

FIVE STATES WILL GIVE FAIR TESTS

s to Who the People Favor
for Two Presidential
Nominations.

PRIMARY DATES.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| North Dakota | March 19 |
| Wisconsin | April 2 |
| Nebraska | April 17 |
| Oregon | April 19 |
| New Jersey | May 28 |

(National News Association)

BISMARCK, N. D., March 18.—To North Dakota belongs the distinction of holding the first presidential preference primary. On Tuesday next the various political parties will elect delegates, to the national conventions and at the same time express their choice for the party's nominee for president.

The primaries have attracted the national attention not only because they are an innovation, but principally on account of the fight now being waged between Colonel Roosevelt and President Taft for the nomination.

The general expectation is that the result of the North Dakota primaries will exert an important influence over the other state-wide presidential primaries that will be held in four other states in the near future, as well as over the state conventions.

Oregon, Nebraska, Wisconsin and New Jersey, all will hold presidential preference primaries within the next ten weeks, and the date for California's primaries is expected to be set soon.

Just now, Former President Roosevelt, seems likely to capture the Republican delegation of North Dakota, while Champ Clark, Woodrow Wilson and Judson Harmon appear to have about equal chances for winning the Democratic delegates.

It is generally conceded on all sides that the Republican delegates elected will be instructed to vote for the nomination of Colonel Roosevelt in the Chicago convention. The Republicans estimate that their voting strength in the state will be about 75,000, and it is figured that Roosevelt will poll at least half of that number, that President Taft will have about one-third, and Senator La Follette the remainder.

Even the Taft managers, it is said, are practically ready to concede that the President cannot command a majority of the North Dakota voters in the preference primaries. Senator McCumber, who is a strong supporter of the President, is declared to have stated in a recent utterance that he conceded an anti-Taft delegation. One reason assigned is that the farmers of North Dakota—and they comprise the larger part of the population of the state—became deeply incensed at the President because of his advocacy of Canadian reciprocity and, although that proposition failed through the refusal of Canada to enter the compact, the agriculturists have not forgotten the effort made by the President to lower the duties upon the products of the Dominion, which they contended would compete with their own.

Conceding that the North Dakota delegates elected by the people, instead of being chosen by the old convention plan, are instructed to Roosevelt, a singular situation is likely to arise. The law makes delegates thus elected to national conventions, officers of the state and requires them to take an oath the same as other state officials. Their expenses, up to \$300, incurred in attending a national convention, are paid by the state, and there is at least the moral obligation on them to comply with the instructions given them at the time of their election.

Thus, if so instructed, they will be obliged to vote for Roosevelt no matter what the circumstances may be at the convention, and even if they are the only ones that do vote for him. They could not, under their instructions, which are not qualified in any way, vote to make the nomination of any other than the man they are instructed for, unanimously, even if every other delegate in the convention should vote to do so. There is no provision in the primary election plan

for any second choice for voting for any other than as directed in the primaries.

However, there is no penal section in the law under which a delegate could be punished for voting for some other than the person for whom he was instructed, and even if there were, the offense would be committed in Illinois, and outside the jurisdiction of North Dakota. So nothing but moral obligation rests upon the delegates, and how far they will observe that in the face of a convention overwhelming for some other candidate, is a matter for speculation and their own decision.

There has been some talk that Taft men might ignore the primary law altogether, call a state convention under the old system, and select by that method, delegates who would be favorable to the President. Under the call for the Republican convention, the convention is in no sense bound to seat the delegation elected at the primaries; if it sees fit, it could deny them recognition and admit those chosen in a state convention. There is nothing which the state could do to oblige the national convention, a purely voluntary assemblage, to accept its delegates chosen in the primaries. The Taft managers, however, have not given any encouragement to the suggestion of ignoring the law, and it is therefore a practical certainty that the delegates elected in the primaries will be seated.

What applies to the election of delegates to the Republican convention, also applies to Democratic delegates, to delegates to the Prohibition national convention, to the Socialist national convention and to any other political organization which desires to hold a national convention for the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency.

There has been some talk that the Democrats in the Presidential primaries might instruct their delegation from North Dakota to vote for the nomination of Governor John Burke as the state's favorite son. The absurdity of such a proposition, however, is being brought here to the Democrats of the state, despite the fact that local sentiment places the state executive above the candidates of greater national renown. If the delegates were instructed to vote for Burke, they would be morally bound to do so, and, as of course, there is not even the remotest possibility of his nomination, the delegation, if bound to him, would be a negative quantity in the convention.

For this reason, the Democratic fight has waged among the friends of Wilson, Clark and Harmon—to elect the delegates. There is also, so far as the Democrats are concerned a contest over the place on the Democratic national committee. Under the North Dakota law, not only are the convention delegates elected by the people, but the national committeemen as well. In states where the primary law does not prevail, the delegates to the national conventions elect their state's member on the national committee.

