

## A Registering, Voting Citizenship Can Defeat Bi-Partisan Conspiracies

### Staying Away From Polls Best Help to Machines

(Editor's Note—This is the third of a series of articles bearing on the need for a wider interest in the conduct of governmental affairs, especially those units pertaining to township, county and state. The purpose is to present reasons why individuals and groups should take an active part in the selection of candidates for various public offices, to the end that the administration of these offices shall be in the interest of citizens and taxpayers, rather than of partisan political machines. There is today a definite and genuine call for men and women of higher character and unselfish motives to accept the responsibilities of office and lend their assistance in restoring to the people every department of government and public service.)

For some reason not easily explained the voters and taxpayers for some years have been surrendering more and more of their power to professional politicians. With less and less resistance they have yielded to the blandishments or conspiracies of the political bosses, voting the tickets cooked up in back rooms and by so doing fastening more securely upon themselves the misrule of one group or another. The prevailing idea has seemed to be that opposition is hopeless, that there is no chance to beat the "machine." It is the old story of the organized minority dominating the unorganized majority. The fact is that there is a vastly greater number of people anxious to beat the "machines" than the latter can muster at the polls. The blunt truth is that they are scared and without the courage to put up a battle.

#### Danger in Bi-Partisanship

There has been much complaint against partisan politics and its degrading effect upon government. But partisan politics, as such, is rarely at fault. It is in bi-partisanship that the danger lies, and to which can be attributed the greatest proportion of rottenness that shames every respectable citizen. The two-party system has proved its value, as well as its advantages. If one party loses sight of public interest, ignores the wishes of a majority of the people, or loses all discretion in the misuse of public funds, it can be defeated by the other party. One holds a club over the other, serving to keep both within reasonable bounds. But who is to defeat or hold in check a bi-partisan combination in which nominations for various offices are parceled out for the sole purpose of keeping a certain clique, rather than either party, in power, dividing the spoils? Even in the primaries the voters have little choice but to vote for the men and women backed by the "machines." It is to the breaking up of these vicious combinations that the friends of good government must devote themselves. And no substantial improvement will be made until they are broken up.

#### Bi-Partisanship Boosts Taxes

To bi-partisanship, too, the taxpayers owe the burden of taxation that is robbing them of their possessions or mortgaging the incomes of themselves and children for years to come. Who among us believes for a moment that there is legitimate need for the tremendous sums now collected through taxation to carry on the various county and state governments? Or believes that any private corporation would conduct its affairs in so slipshod a manner, or employ absolutely untrained and inefficient executives to direct its business? The Sweitzer scandal revealed that the accounts of the County clerk had never been audited. It is also rumored that there has been no complete and comprehensive audit of

the County treasurer's office for several years, and that some departments, municipal and otherwise, keep absolutely no records of receipts and expenditures upon which an accurate audit could be made.

Chicago school teachers and city employees went unpaid for upward of two years. The present mayor was to straighten that out, pay back salaries and henceforth make all salary payments monthly. A tremendous sum of money was borrowed for the purpose. Today the teachers are again unpaid, and officials are begging the banks to buy tax warrants at high interest rates. Then the vicious circle will be traversed again.

#### Must Stop Criminal Waste

The criminal extravagance and wanton waste of money in the administration of state and county governmental units must be stopped and the upward flight of taxes halted if we are to avoid bankruptcy and consequent public indigence. These are the two strongholds of the spoils bosses. They must have money to spend, and the more they spend the higher must go the taxes. Obviously, the spending must be reduced through a reduction in taxes. And the only way in which this can be accomplished is through the election of honest, intelligent, courageous men and women who will stand four-square against the pernicious partisan and bi-partisan bosses and fight for the public welfare instead of that of the machine. As, under our State law, the legislature is practically elected in the primary, the duty of every citizen to vote in the primary is apparent. More than that, it is imperative. In proof one has only to look at the record of the last session of the legislature, in which practically every bill introduced in the interest of public welfare went down to defeat under the assaults of the machine, while almost every bill designed to give the bosses more money to spend was enacted into law. Among the most important of the former was the permanent registration measure, an absolute essential to honest elections. On the statute books, it would prevent the casting of 500,000 fraudulent votes in a mayoralty election.

#### Vote at the Primaries!

It is needless for voters to rave about officials squandering money, or for property owners to wail about increasing taxes, if they are going to persistently abandon the primaries to the bi-partisan politicians, to whom their indifference is the balm to a suffering soul. The oftener voters stay away from the primaries, so much longer will the bosses rule and ruin, so much higher will the taxes go, so many more salary-grabbers will there be fattening at the unguarded public trough.

Here again is emphasized the importance of the newly created office of Township Committeeman. Whether or not the creation was a good one, whether or not it is in the public interest, remains to be seen. But the committeemen, one democrat and one republican, will be elected at the primaries next April. They will be members of the County Central committee of their respective parties, and as such will participate in making up the slates of candidates. They will also have the power to appoint precinct captains. It will be readily seen that selection of intelligent, upright, honorable men or women be chosen as candidates for these offices. New Trier township cannot afford to be dilatory in this matter, for many things depend upon the quality of its representation on the County Central committees.

