

THE TWIN FALLS TIMES

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A QUESTIONABLE REFERENDUM.

As might have been anticipated from the form of the questions presented the Twin Falls Commercial club at a meeting called Tuesday morning to meet that evening, voted favorably on the recommendations of the committee of the National Chamber of Commerce, relative to the repeal of certain sections of the Seaman's act, described only by number which were declared by the committee to be inimical to the shipping interests of the United States. The idea of a referendum of national questions is a good one, and as an abstract proposition the praise bestowed on this feature of the National Chamber of Commerce last week by Secretary James McMillan of the Commercial club was conservative and wholly within the facts.

It is therefore unfortunate that in submitting the Seaman's bill to the connected commercial organizations, the national organization so worded the first question as to render a free expression of opinion impossible: The Seaman's bill was passed unanimously by members of all parties represented in the national congress and signed by the president. A powerful element of business men connected with the shipping interests soon afterwards made the claim that it was inimical to our shipping in its operations and that it should be repealed. The author of the bill as well as many of those favoring what is known as the administration shipping bill denied that the evils complained of in so far as they existed, sprang from the operation of this law, but claimed that other causes at work in no way connected with the measure were responsible. It would seem that the first question to ask under such circumstances would be "Do you find that sections 4, 13 and 14 of the Seaman's act discriminate against American ports and American ships, and are restrictive of American shipping?" If these were answered by the organizations, then the question as to whether or not the sections named should be repealed could logically be submitted. As it is, the national body assumes that the law operates unfavorably, and so constructs the first question that a body which does not agree with it, cannot vote. For there is only one form of ballot submitted and that affords as a fact the very question at issue. No body accepting the statement of alleged facts contained in the question as true, can fail to vote for repeal without stultification.

THE TIMES does not want to be understood as censuring the members of the Commercial club present at the meeting for voting as they did, since the questions were presented in the form in which they were. Their opinions, if made the basis for a consideration of the questions at issue by the people of Twin Falls county at large, and not taken as the final expression of public sentiment in the community on those issues, will prove highly beneficial by focusing popular attention on a measure the discussion of which has been characterized more by noise than by light. In several states, notably in Oregon, when a question is referred, each voter is furnished far in advance of the election with a pamphlet containing brief arguments pro and con on the issue referred and as far as possible the questions are constructed so as to give the voter a real choice as to what he shall go on record. The adoption of a similar method, both in regard to time for consideration and the manner of formulating and presenting questions, would add much to the interest in and value of the referendum of the National Chamber of Commerce.

A CHANGE NOT OF HEART BUT OF PLAN.

Our Democratic friends are extending the most fulsome praise for Captain Davis, Republican candidate for governor, entirely overlooking their much beloved Moses. Wonder why? It is distressing to note that they overlook Moses in that manner, as he is such a representative Democrat, and the encomiums showered on the captain must appear to Moses like robbing him of advertising space for which he paid. And aside from that, of course, these dunderheads are playing up a very nice little program to slip the captain later on. That is an easily discernible as a leg of beer in a prohibition town. They want to connect the captain with the last administration, hence feel that he should be boosted at this particular time. Clever devils.—Pocatello Tribune.

That the Democratic papers should hint any advantage in connecting Captain Davis with the recent Haines administration is an admission that we are surprised to find the Tribune making, in as much as heretofore that administration has been the object of much praise and defense on the part of the Pocatello editor. Of course the Democrats are tearing their hair because the Tribune has exposed and thwarted their sinister plot, but they will hardly refrain from smirking at the Tribune's implied apology for the Haines administration.

IN THE MONTH OF ROSES.

To a man up in a tree looking over the fence, it begins to look like there will be very large assortment of hats in the ring at Chicago St. Louis in the month of roses. Two national conventions are now billed as summer attractions in the Windy City, the Republican and the Progressive conventions to begin June 7 and a week later the Democratic in St. Louis. Still later—but that's too far into the future and too problematical.

