THIRD PARTIES

BY SAVOYARD.

Third parties have played important parts in our political history, and a glance at them may not be uninteresting to any one who cares to read my stuff. As a general proposition a third party is rank class politics, and they who institute it are usually loudest against class legislation. A third party is the spirit of discontent without which free government among men would die of dry rot; but it is more than that—it is the safety valve through which may vanish the empty vaporings of the knaves, who should have been born fools, and the fools, who should not have been born at all.

And our crops of knaves and fools are as the fennel in the fence corner, and they have their beneficent uses. How oft, as a boy, have I lay down in a patch of dog fennel, looked up in the face of the blazing July sun, and dreamed and dreamed and dreamed—so it is with all of us.

But as to third parties. The first one was the invention of Thurlow Weed. Thad Stevens belonged to it, and it all came about because a fellow named Morgan had pretended to reveal the secret ritual of the Order of Free and Accepted Masons. Morgan disappeared, and it was insisted that he was murdered by Masons and that no man's life was safe who had a Mason for a neighbor.

In 1832 this party, having dominated the politics of New York, entered the lists with a presidential ticket, because Henry Clay, the Whig candidate, was a high Mason. What did they do? They nominated for President William Wirt, who had been twelve years Attorney General of the United States, and who was himself a Mason of the fellowcraft degree. And he got the eight votes of Vermont, too, in the electoral college. I can never think of Wirt without recalling that very readable novel of Mrs. Southworth, of which, in thin veil, he was the hero, and the American boy who wants to be a lawyer is not half fit for the job unless he has read Kennedy's "Life of William Wirt." It ought to be in every lawyer's office.

The second third party was the "Free Soil" layout that had its origin from that spirit of the Puritans that stopped bear-baiting in old England, not in benevolent consideration of the bears, but because it gave pleasure to the folks who practiced the sport. New England for "gainful pillage" had put the African slave trade into the constitution of the United States until 1808, and African slavery was immensely popular in New England until it was discovered that it was not profitable in that climate. Then it became very wicked down South—but that is an old story.

In 1844 the Free Soil party served to defeat Henry Clay for President by taking enough votes from the Whig ticket in New York to give the State to Polk. Four years later, through the manipulations of Thurlow Weed, the Free Soil party elected Zachary Taylor, a slaveholder of Louisiana, President of the United States. The very next Congress that party made Howell Cobb, a Georgia slaveholder, Speaker, because Robert C. Winthrop refused to be an Abolitionist. Thad Stevens did it when he coined the word "doughface," stabbed the great Webster, and paid tribute to the then South. The "then" South is now dead, and from its stump there came no sprout. What a beggarly, what a miserable, part was the South's at Denver the other day!"

It is Samson in a wig. What Philistine fears it? What Philistine can it hurt?

More than fifty years ago, when a boy of less than 16 years, I began the reading of history, and in all those years it has been my favorite study—what has man done? But what is history—even that most splendid of all its chapters, Robertson's introduction to that most splendid of all historical biographies, the "Life of Charles V?" What has man done?

Here's what he has done—he has been opposing envy against conscience. Now, that scrap would not last one quarter of a second if envy did not appear in the ring in the garb of conscience, and that is where all this devilment gets in its work. Envy was ever the consummate gambler. Envy rings in a loaded die; conscience stands the hazard of the die it knows is loaded—for conscience stands for a hereafter, and envy is an atheist.

And hence the Abolitionist movement. Hence that party called the Know-Nothings, that was so envious it would not allow a statesman of the North to tolerate slavery, and so politic it would not allow a public man of the South to question the fugitive slave law that the only Know-Nothing President we ever had approved.

Well, this Know-Nothing party swept nearly all the North in 1854. It was met at the Potomac in 1855 by Henry A. Wise, collared and throttled. It carried Kentucky that year; but in Tennessee Andy Johnson did for it what Wise visited upon it in Virginia. Nevertheless, this party made Banks Speaker of the Thirty-fourth Congress, and it survived long enough to make Pennington Speaker of the Thirty-sixth Congress.

In 1862 the Republican party, over the protest of every Democrat in Congress and out of Congress, was guilty of the constitutional atrocity and the economic monstrosity of making a worthless piece of paper, with the stamp of the government on it, a legal tender for debt. It was an act of Congress that should have had for its title, "To make knavery patriotic and respectable." Last winter Joe Bailey made a speech on this subject that all the Senate said was unanswerable—both sides of it. Never before had I wished to be a Senator as I did then, with the gift of gab of John Rhea.

