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THE COOLIDGE APPOINTMENTS

President Coolidge is having some very important appointments to make, and not all of them give pleasure to the politicians. That class of gentlemen seem in fact to be surprised in some cases by the type of people whom Mr. Coolidge appears to prefer.

The politicians have as a rule a certain type of persons to whom they would like to see these appointments go. The majority of them would like to see them awarded to faithful party followers who have been somewhat prominent in promoting the fortunes of the political organization. Men of that type often prove to be good public officials, but frequently such aspirants who are favored by political influences have never been specially noted for their efficiency in public service. Their ability seems more along the line of political management, than it does in wise and efficient administration of the public business.

Mr. Coolidge has shown a disposition to pass by this type of people when he has an appointment to make, and select those who appeal to him for other reasons. He is looking toward those essential qualifications that produce a thoroughly competent public servant.

His point of view is much like that of the head of a business corporation who is looking for a thoroughly equipped man to take charge of some department of his organization. A president can not wholly disregard political considerations, but Mr. Coolidge seems disposed to give them much less weight than any of his predecessors attached to them, and to give more thought to purely business considerations.

This is a point of view that will be extremely popular. Whatever protests come from political circles from appointments made in that spirit, there will be few from those that represent the plain people.

INAUGURATION DISPLAY

Washington always looks forward to Presidential Inauguration day as a time for a great glorification, the motive for which is not so much to do honor to a new president, as to attract a crowd of visitors who shall boom business at the stores and hotels. These interests have a right to agitate for that kind of a function; yet their ardor should be a little curbed by the thought that inauguration ceremonies are not held for that purpose.

There may be no very serious objection to a big and splendiferous affair, if a president cares for such display and the people of Washington wish it. Still, most presidents would probably prefer a quieter affair.

Their minds are concentrated on the problem which they are trying to solve, and on their desire to get their ideas over to the people. They

THE "SOT" FOLKS

If one speaks in many communities of starting a movement for civic or business progress, it is often remarked that you must secure the approval of certain very conservative leading persons, which is hard to get, because these persons are so very "sot," as the old saying is.

These folks have a temperament that seems incapable of accepting new ideas. If they have once made up their mind on a certain question, they dislike exceedingly to change it. If you suggest to them some reasons, why times having changed, they should consider things in a different light, they will frequently remark that they have been over that question before, that it has been decided in their minds once for all, and that there is no necessity of considering it again. If you persist in your effort to convince them, they may lose their temper, feeling that proper respect is not being shown to their judgment, which once being made known, should be permanently respected. So they go on holding the same opinion year after year, and they will probably do so indefinitely.

Yet nothing is more certain than that we are living in an era of change. We should not hastily abandon our old preconceptions, and assume that all the old ideas were wrong. But here in Westminster anyway, our thoughtful people can see that ideas they held 25 years ago were wrong in many respects.

A community that is planning its schools, its government, its business enterprises and its civic advantages after the ideas that would have been considered adequate 25 years ago, has fallen a quarter of a century behind in the race. It is losing ground, and will continue doing so, until it obtains a less "sot" point of view.

A CANDLEMAS DAY SCHOOL CUSTOM

One of the old customs of Candlemas Day, February 2, in Scotland, was that on this occasion, the pupils in schools were supposed to make small presents of money to their teachers. Sixpence and a shilling were the most common sums given, but some would offer a half crown or a crown (about 62 cents or $1.25). These gifts would seem small in this country, but they were valued in frugal old Scotland.

Probably teachers were so poorly paid in that country, that such a gift was very welcome. Some might say that in many American communities where teachers are poorly paid, it would be a good idea to take up a collection for them at some fixed time each year. Very likely that may be done in some cases. It may be the only way to secure a decent wage for teachers in some places.

But teachers would usually prefer to have their compensation come direct from municipal treasuries, so that no family could claim special attention for its children merely because they contributed liberally.

THE ANIMALS IN WINTER

Much used to be said about sufferings of horses in winter, from failure of owners to cover them when exposed to cold winds. Many such owners drive automobiles now, but there are still horse owners in Carroll county, who fail to feed their horses well and keep them warm.