Just how many Republican candidates for the presidency there will ultimately be no man can say. Ten days ago we presented a whole gallery of candidates as the result of a nation-wide sweep of the field. Since that time a boomlet has been started in Pennsylvania for Mr. Knox, a Pittsburgh paper urging him as suitable material for the presidential race and a Philadelphia paper modestly trotting him forward for senator. At any rate, the candidates will go to Chicago at full war strength. What happens at the Progressive convention may depend in some degree upon the news that is carried to it from the Republican arena. Eastern and middle western observers of the political weather are coming to the view that Col. Roosevelt stands an excellent chance of carrying off first prize at both the big gatherings. These watchers are equally certain that the final sprint in November will be a furious race for the wire between the Colonels and Mr. Wilson—Desert News (Salt Lake City).

MAKING WAR SUPPLIES.

Senator Cummins of Iowa, who with the possible exception of Bradley, would have had the best chance of receiving the Republican presidential nomination in 1912, of any of the compromise candidates had the Taft and Roosevelt men been able to get together, has given over on the people's side definitely in regard to preparedness. He wants all battleships, ammunition, and munitions manufactured by the government, which he asserts is being bid by interested manufacturers.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels has shown that munitions can be more cheaply manufactured by the government than purchased from the trust which makes them, though the cost of battleships has heretofore been slightly greater at the government yards. Several new yards with modern appliances are now being constructed and it will be only a short time until all the ships can be made promptly at the yards more cheaply than the private manufacturers are willing to make them. Senator Cummins' constituents are dubious about the whole scheme of preparedness and, if they consent to it, want the worth of the money expended. They realize that manufacturers of war supplies are not so carried away with enthusiasm for the cause as to be willing to charge a cent less than the highest price that they can command. Economically the manufacture of ships and ammunition to be used exclusively by the government is in the same category as the operation of public utilities.

STULFIFIED HIMSELF ONLY.

"The taxpayers are still paying C. O. Bronx \$2500 per year for telling the people, through the Capital News, what it is the governor Alexander is making."

The above is a sort of standing editorial scab in the Nampa Leader-Herald and it appears there with mighty poor grace and calls forth comparison not at all complimentary to the editor of that enterprising Nampa journal: When one sees that article in the Leader-Herald the idea comes unbidden—spontaneous, as it were—to the mind that the editor and proprietor of that paper sucked a public job for years and was pried therefrom with difficulty. Are we then to infer that the editor simply held that job for the support he gave to the Republican party—that that party simply flushed from the public—the taxpayer, if you please—the amount of his salary in exchange for such boasting as it gave and finally tiring of the support or thru heart pain from a returning conscientiousness pried him from it? We can draw no other inference from its constant recurring attacks on Bronx. It would not appear so bad were it to come from any other paper, but coming from the paper whose editor and proprietor was frozen in a death grip to a public seat for years and painfully pried loose it only heaps vitium, shame and reproach on him. If he were wise, he'd forget it.—Caldwell News.

PUBLIC PROBLEMS

TO BE DISCUSSED

University Department of Economics
to Branch, Out-Professor, Source
Those Opposed to Activity.

Declaring that the university has a practical and not merely a theoretical function to perform in making available to the people of the state, sound government and that it is the duty to place its department of political economy at the disposal of the people as a whole to help them solve the practical economic problems with which they are faced, the University of Idaho, the present professor of economics and political science in the University of Idaho in the current issue of the News Letter, the new university paper, denounces those who for selfish reasons oppose the performance of this duty and declares that his department will do its part in solving public questions. The letter follows:

Of late several new lines of activity have been undertaken by the department of economics and political science in the university, particularly taxation, municipal problems and rural credit, and many people, some openly congratulating others openly suspicious, are inquiring why the university has been so economical of time. The department of economics is part of the university, supported largely by the people of the state, and it is due to the people to know its attitude toward those fundamental questions.

It is obvious that the one main function of a university is to aid the people of the state in solving their practical problems confronting it. This truth which it seeks to ascertain and apply must be fearlessly sought and carefully presented. To color it by partisanship, by prejudice, or by fear is to deprive it of its highest value in the degree that these factors intrude.