Bailey said that legal tender paper money had been embalmed in the decision of the Supreme Court making it constitutional. Very well. So is it constitutional to satisfy a debt with a discharge in bankruptcy; but a man with such discharge for debts exceeding a million could not buy a beefsteak with it of the butcher. But what I itched to ask Bailey was this: "You say the adjudication of the supreme bench has made holy greenbackism, and that it is too sacred to be touched by the vulgar hands of Congress—now tell me, sir, if the Supreme Court has not dealt in the exact same way with the protective feature of the tariff, and are not protection in the tariff and fiat in the currency twin?"

And so if the gigantic intellect and the luminous, analytical mind of Joe Bailey could be clouded by such nonsense as legal-tender paper money, it is small wonder that there had arisen for two-score years earlier the Greenback party, whose basic principle was that every citizen as he got out of bed in the morning might hold out his hat and the government would put in it all the money to pay his debts and buy what he needed for that day in his household, or other expenses. It was all very simple, because mankind, for all the centuries, has been devising schemes to nullify and render void this flat of God that may be found by the diligent searcher of the Scriptures.

All of us daily seek to make that law of the eternal God exceptional as to us; but from the plutocrat that eats of all the luxuries of all the feasts the insatiate palate of the voluptuary can imagine, to the sturdy toiler on the street crossing, who eats bacon and cabbage, that law is inexorable, and it never yet failed to execute itself. We see this law made plain to the simplest mind in Shakespeare's "Troilus and Cresida."

But the Greenback party sprang up and covered the earth as with the luxuriance of Jonah's gourd vine. I remember that I made a long journey on a hot July day to hear a great orator, who had never plowed a furrow, tell of the dignity of labor. I was young then, and had some pride in my personal pulchritude. Some of the ladies were even kind enough to intimate, in maidenly way, that I was handsome, and so excited did they make my vanity that on a trip to Louisville I had paid $6 for a stovepipe hat, and really I thought it became me. Well, I wore it to Horse Cave on that Fourth of July to hear that orator from the Blue Grass make that speech. I had a seat close up, and after a while the orator pointed to my hat, and in an ecstasy of eloquence exclaimed: "Who paid for that hat? The farmer." Now, the fact was that I had won that hat on a horse race of a man whose hands were innocent of plow or hoe. He was a barkeeper.

It has always been a source of some satisfaction to me that the orator of that occasion never got an office. He taught that no labor was respectable but farm labor, and yet I am under the delusion that as I write this I am a laboring man. But for this work I would go hungry to-morrow.

Well, the Greenback, Farmers' Alliance and Grange movement culminated in the Populist party, whose one and only principle is that all men in authority are knaves, and that the chiefest of malefactors was Grover Cleveland. Tom Watson is the greatest man who ever belonged to this party, and he became very nearly being a statesman. He is entirely honest; but he sees things at inauspicious hours of the early morn and the late night. He is a much greater man than Jerry Simpson was, and in a battle royal of political disputation I'll bet money that Watson would survive William J. Bryan.

Mr. Sam Gompers is the head of a third party. If he should succeed in auctioning off labor to the party that will bid highest for it—and that is what he means, what, indeed, he says—then it will be a gloomy day for labor the next morn.

I can prove by rule and figure, and by bank statistics, that labor was never before so prosperous as it is this moment in these United States.

GREAT COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Delegates Sail For Geneva, Switzerland to Attend Meeting of the International Council—Will Attend Swiss Council Later—List of the Delegates and Alternates.

Special to The Observer.

Alexandria, Va., Aug. 9.—Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett, vice president at large of the National Council of Women, sailed yesterday to attend the meeting of the International Council of Women which is held in Geneva from August 29th to September 7th. Mrs. Barrett will head the American delegation, representing the president of the national council of the United States, Mrs. Mary Wood Swift, having been detained from attending the meeting.

The list of delegates and alternates are:

Delegates: Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett, Mrs. Anna H. Shaw, Mrs. Ida Husted Harper, Miss Bina M. West, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Grannis, Mrs. Henry Eisenberg, Mrs. Pauline Steinem.

Alternates: Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Mrs. M. Josie Nelson, Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead, Mrs. Alice Wheeler Pierce, Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, Mrs. Kelley, Mrs. Coonley Ward.

At the close of the meeting of the international council there will be a meeting of the Swiss Council of Women, to which the American delegation is asked to remain as guests of the Swiss council. This will be a great representative gathering of women. The Countess Aberdeen will preside and prominent women from twenty-one countries will be officially represented by delegates. Application has also been made for the admission of two more countries to the international council, Bulgaria and Greece.

The Swiss council is one of the most representative of the national councils, Swiss women being noted for the activity which they display in connection with affairs pertaining to the nation. Madame Chaponniere-Chaix is president and is also in charge of the arrangements for the meeting of the international council.

A number of social functions has been arranged in connection with the meeting of the council. Everything possible will be done for the comfort and entertainment of the visiting delegation.

