

Have We Lost Anything

The following from the Dodgeville, Wisconsin Chronicle is furnished by a reader of the Press whose letter says: "Knowing as I do that 'what blesses one, blesses all,' I am sending to you. May it bless your Press readers."

As Americans who have emerged from a panic, a stock market crash, depression, let us ask ourselves,

have we lost anything real? Many of us have less to live on but more to live for, real giving was never so spontaneous, real sharing never so much in evidence, real friendship never so true to the test. Depressions may affect the price of securities, of real estate, of commodities, but nothing can lower the value of loyalty, or affect the valiant spirit of co-operation, the splendid battle cry of "Carry on!" with which our business organizations and asso-

ciates meet emergencies, back up their belief in us, in better times, in America. Market panics may reduce our dollars and cents capital, they can never reduce but only add to our faith in the power of prayer, our trust in divine guidance, our confidence in God and His government of His universe. Being rich does not mean being great, either greatness comes through achievement. Spiritual power is the greatness of an individual or a nation, how right, how upright, how true, how generous, how noble — never how rich. Being something is more worthy than owning something, giving is far more courageous just now than giving up. Panics may wipe out profits, business depressions may wipe out dividends; they cannot touch a man's greatest possessions, his courage, honesty, valor, honor. They only serve to stimulate stagnant ambitions, they purge him of selfishness and greed, they set him about striving for progress in ways that matter. His purposeful efforts will achieve still greater things, not only for himself, but for America. America was soft, too much wealth that comes too easily. Her sons and daughters have a mighty opportunity to prove the stuff of which America is made, to manifest her unconquered spirit, to show forth her greatness in the face of adversity. Out of all this, what we are is of far more importance than what we have. We can lose what we have, we can never lose what we are. Serving is taking its real place at the top of the list, with sharing a close second, — getting and having have gone by the boards. So then, because we have discovered, each for himself, that our spiritual resources, our inevitable future progress are not dependent upon stock quotations or market trends, let us rejoice that we are still prosperous, with a lasting prosperity that can never be taken from us, nor through us, from America.

PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

by Samuel S. Smith

The growing consciousness of citizenship in politics is coming to recognize the precinct committeeman as a basically responsible factor in the building of party organization. Because of this, many of the campaigns of candidates for committeemen are awakening more interest among politicians than are the pre-primary efforts of candidates for higher offices.

There is a real reason for the amount of effort expended by the party leaders to have the right calibre of man chosen for this position of primary responsibility. In a system of party government, control of minor political subdivisions is of fundamental importance to leaders of the larger divisions. Naturally, there are always several factions within the party that are attempting to gain affiliation with the precinct committeeman whose vote counts in the formulation of party policies and in the making of party slates.

The precinct committeeman is absolute in his domain. He is an influential connecting link between patronage and privilege and the voting constituency. He is the contact man for local, state, and national branches of his party, and his wishes are attended when he wants job or favor. He is the "customers' man" for his organization, building his following on the basis of personal service, solicitude, and congeniality.

Because through him, and through him alone, can the city, state, and national government visit every home of the voters in his little democracy, to convince them that only upon the adoption of their platform can prosperity be regained, strenuous efforts are being made daily to influence the choosing of precinct committeemen by the men higher up. Principle is being sacrificed to subservieney, honesty to the ability to get votes by hook or crook, and the wishes of the people to the wishes of the men who control the votes.

Whenever a campaign is in progress for the office of committeeman, it is a matter of fundamental importance that the voter is satisfied that the man for whom he is voting is the man who has offered himself on the basis of qualifications and not allegiance to any one group, to whom he promises to deliver the vote, though they be right or wrong, and though they betray every honest principle for which they are supposed to stand.

It should be a matter of satisfying one's conscience — this voting for the man most able and best qualified, whether he be seeking the office of governor or precinct committeeman; but this too closely approaches the ideal democracy. Regardless, it is nevertheless as important for the voter to make an honest attempt to elect as committeeman, the man whose conscience is most clear, and who can really claim his soul as his own, as it is to elect the governor of the state who technically is supposed to do the precinct committeeman's bidding.

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