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Bigots At It

Perhaps one of the contributing causes of President Roosevelt's great popular vote was the A. P. A. circular sent out by the "Committee of Safety" of Boston calling upon all "true Americans"—heaven save the mark—to vote for Swallow and Carroll, the Prohibition nominees for president and vice-president, and especially to vote against President Roosevelt. It was charged that the latter had made R. J. Wynne, brother of the Jesuit Father Wynne, postmaster general, and that the Jesuits had thus obtained possession of the department of government most nearly related to the people—the dear people in whose name so many asinine appeals are made. No mention was made that Mr. Wynne unearthed the post office scandals or that his appointment was in the nature of a well earned civil service promotion.

Voters were urged to defeat President Roosevelt because it was alleged that he had given Catholics in the Philippines a few of the governmental appointments as he was in duty bound to do if he wished to be fair. It was also alleged that the Chairman of the Republican National Committee, George B. Cortelyou, was a graduate of Georgetown Jesuit University. We do not know the truth of this assertion, but if it is stated accurately then Georgetown turned out a very clever resourceful political campaign manager.

Fault was also found by this precious lot of bigots because the Catholics were to have their quota of chaplains in army and navy, because President Roosevelt appointed Archbishop Ryan as a member of the Indian Commission and Bishop Spaulding as a member of the Coal Strike Commission and because he named Charles J. Bonaparte as one of the men to ferret out the postoffice scandals.

As we said during the campaign we did not believe that a drop of bigot blood flowed in the veins of Theodore Roosevelt or Alton B. Parker, and we repeat the assertion. But if the election of Theodore Roosevelt is an eyesore to the Boston cabal of Apapists, then we rejoice that he has been successful at the polls.

Common Scold.

We are free to say that we have not been able to join in the chorus of adulation for the New York "Times" which has been sung in so many quarters of late. We freely concede its superiority as a good newspaper—so far as gathering news—but we cannot agree with its self-appreciative patronizing editorial style. It tries too hard to convey the idea that what it approves is all there is to approve and that what it disapproves cannot possibly possess merit. Persons of that sort are generally, insufferable prigs. Precisely the same may be said of newspapers.

The day after election the "Times" took upon itself to chide the New York state voters because they chose to elect Frank W. Higgins governor instead of Mr. Herrick. "The election of Mr. Higgins" whines the "Times," is a huge satire upon our way of choosing public servants. There is no reason, no intelligence in that kind of voting. It is as blind and unreasonable as any human process can possibly be. A discriminating electorate might with perfect ease have given the state to Roosevelt and the governorship to Herrick.

What would the "Times" have the people do? It opposed Roosevelt yet finds no particular fault with the people because they chose to vote for him. Why does the "Times" not give the voters credit for exercising their own rights and judgment in voting for Higgins for governor? Why were they "blind and unreasonable" when they chose to oppose Herrick? Is it not possible that the voters thought they exercised "reason" or "intelligence" in casting their ballots to prevent Mr. Herrick and Mr. Murphy from extending Tammany Hall's organization all over New York state? Is it not possible that the "Times" arguments against Mr. Higgins and in favor of Mr. Herrick did not find favor with the "discriminating electorate"? We know this is hardly possible, but it may be so.

Why should this subject be discussed in a Catholic paper? It may be asked. Just because the "Times" sees fit to poke its nose into everybody's business, to offer advice on every subject under heaven, including the way the Catholic church should be governed, and we wish to call attention to the hypocrisy of the paper.

It's too bad that the direction of affairs of state, nation and church could not be guided by the paternal hand of the New York papers.

Election

Election resulted in a republican victory as nearly all shrewd observers predicted and expected. The democratic platform was too nearly a duplicate of that adopted by the republicans to appeal to the radicals who either voted for Debs, Watson or Roosevelt. The Bryan radicals, too, returned the desertion of the gold democrats who in 1896 and 1900 went over to McKinley by voting for Roosevelt whom they thought more nearly corresponded to Bryan than the nominee of the Chicago convention. Moreover the Bryan radicals no doubt figured that the democrats could not honestly attack the trusts when the campaign was managed by such trust magnates and promoters as August Belmont, Harry Payne Whitney, William F. Sheehan, Thomas F. Ryan and Anthony N. Braly.

