

TELLS HOW ONE VOTE STARTED MEXICAN WAR

Interesting Historical Episode Told in Washington Post; Not Vouched for

This closeness of the result of the general election in November, 1930, in many parts of the country has inspired some writers to delve into the past for examples of where one or two votes might have made decisive changes in the result. Mr. W. H. Smith, writing in the Washington, D. C., Post, has revived the story of the famous DeKalb county, Indiana, instance, which has often been quoted in the past by politicians in their efforts to get out the vote. As Mr. Smith puts it:

"The vote of one farmer in DeKalb county, Ind., has been credited with bringing on the war with Mexico, with

all its tremendous results of giving to the United States the vast empire now composing the states of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, Nevada and California, and making, first, Gen. Taylor President, and then Franklin Pierce."

Voted Late

According to the story the farmer didn't go to the polls in the morning but remembered late in the afternoon that he had promised his support to one of his friends who was running for the state legislature on the Democratic ticket. Being a man of his word, the farmer mounted his horse and rode to the voting place several miles away where just before the polls close he deposited his ballot according to his promise, little dreaming of the tremendous influence that ballot would have on the history of the country. The friend for whom he cast his ballot was elected to the Indiana legislature by one vote. He went on his way to the state capitol and in

due time came the day for the election of a United States senator.

Elected by One Vote

The Democratic candidate was Edward A. Hannegan and he was elected to the United States Senate by one vote, this ballot presumably being cast by the representative from De Kalb county who was elected by the one vote of his farmer friend. Senator Hannegan went to Washington. There was a long and bitter contest over the resolution declaring war on Mexico and for a long time with Senator Hannegan undecided on the resolution, the question of peace or war hung in the balance. Finally Senator Hannegan was induced to vote for the resolution and it was adopted by one vote, and war with Mexico was declared.

Changed History

This is the story and politicians who dwell on it in their speeches when urging the people to vote, like to assume that the unsuspecting farmer in De

Kalb county, Indiana, changed history by the vote he cast just before the polls closed that election evening. At any rate it is a good story and illustrates what it is possible to accomplish with one vote. The facts that the change of less than a thousand votes in New York in 1884 would have elected Blaine instead of Cleveland, and that the change of a few hundred votes in California in 1916 would have elected Hughes instead of Wilson are also frequently cited in appeals to the voters. Still it is hard to get the average voter to think that he individually may have so much influence on his country's destiny and as a result there is usually a big stay-at-home vote. The year 1930 was no exception.

Thriving Industry

Business may be off in South America, but, so far as Presidents are concerned, the canning trade appears to be holding its own. — Macon Telegraph.

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