#### Registration First Step

Registration is, of course, the first step of the voter who senses his obligation to this community and recognizes that only in more frequent and more intelligent

## College Club Ends Month With Singing of Operetta

The Chicago College club will close its November programs with the singing of an operetta, "The Ladies' Aid," by the Glee club. This program is to be given at 8 o'clock Saturday evening. First on the December calendar is a lecture Prof. Herbert E. Dougall will give at 11 o'clock Monday morning. "Money Credit and Inflation" is the subject of this talk, the third in a course on "New Government Legislation."

Carleton Smith, world traveler and lecturer, is to address the club Tuesday evening. Dinner will be served at 6:30, and at 8 o'clock Mr. Smith will lecture on the subject "Russia Today." Just back from Russia, Mr. Smith will bring to the club members the latest news and impressions of that country. Mr. Smith is known on the north shore as an authority on music, having given opera talks at various north shore homes some years ago.

Al Priddy, "that circus man," as the radio terms him, will be the club's speaker at 8 o'clock Friday evening, December 6. He will discuss that age-old question, "Can Animals Think?" and will base his conclusions on his many years with circuses.

## R. Clair Taft Dies at Residence November 20

R. Clair Taft, 900 Central avenue, passed away at his home on Wednesday evening, November 20. Mr. Taft was head of the R. C. Taft company, ribbon manufacturers at 427 W. Randolph street, Chicago. He had been a resident of Wilmette about fifteen years.

Surviving him are his widow, Mrs. Edith Taft, and two daughters, both of whom were married last month and are making their homes in Evanston. They are Mrs. Catherine Wheelock and Mrs. Helen Soule.

The funeral services for Mr. Taft were held last Saturday afternoon at the Graceland cemetery chapel.

#### DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

The board of directors of the Federation of Clubs of the Tenth Congressional District of Illinois will meet at 10:30 o'clock Thursday, December 5, in the Fox Lake Woman's club at Fox Lake. Three new names will be added to the list of department chairmen: Mrs. Arthur Cook of Chicago, chairman of Juniors; Mrs. Mabel McCullough of Gurnee, chairman of conservation; Mrs. William Severin of Chicago, chairman of civil service.

voting can his tax burden be lifted. How can victory of the hosts of righteousness over the forces of evil be expected if, in communities like ours, priding themselves upon their intelligence, culture, patriotism and good citizenship, a registration of only 40 per cent is recorded? It makes us pause to consider. Are we intelligent? Are we patriotic? Are we good citizens? Have we a moral right to refrain from exercising our privilege of the franchise, when we know very well that if an attempt were made to deprive us of it by law we would shoulder a gun? A vote in the ballot box is worth a thousand tax receipts as a measure of citizenship.

One thing is certain. The responsible elements of this and other communities must organize to put the partisan and bi-partisan machines out of business. It can be done. Thompson, Crowe, Small, Kelly, Nash and the rest of the crowd cannot stand against an aroused decent citizenship—if it be a voting citizenship.

## Catholic League Calendar Hints at Busy Season Ahead

With two lectures and an art tour on its calendar, and with arrangements in preparation for its annual dinner dance, the North Shore Catholic Woman's league has ahead of it a very busy schedule.

The Rev. Thomas A. Egan, S. J., dean of the school of social work at Loyola university, will speak on "Social Welfare Work" at 10:30 Wednesday morning, December 4, at the Winnetka Woman's club. This is the second in a series of public lectures on twentieth century problems, given by Loyola educators and sponsored by the league. Owing to the Rev. Fr. Egan's unusual



Rev. T. A. Egan

knowledge and wide experience in this branch of work his lecture will command definite attention, the league remarks.

Mrs. Carter Harrison is to be the speaker at the league's program Tuesday, December 10. She is a world traveler, writer, and is known as a brilliant speaker. Her husband was many times mayor of Chicago. Mrs. Harrison will speak on "The Clarion Call." Christmas music is to be incorporated into the program.

Late in December the league plans to spend a day at the Chicago Art institute, viewing the exhibit of Rembrandt's paintings which is to be hung December 19, for a month, and which is said to be the greatest collection of that artist's works ever brought together. "Supper at Emmaus," one of the outstanding pieces in the exhibit, was borrowed from the Louvre, in Paris. The art and literature committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Raymond Real of Wilmette, has arranged this tour.

The committee for the annual dinner-dance met Tuesday morning at the home of the chairman, Mrs. Emil A. Stake, 435 Sunset road, Winnetka, to discuss the date and other arrangements for this affair, which will take place in January or February. The first of the league's dinner-dances, held last winter, was such a great success that the league decided to make of it an annual occasion.

Mrs. Thomas Leahy of Glencoe has replaced Mrs. Philip J. Griffin of Winnetka as publicity chairman of the league, Mrs. Griffin having recently moved east.

The league was represented at the recent National Council of Catholic Women by its president, Mrs. Sidney Beech of Glencoe. The conference was held November 16 to 21, in Fort Wayne, and was attended by scores of prominent clergy and laypeople of the church. "Youth" was the principal theme of the meeting.

#### HOME FOR HOLIDAY

Miss Esther Dillon, daughter of the William H. Dillons, 126 Oxford road, Kenilworth, who is a freshman at St. Mary's of Notre Dame, is spending the Thanksgiving holidays with her family. She brought back with her a classmate, Miss Catherine Carson of Washington, D. C.