Immediately following the meeting of the councils there will be a meeting of the International Society for the Abolition of the White Slave Traffic, to which a large number of representative men and women will attend. Mrs. Barrett has been named by the National Council of Women the fraternal delegate for this society and will also represent the National Florence Crittenton Mission which has been actively engaged in the work of rescuing girls for the past twenty-five years.

These gatherings will bring together a large number of the leading thinkers and workers of the world along the most advanced lines of progress and it is a remarkable example of how far the world has advanced along fraternal and educational lines that such a meeting as this is possible.

MR. GARLINGTON'S RESIGNATION

Letter of the South Carolinian Who Withdraws From the Executive Committee of the Hearst Party.

Greenville Special to Columbia State.

Mr. J. C. Garlington, of Greenville, has resigned as executive committeeman from South Carolina of the Independence party. The following letter mailed to-day to headquarters at Chicago gives his position:

Greenville, S. C., Aug. 8th, 1908.

Hon. Charles A. Walsh, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir: I have come to the conclusion that your "blue-eyed baby in a perambulator" is quite as formidable and as greatly to be feared as the "steam roller" or the "rock crusher."

You recently expressed a sentiment, in which I concurred, that when a man does not like the policies and methods of a party, it is his duty to get out.

I went into this Independence movement believing that it was laboring for certain well-defined policies, chief of which was the elimination of the boss and larger opportunity for the individual.

In the recent assemblage in Chicago, there were men from many States who were impressed with the same idea. Before the convention met they were outspoken in the belief that it would be suicidal to the party and treachery to its principles to place an electoral ticket in the field in opposition to the party which has certainly given the Independence movement "half a loaf." A national convention is a sovereign body. It is supposed to hear all sides and abide by the majority. This minority was not allowed to be heard. When Jacob I. Sheppard, of Kansas, attempted to express his views he was dragged from the platform with your aid, connivance and approval.

The conviction is inevitable that the Independence party is working in the interest of Taft. If it is done wittingly, it has betrayed its trust; if it is done unwittingly, it is too weak to be trusted. On fundamentals the Independence and Democratic parties are agreed. The placing of electors in the field can only have the effect of strengthening Taft. The part I took in organizing South Carolina was not on the understanding of any such purpose.

Having lost faith in your movement and having no desire to aid in perpetuating a party that is not serving the best interests of the people, I beg herewith to tender my resignation from the executive committee.

Very truly yours,

J. C. GARLINGTON.

Republicans of Thirty-Third Senatorial District to Name Candidate

Special to The Observer.

Rutherfordton, Aug. 9.—The Republican senatorial convention for the purpose of nominating two State Senators for this, the thirty-third senatorial district, and the county convention to nominate a ticket in opposition to the Democrats will be held here Saturday, August 22d. The Republicans, we understand, will put up a "stiff" fight in this campaign in an effort to carry this county and congressional district, but of course they will again meet with defeat, as this is a Democratic year and old Rutherford will roll up her usual large Democratic majority and save the congressional district. Mr. Crawford is a favorite of Rutherford people and will defeat any opponent the Republicans can name.

RESULTS OF SECOND PRIMARY.

Ed Tanner Nominated For Sheriff and A. R. Yelton For Treasurer in Rutherford.

Special to The Observer.

Rutherfordton, Aug. 9.—In the second primary held yesterday, Ed Tanner was nominated for sheriff over C. M. Roberson by 217 majority and A. R. Yelton for treasurer over S. B. Harrill by 520 majority. The returns, owing to the storm and downpour of rain, were slow in coming in last night, and it was not until a late hour that a definite result could be obtained. A large vote was polled, not falling far below the vote cast in last Saturday's primary. On August 1st, when the other nominations were made, there were 1,876 votes cast and in yesterday's contest there were 1,785. The ticket is a splendid one and will receive the united support of the Democracy of Rutherford county.

White Men Arrested on a Charge of Breaking Into Cars.

Special to The Observer.

Rocky Mount, Aug. 9.—Two white men arrested here Friday night for breaking into an Atlantic Coast Line car were carried back to Pinner's Point Saturday by Special Detective H. C. McBride. The car was entered just as an outgoing freight was leaving for this city. A wire to the authorities here put them on their guard and the men were arrested while riding in the car on which the seal had been broken and for the breaking of which they were wanted. They will be tried at Pinner's Point Monday.

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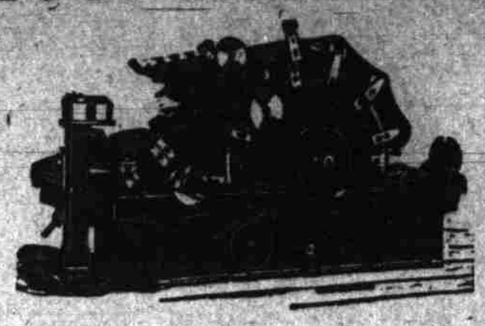

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