The Democrats, believing they have a good chance to win the presidency this time, will contest for the election of a national committeeman who is likely to be the recognized distributor of patronage in the state, since it is not likely that the state will elect

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a senator or a member of the House who is a Democrat, when the congressional elections are held on June 26.

The presidential preference primary law, under which Tuesday's election will be held, had its origin in the State of Oregon, and it has been called "The Oregon Law." But in that state of the Far Northwest, no election has yet ever been held under the law, its first actual test coming in this state, which patterned its law after the Oregon measure. Oregon will not witness operation of the law within its boundaries until April 19. Between now and that time, two other presidential preference primary elections will be held, in Wisconsin and Nebraska, on April 2 and April 17 respectively. The date for the California primary has not yet been named, but it is expected to follow shortly after the Oregon election, and the last of the new type of elections will be in New Jersey on May 28.

Wisconsin naturally, is expected to vote solidly for Senator La Follette, so far as the Republicans are concerned, with President Taft running slightly ahead of Col. Roosevelt for second place. In Nebraska, the margin seems to favor the former President, while in Oregon it is close between him and President Taft. New Jersey is now generally counted upon as a Taft state. In California the vote will be close, one uncertain factor being the part the women voters will play. As to the Democratic candidates, the result is much harder to predict in practically all quarters. Clark, Wilson and Harmon apparently running about even in every instance.

A Regular Solomon.

Old Gentleman—Which one of my daughters do you wish to marry? Young Man—Oh, just let them fight it out among themselves, sir, and I'll take the one that puts up the poorest fight. —Puck.

SPITTING VENOM.

Snakes That Can Eject a Stream of Poison From Their Fangs.

A writer in the National Geographic Magazine says that some of the African and the East Indian, cobra spit poison at any one who disturbs them. The king cobra, a black, exceedingly vicious cobra that receives its name from one or two broad white bands that show on the neck when the snake is reared in fighting pose. When he arches his neck to glare at the intruder he is able to eject fine jets of poison to a distance of six or eight feet. These deadly streams are dangerously well aimed.

The poison is ejected by contracting the lower jaw in such a fashion that the permanently erect fangs overlap it. At a movement of the adversary the reptile arches his neck till the head is thrown backward, bringing the tips of the hypodermic teeth to bear. The muscles over the poison glands are contracted, and a thin stream of venom leaves each fang. The observer is liable to receive the poison directly in the eyes, and the amount thus ejected is surprising.

The writer has seen the entire lower part of a large glass pane peppered with tiny drops, and in photographing or observing the snakes always protects his eyes with auto goggles. The front of his camera is often well spattered with tiny drops of poison, as the cobra becomes infuriated at the movements of the photographer's hands in focusing.

In one of his books Theodore Roosevelt tells how the explorer Tariton was once struck in the eyes and nearly blinded by poison thus spit forth. Washing the eyes with milk was found to give the most speedy relief.

Civilization is first and foremost a moral thing.—Amiel.

NATURAL MEASURES.

The Hand, the Face and the Cubit of the Scriptures.

The first "natural measurement" to which the memory naturally recurs is the hand, four inches, employed in determining the height of horses. This measure is, of course, derived from the breadth of the palm, and it has become so well fixed in popular esteem that it is unlikely it will ever be superseded.

Another popular natural measure is the pace, and probably every countryman who has had to do with land has used it. The usual method is to stride off, taking as long steps as possible, calling each pace a yard.

A natural measure much employed by a dressmaker is the yard as determined by stretching the material to be measured between her chin and her outstretched hand, or if it be a matter of inches she will fold the banded upper joint of her thumb along the cloth. These natural measures are generally close enough to serve all practical purposes.

For many hundreds of years there was employed the measure of the forearm from point of elbow to tip of middle finger. This was the cubit of the Bible.—St. Louis Republic.

China not only raises enough cotton to supply probably four-fifths of the immense requirements of over 400,000,000 people, but exports the fiber in increasing amounts, particularly

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to Japan, where it is made into yarn and cloth largely for resale in China. Statistics of production or consumption are not to be had.

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FINE NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAINS—Worth to \$2.00 pair, Sale price per pair \$1.39

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The Corset Section

Doubly interesting just now. The prices clipped here and there mean money in the purse for those buying Easter Corsets, during our Remodeling sale. Corset Savings continue all this week.

Timely Dress Goods News

'Twill be another week of extraordinary Dress Goods selling, another week of exceptional savings. ALL WOOL-ENS, ALL TRIMMINGS, GO AT REDUCED PRICES. A combination of beautiful dress goods and trimmings and phenomenally low prices unlike anything that has been seen in recent days. Our showing comprises practically every desirable weave, color and novelty that prevails for Spring.

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