There are many willing to concede this premise theoretically. Particularly are they willing to concede it provided the presentation of the truth does not force them to readjust or abandon their theories. But it is perfectly willing that an institution should seek the facts with reference to the authority of the physiocrats, Shakespeare's name, or investigate in what the difficulties come in applying the name principles in the case of the various economic departments attention to economic or political mal adjustment, and suggests some avenues of advancement. At once some one exclaims: "The university is getting into politics!" and "Don't listen to the demagogues." which are not the things with which we are concerned. There are men and women in the state of Idaho who do not seem to be able to conceive of anything being done for the people as a whole—into whose thoughts enter no motives of unselfish effort; they are not able to conceive of anyone who seems to be unable to comprehend that everyone is not ruled by the one principle—"self and section always." Fortunately these people are in a minority. The great majority of the people are willing to listen, and act in accord with their better judgments.

Because the university is convinced that this is so it stands ready to outline its policy and enter the field of economic service regardless of whose private interests seem to be affected. This service consists, first of all, in teaching the young man and the young woman who come to Moscow to understand and interpret the economic and political life of Idaho and to direct this economic thinking along lines of honesty and clarity. But the university is going further than this. It

WATTERSON PREDICTS SUCCESS FOR TEDDY

ROOSEVELT AT REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

(Henry Watterson in Louisville Courier-Journal)

AM BEGINNING to draw into the impression that fancy "political" talk may be right that Theodore Roosevelt may be the Republican nominee for president. The suggestion ought to seem preposterous. Yet strange things have happened—the nomination of Horace Greely by the democrats for example and we live in a land and era of paradoxes.

No one who has considered the character, the antecedents and methods of the ex-president can doubt that he is a candidate. His qualities with Root and Hughes are certainly not to be despised. His political record is not so good as his popularity. His record of his protest is the popular support he received in 1912 of his hope that the chair which envelope the Republicans at the national convention. The leaders and mass-members of the party are at sea.

They know not where to turn, whom to follow. They are torn between "fear and loathing" bickering and blighting. No aspirant has any considerable following. None possesses the vote-catching magnetic quality. It were not easy to convert an iceberg into a volcano, yet, perhaps, the two last named, the two least of them, into a hero and, for the matter of that, of any of the rest.

There is not even an essential issue clearly dividing party lines. The tariff? Absurd! Economy? Tell it to me more. The fiscal, Dooley, money? None sees that at the opportune moment Wilson will not wrap it around him, march down to the footlights and fire the traditional hospital?

Parties which are down and out are hard to bring back to life again. There is but one objective point of view that is to win, and to win any old issue will suffice. The professional politician is nothing if not adaptable and complacent. Peacock thinks now that he can not vote for Roosevelt. But all the same he will vote for Roosevelt.

Wilson is the lion-slayer in the jungle; Jack-the-Giant-Killer. Alone he is the giant. Teddy's the boy for that sort of thing, and there is but one Teddy.

The President Emeritus of the Americas has fifty. Many times over he has survived just which had sent him to the grave.

This can be no better argument about his fitness. With the attitude as his piusance.

MARY PHAGAN PASSES JUDGMENT

THE FOLLOWING POEM from the New Republic is by Mary White Ovington, and is an indictment sicker than any we have read on the lynching of the poor girl's murderer. It is worth thinking over.

You care a lot about me, you men of Georgia, now that I am dead. You have spent thousands of dollars trying to learn who murdered my body. You have filled the columns of your newspapers with the story of my wrong. But why did you not care for me when I was alive?

I was but a child, but you shot me out-of-the-wall watching a machine that crashed through the window.

Endlessly watching a knife cut a piece of wood. Note fills the place—noise, dust, and the smell of oil.

I wish some of the thousands of dollars that you spent on the trial might have kept me in school.

A real school, the kind you build for the rich.

Work through the hot August days.

When you were away, you shot shooting birds, Or lounging in doorways cursing the niggers.

And you never paid me enough to buy a pretty dress. You sometimes spoke coarse to me when I went to and from my work; Yes, you did, and I had to pretend I liked it.

Why did you despise me living and yet love me so now?

I think I never liked the preacher told me about Christ;

People hated Him when He was alive.

But when He was dead—they killed man after man for His sake.

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