

DOWN-STATERS SCORED BY CON CON DELEGATE

Amos C. Miller, North Shore Member of Convention Hits at Allotment of Representatives Move

Addressing the current events class of the First Congregational church of Evanston last Sunday, Hon. Amos C. Miller, formerly a resident of Kenilworth, a member of the Illinois constitutional convention, which recently adjourned to meet next fall, said that among all the important questions that came before the convention for its solution, the question of the allotment of representatives in the state legislature had been the most difficult one to deal with and had been a constant obstacle to harmonious action throughout the entire sessions of the convention.

Mr. Miller was introduced by Chief Justice Orrin N. Carter of the Illinois supreme court. In making the introduction Justice Carter said that in the constitutional convention there were a few creative minds and a large number of men with average ability. He said, "In my opinion Mr. Miller is among the few who are the creative minds of the convention."

Tells of Combine

Mr. Miller began his address by telling of the combination of the delegates from downstate to defeat the delegates from Cook county in the organization of the convention when it convened. He told that this had been unexpectedly learned by the Cook county delegation, but that they had taken a generous attitude toward the matter and had not caused trouble over it.

"The convention met," he said, "a downstate man was chosen as president, and rules were framed which gave him full power to appoint all committees. And thus the convention was organized. For a time all was going harmoniously so far as the Cook county delegates knew, but they did not know. When the question of apportionment was reached, it was discovered that the downstate delegates stood almost solidly for a well-matured plan of writing into the constitution a provision that the county of Cook should never elect more than one-third of the senators and should forever elect less than one-half of the members of the lower house."

"Cook county has now only 200,000 short of half the population of the state. Cook county is growing fast, and the balance of the state is growing slowly. This difference between Cook county and the balance of the state will doubtless be accentuated in the coming ten years. These facts point almost certainly to the conclusion that Cook county in less than ten years will be the larger part of the state of Illinois in population, in taxable property and in every other attribute that contributes to the making of a state."

Would Not Compromise

He said that the Cook county delegates were willing to make the concession for the limitation of the representation from Cook county in one of the houses of the state legislature, but that this compromise was not acceptable to the downstate delegates. He said that the downstate delegates were to be satisfied not by being protected from Cook county, but only by putting Cook county in a position where it could not be protected from the balance of the state. So a provision was voted through in the first part of July, limiting Cook county for all time to a representation of one-third in the senate and to less than a half in the house."

Mr. Miller told of the trouble that was foreshadowed by such system of representation and of the rescinding of this action by the downstate delegates. He said that it was hoped that the period through which the convention was adjourned before meeting again this fall would give an opportunity for making a satisfactory compromise on the question, but that instead the result was the system which would provide for county representation in the lower house and

which would increase the senate by six members. He explained the unfairness of this plan in detail, and said that it was fundamentally opposed to the American principle of the rule of the majority.

Would Kill Primary Law

"This plan," he said, "was voted through the convention ten days ago. And on the heels of that came another proposal which would have astounded the Cook county delegation a few months before, but was no longer surprising. This was a proposal guaranteeing to every political party the right to govern its own affairs untrammelled by act of the legislature. The purpose was to wipe out the primary law and forbid all future primary laws and, in fact, all legislative control over party management and nominations."

He told of the failure of this plan and the temporary abandonment of plan of the new income tax. Then he told of the attempt to limit the seventh judicial district to one member on the supreme bench.

"What will the outcome be?" he said. "This last week, following a heated session on this supreme court provision, the great majority of the Cook county delegates left the convention in disgust. The convention then adjourned until September. This action was taken primarily, I believe, because it was apparent to the down-

state delegates that no constitution framed under such circumstances would ever be ratified by the people. This is the second time in the history of this convention that such a pass has been reached.

League Is Blamed

"And still I am firmly confident that the Anti-Saloon league and certain members of the supreme court will refrain from trying to impose upon the convention their presumably well-intended, but certainly un-American and undemocratic views, it will be well worth while to once more endeavor when next fall arrives to bring together the minds of the members in a just and reasonable conclusion."

