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A Mandate To Go Forward

A certain precinct had 300 voters, of whom 200 were Democrats and 100 Republicans. There being roughly speaking as many females as there are males in the human race, add universal suffrage and you have in this precinct approximately 400 Democratic votes and 200 Republican.

Before, with a 75 per cent vote, the Democratic majority would be 75, or 33 1-3 per cent of the total, the same as if both parties had polled their full strength. The women qualified to vote, a 50 per cent vote will give you 200 Democratic and 100 Republican ballots, still a Democratic majority of one-third of the whole, but of 100 in actual votes.

The election result in North Carolina as a whole discloses inertia, apathy, indifference. Silence gives consent. There is no evidence of more than a negligible amount of protest in the state.

The election returns proclaim one thing positively enough, and that is that anyone who goes whining calamity and blue ruin to Raleigh, Republican, Democrat, Bourbon or Belshivist, will have his labor for his pains. The legislative and the executive have been given a blank check by the voters.

The burning passion of this congressional district for woman suffrage is given further and fuller revelation. The way a good many of the sovereign suffragans look at it, a legislator is only a legislator, but \$4 is money.

The Tar Heel G. O. P. may have voted early, but it couldn't vote often enough to avoid becoming the late Republican party. Well, look who's here—old Vic Berger, out of jail and wild-eyed than ever! There's one man who simply can't take a hint.

The eighth district doctors we have with us today. Welcome, gentlemen, and may your deliberations go far toward abolishing your jobs. Volstead is retired and Edwards is advanced; which means next to nothing actually, whatever of symbolic significance may attach to it.

Well, the election being over, and Governor Edwards safely elected senator, maybe they can now afford to arrest the murderers in that New Jersey case. Democrats Win in Poland—Headline. But without that, it is a poor sort of Democrat who cannot figure out that Tuesday was a day of great and impressive victory.

Anyone who doubts that in North Carolina the election was a total loss and no insurance to the Republicans is invited to consider this phenomenon: High Point went Democratic. Congresswoman Alice Robertson seems to have been one of the first political corpses removed from the debris; but some western state kindly supplied another woman, so the house is not totally lost to feminism.

For absolutely anything may happen in 1934. A PRESIDENT WASHINGTON LIKES. Mr. Hildebrand noted in Washington, on election night, a predominant emotion of sympathy for the President. Everybody was sorry for Mr. Harding in those hours when the defeat of Miller and Calder and the early returns from the middle west made it seem that the Democrats were running away with everything in sight, and that the administration had received a stinging rebuke.

No doubt as the night wore on and later returns came in it was gradually realized that the President was not as much in need of sympathy as had at first been believed. Nevertheless, the emotion itself is interesting as revealing the standing of the chief executive in Washington. On a similar occasion in 1916, when it seemed, on the face of the early returns, that Hughes had been elected by an overwhelming majority, if anybody was sorry for Mr. Wilson that emotion was not widespread enough to evoke comment. The Democrats were sorry enough, but they were sorry that whatever the result of the election, it was the President's doing, and it occurred to nobody to regard Mr. Wilson as the victim of circumstances.

Mr. Harding is so regarded. Personally, he is popular. Personally he is regarded as a sincere, earnest and honest man, who has done his level best for the country at a terribly difficult time. In Washington the blame for what then seemed to be the overwhelming defeat of the Republican party was laid more upon the minor party leaders than upon the President. Therefore Washington was sorry for Mr. Harding.

But when a President is popular in Washington, look out! A man cannot please Washington and please the country too, if we are to judge by the records of the Presidents. There has never yet been a President of first-rate ability whom Washington did not detest cordially. Its hatred of Lincoln is historic. Its hatred of Roosevelt was venomous. Its hatred of Wilson finally became maudlin. But it liked Taft, and it likes Harding.

We doubt that even the early election returns were as ominous, as far as President Harding is concerned, as is the fact that Washington, when it heard the returns, was sorry for him.

General Mitchell, being of the air service himself, naturally inclines to enthusiasm over the possibilities of aircraft for coast defense. Nevertheless, it is beyond question that the airplane is developing wonderfully in accuracy and effective range; and there is every reason to suppose that in the course of time it will supplant long-range cannon altogether, when it comes to repelling raids on our coasts.

So, even if one inclines to take with a grain of salt General Mitchell's assertion that the coast artillery corps is already useless, it is perfectly obvious that the United States, with its tremendous coast line, should spare no effort to develop the bombing plane to its highest capacity. We should give to the air service in general many times the attention it is getting now. We are letting Europe outstrip us, both in military and in civilian aviation; and if we ever fight another war we shall rue our negligence.

If President Harding calls Congress in Washington November 20, we have an idea that it will be less an extra session than an ineffectual. And the verdict, of course, will be that the elephant was murdered by parties unknown.

It is permitted to the leaders of North Carolina to go forward. Indeed, there is a clear enough injunction to go forward. The whole populace does not arise and surge to the polls unless it is angry, and it is seldom angry unless a considerable number are hungry. Those who did go out and vote are the more sprightly of the citizenship, thinking more about public affairs; that is to say, after there have been subtracted the regular fetchers and carriers of the party organizations. There is then, a clear mandate, from the live ones, to proceed. The general assembly that was elected the day before yesterday should have no difficulty in reading a commission to add to the road bond authorization whatever is necessary, to appropriate to the state educational and benevolent institutions whatever is necessary, to embark upon any new enterprises or enlarge the scope of any old enterprises accordingly as necessity may be shown; always with due regard, of course, to a careful expenditure of money and the revenue-producing possibilities of the state. There is no sort of warrant for an orgy of extravagance, or indeed for the chief North Carolina sanitary executive assumes the responsibility. Outside the physicians of Greensboro, there is no one here in position to assume that responsibility without expert advice; and by virtue of his position Dr. Rankin should know more about qualified sanitarians available than the physician engaged in private practice.

Transcontinental Flying. The army aviators who drove a motor plane from California to Indiana before they were compelled to alight missed their goal of a non-stop flight from coast to coast. But in flying two-thirds of the desired distance and over most difficult country without a descent in 24 hours they proved the entire feasibility of the project. The hardy flyers who made the attempt are reasonably expected to find it free from the handicap of a leaky radiator and burned out engine.

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SHEARS AND PASTE

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TRAGEDY OF THE ARMY

Arrival of the Red-Bordered Letter That Means Elimination of Another Officer.

Here's another one of these—these "confidential" letters, Captain. The "old man" who had undergone the rigors of Cuban, Philippine and European campaigns undaunted, upon receiving a group of "boys" representing the highest military honors the country can bestow, faltered: "I can't give them out. You will have to do it for me. It's too much for me." The adjutant took the letter bordered in red to denote urgency. A few minutes later another officer, a lieutenant colonel of twenty years' service who had been decorated in battle, finds himself separated from his chosen profession and facing the prospect of providing for himself and his family in a competitive and unfamiliar world.

morale. No enemy ever faced, and the regular army has received all kinds of enemies in many different parts of the world during its long and honorable career, ever succeeded in striking such a blow. In a story to alleviate the disappointment so far as possible the war department has surrounded the notifications to the individuals selected for elimination with a veil of secrecy. Hence, the "confidential" letters which pass through a few hands as possible. To a casual visitor at an army post the tragedy which has entered the homes of one out of every seven of the officers' families is hardly apparent. The blow is grinded at and borne.