Many dogs and other domestic animals have a hard time in winter. You see these skinny creatures

are able to govern themselves. But if they can not enforce their own laws as well as the statutes were enforced by kings and emperors; their democratic government will be partly a failure. In certain particulars, it is likely to produce worse conditions than those that existed in the old days of royal rule.

The United States will never desire to give up its democratic institutions and have a king again. But if there is a failure to enforce laws as well as they used to be enforced under monarchical systems, a feeling of profound unrest and dissatisfaction will be created.

The people will not go back to monarchy. But in some wild moment of passion they might accept the crazy counsels of revolutionists, and destroy many of those principles that are essential to human progress. Breaking laws is sowing the seeds of revolution, and we can never know what harmful growth will come out of them.

NEWSPAPER IDEALISM

Speaking to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, President Coolidge said a few nights ago, among other things, that America is a nation of idealism, and that no newspaper can be a success that fails to appeal to that element in our national life.

Money is seemingly made in some cases by newspaper men who appear to have little idealism in their thought. Yet even in those cases, it will frequently happen that these men have a certain amount of idealism along some line, and are working for some good causes that specially interest them. Their point of view on the whole may be wrong, but in some direction they have made an appeal to American idealism.

There are some who say that a newspaper is to be looked at mainly as a means of entertaining the people. They think that the proprietor has to consider merely "what the public wants."

There are hundreds of people who have tried to run newspapers on that basis. Some may have made money. In the great majority of cases the public did not take to these journals. There was some essential element lacking in them, something that the public was unconsciously looking for and did not find.

The American nation was built on ideals. Its founders came here originally because the old world did not correspond to their hopes and purposes. The immigrants of a later date come from similar reasons. The children of all these elements share the same feeling to a large extent.

The writer of the sacred book of th Hebrews, said regarding the heroes of old, "They desire a better country, that is a heavenly." To some extent that sentiment is diffused through our country. Our citizens are looking for better things and are keenly interested in movements for human progress. The people of Maryland expect their newspapers to express this ideal by a keen interest in all forms of human betterment, and a loyalty to all good causes that promote these ends.

GROUNDHOG THOUGHTS

Ancient tradition says that on February second, the groundhog or woodchuck comes out of his hole, and decides whether or not to remain out by the weather conditions of that day

The sophisticated American passes

THE WIDE-AWAKE CITY

The phrase is often used that such and such a place is a "wide awake" city. What is the essential difference between a wide awake town and one that is not? Many places that lack that characteristic, are full of bright and alert people, and on short acquaintance such a community might seem to have just as good a chance for progress as others.

There is a certain type of towns, however, which not merely have bright people, but which are ready for action. They note what business men and community leaders elsewhere are doing. If a proposition is accomplishing results in some other city, they are anxious to try it out.

A place in which that kind of leadership meets with ready response and support, and is not greeted with a chorus of knocks from the "Let well enough alone crowd," is entitled to be considered a wide awake town, and is pretty sure to go ahead.

ORGANIZING PROGRESS

Monrovia, California, is a city that has given an illustration of how public sentiment can be roused in behalf of progressive measures. A citizen's committee recently appointed decided after a survey that the community needed to spend something over $300,000 for modern improvements.

It takes quite a convulsion in many places to raise the money needed for such a group of projects all at once. At Monrovia a speakers bureau was arranged to present the needs of the city before lodge meetings, clubs, etc. Newspaper publicity was used, and every voter was solicited personally for his help.

The result was that every improvement was accepted by the people, and bonds totalling $451,000 were voted, and other projects put through later. The city has been rewarded by a 15 per cent population growth in one year. In such ways progressive projects could be put through in Westminster or anywhere else.

Taxpayers urged to use care in making returns, and they will take great pains anyway not to estimate their income too high.

As Congress is spending money very fast, Secretary Mellon might be excused if he took the rest of the cash and hid it where they couldn't find it.

ORCHARD GLEANINGS

WHEN FRUIT TREES SHOULD BE SPRAYED

We find that best results are obtained when spraying for prevention against sucking insect pests such as scurfy, San Jose, oyster shell and like scale insects, if the spraying is given twice annually. This requires that the first spraying be given just after the leaves are off the tree, and again before the buds are well started in the spring. When only one spraying annually is given, the work may be done at any time during the dormant season when the temperature is high enough to prevent freezing of the mixture. We prefer a damp or foggy atmosphere when giving this spraying.

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