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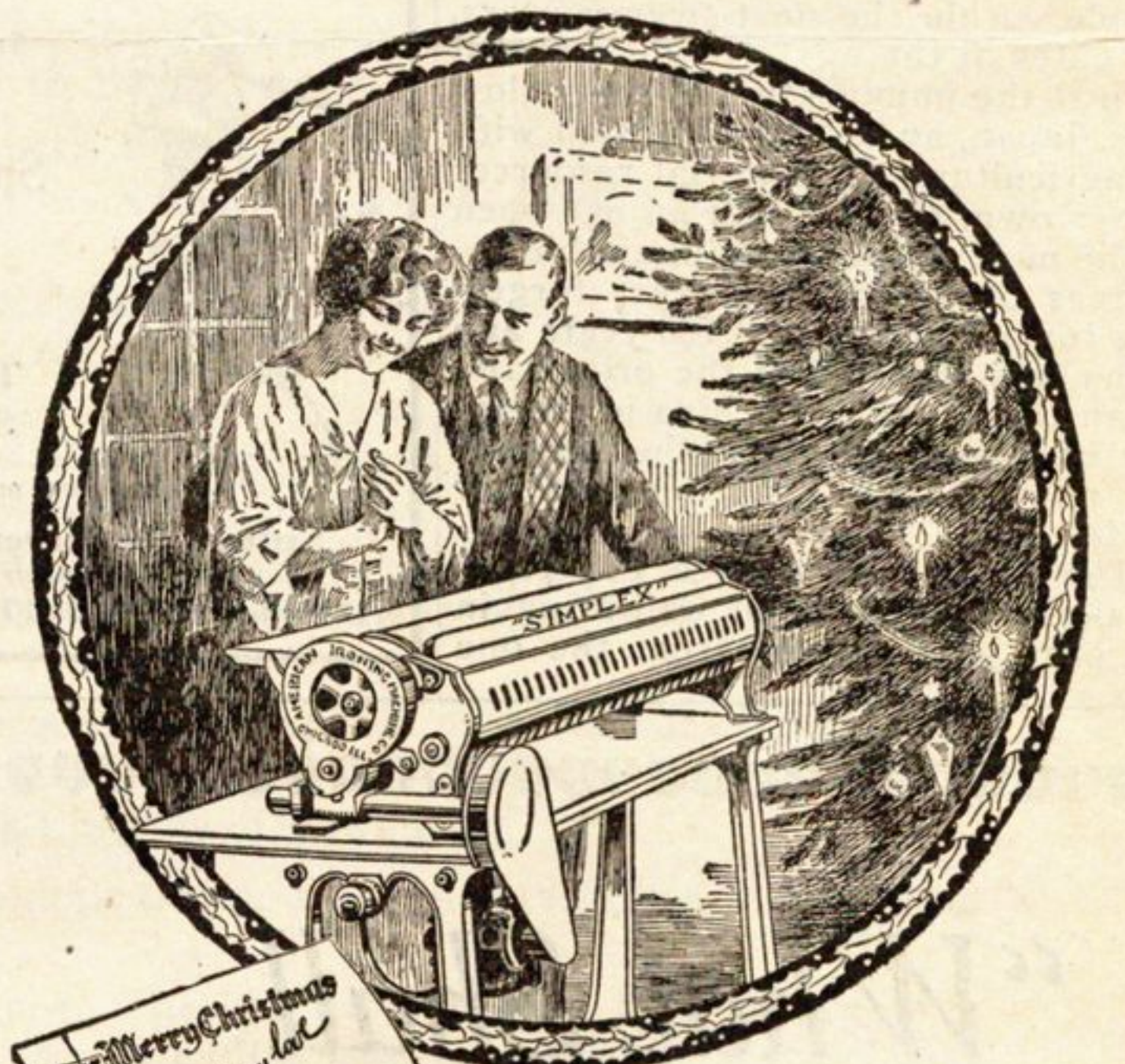
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