That the radicals are opposed bitterly to the trusts is evidenced by the fact that the republicans captured the electoral votes of Massachusetts while the democrats elected their gubernatorial candidate who made his campaign on a platform in opposition to the trusts.

That the spirit of civic reform is not yet dead is evidenced by the election of Joseph W. Falk the intrepid young reformer who has driven a daring and well-organized gang of hoodlums into exile, as governor of Missouri while all the rest of the machine nominees went down to defeat, although Falk was fought by the republican and democratic machines of St. Louis, while his associates received their loyal support.

But when all has been written and said, one fact stands out prominently; Theodore Roosevelt has triumphed, not the republican party. The American people trust him, they like his bold, dashing personality and they believe he means to be honest. His rapid rise in American politics furnishes proof that the people appreciate and delight to have a man who, apparently at least, takes them into his confidence and respects their wishes. Mr. Roosevelt is invested with grave responsibilities by Tuesday's election. Here's hoping he will rise to the occasion.

The Philippines.

By their votes last week the American people have signified that they want the Philippines retained under American rule for the present at least. Right or wrong the American people plainly object to giving up the Islands. Commercial interests hope for trade in that direction. Now Catholic interests look upon the Islands as a new field for exploitation. Another class believes that national honor demands that Americans retain control until the Filipinos are fitted for self-government. A fourth class holds the opinion that having acquired the Islands as a result of conquest they should become an integral part of our territory.

While not conceding that the Amer-

icans have any right in the Philippines, the Journal has held the opinion that the majority of the American people would vote that we must stay there, and last week's vote justifies that opinion we feel free to say.

Time will tell whether the American people have acted wisely.

Both Are Wrong.

It pleases a class of opinionated persons who think themselves invested with a sort of divine right to govern to wail over the corruption which prevails in American municipal governments as compared with the lack of it which is the rule in European municipalities.

In our opinion these croakers talk as they do because the American people fail to be impressed with the superior worth of the aforesaid croakers and hence do not see fit to turn over to them the government of our municipalities. Whenever these superior theorists happen to be entrusted with municipal government no more complaint of corruption is heard, even though the city halls are infested with it. We would not like to charge that the croakers are corrupt—far from it—but it is a notorious fact that the croakers flourish under a reform government because they are able to fool the reformers far more easily than the professional politicians who know that their livelihood depends upon their ability and capacity to please the people—the whole people.

An instance in point is furnished by the four years of so called reform government in Rochester. Never in its history was the city governed worse. To day a plain business man, nominated and elected as a partisan, is putting things on a good basis. Governmental affairs run more smoothly and the city hall is no longer the scene of petty bickerings. The croakers are silent because the mayor, while a partisan, represents their class of self-sufficient critics and they are stopped from criticism.

Nor do we believe that the European commonwealths are so free from corruption and misgovernment as their American admirers would have us believe. Because of the requirements that property holding or tax paying is necessary to enjoyment of the franchise and office holding, the municipal officers in Europe are exclusively from the self-sufficient croakers and it never would do for the mutual admiration society to admit that the plan was a failure.

So long as the suffrage is universal in the United States, mistakes will be made no doubt but government will be of the whole people and responsibility or blame rests upon the entire electorate. If the day ever comes when the suffrage is restricted in this country a state of civic listlessness is likely to ensue and the net result will be worse than present conditions.

Esopus is a way station again.

The election of William L. Douglas as governor of Massachusetts is a tribute to the value of advertising.

Already they are talking of "Douglas and Folk" for 1908.

We thought Ohio would put in a bid for 1908.

The "I told you so" man is having his innings now.

Rochester newspapers will now return to their favorite occupation of settling ecclesiastical affairs, particularly in the diocese of Rochester.

Christian Scientists may be well meaning people but they have no right to contribute to the spread of epidemic by refusing to have their children treated for infectious disease by approved medical science.

Pure whiskey wrecks enough havoc but whiskey doctored with poison should never be sold or drunk. There should be some legal method to prevent its sale.

Who wouldn't exchange a \$10,000 governorship for a \$50,000 corporation presidency?

Who can say now that the Catholic vote belongs to any one political party?

"Catholicity and science are twin sisters," truly remarks John H. Reddin in the "Columbiad."

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