, but it becomes relatively more expensive as time goes on, because the people will be less able to do it. Sad, indeed is



An Abandoned Field.

the prospect before the boys and girls of these lands when their only inheritance is a ruined hillside farm.

RECEIVING MILK AT THE CREAMERY

By C. A. Larson, Iowa Agricultural College.

To many dairymen the term receiving of milk is limited to simply pouring the milk out of the patron's can into the weighing tank, recording the number of pounds of milk, and then lifting the valve so that it can escape into the receiving vat. Such a conception of receiving milk is easily satisfied. Any boy or man without nature judgment or special training can do this. But when we give the term "receiving of milk" its broad and comprehensive interpretation we must include first the selection of milk. This can be properly done only when a man's senses of smell, taste and sight have been cultivated and are made use of, together with the power of observation.

How to select milk depends upon the acuteness of the senses, but how to dispose of these different qualities of milk in the most economical way depends upon the knowledge the receiver has of the effect of these different defects of milk upon the ultimate product, and also upon the amount of common sense and judgment he is able to consult. Because a can full of milk is sour, if otherwise clean, does not necessarily indicate that it is unfit for the production of a first-class quality of butter; of course it should not be mixed with the sweet milk, as it might coagulate it all or clog up the separators, but if retained until after the sweet milk has been skimmed it might be run through the separator successfully.

However, it is more safe to class it as defective milk and keep it together with the rest of the poor milk in a small vat by itself. Dirty, putrid and bitter milk is the kind of milk that is specially conducive to a poor quality of butter. One can full of such milk if mixed with the rest of the milk may lower the grade of all of the butter made during that day or even two cents per pound.

To keep this poor quality of milk by itself in the receiving vat is of utmost importance, but it is equally important to keep the weight of it by itself on the milk sheet. When a patron delivers a can of poor milk to the creamery he should not receive as much for it as does the man who delivers a first-class quality of milk, for it is an established fact that as good butter cannot be made from the poorer milk.

The quality of milk delivered can be designated on the milk sheet by marking the good milk "A" and the poor quality "B" milk. Thus, at the end of the month each patron can be paid according to the quality of the milk he delivered without much trouble to the creamery operator and with justice to the patrons. This is one of the best means of bringing about a reform in the methods of caring for milk or cream on the farm.

She is a Wonder.—It is estimated that a hen weighing six pounds, laying in the course of a year 100 eggs, produces 12 pounds of one of the most concentrated food elements.

Wheat Bran.—One hundred pounds of wheat bran contain 12.2 pounds of digestive protein, 39.2 pounds of digestible carbohydrates and 2.7 pounds either extract or fat.

Avoid Exciting the Cow.—Excitement destroys the ability of a cow to produce milk for the time being. It should always be avoided with dairy cows.

Caring for Farm Tools.—After you are through with a farm implement, paint it before rust and rot spoil the steel and wood.

Supplement the Pasture.—When the pastures begin to get short cut some of that fodder corn and give to the cows.

Forced Pullets.—Forced pullets produce eggs of larger size than retarded ones.

The Chores.—Make the chores a part of the day's work if possible.

GIRL DEFIED A WHOLE ARMY.

Feminine Toll-Gate Keeper Paid by Government.

It is related that the army, headed by Sheridan and his staff, left Winchester by the valley pike early in the morning, the column moving toward Stephens City. Just as day was breaking the staff reached the toll-gate and were much disconcerted to find the toll-pole down and guarded by a young

and beautiful girl, Charlotte Hillman, famed locally for her girlish charms. Even the war-hardened Sheridan seems not to have been proof against the persuasion of a pair of black eyes and a pretty face, and when toll was demanded, straightway produced the title, setting an example that was followed by his staff.

"But," said Sheridan, as he passed through the gate, "I cannot vouch for my army."

When the common soldiery came the girl again lowered the toll-bar and demanded toll. This was met by jeers from the soldiers, whereupon she wisely raised the guard. All day the dusty troopers passed through and all day Charlotte Hillman stood at her post. For every ten soldiers who passed the gate she cut a notch in the toll-pole. Early fled beyond the Blue Ridge with the remnants of his disorganized army; in the Valley of Virginia, Lee, beaten back by Grant's overwhelming numbers, gave up the