

Abolish the Electoral College

Even when your cause is just, you had better be sure the time is ripe before making your play. We don't know whether Socrates or Jim Farley said that, but we present it as a self-evident truth in connection with electoral college reform.

We might go a step further, and suggest that "abolition" is a more appropriate term than "reform," since a growing interest in presidential decisions being rendered by direct popular vote (instead of proportionate electoral vote) has been apparent since the 1948 national conventions.

There has not previously been such a clamor for letting the people speak for themselves as has developed this fall; whether inspired or spontaneous, the clamor is sincere. The people presently wish to do away with the obsolete, undemocratic electoral college and select their president by direct vote, just as all our other elected officials are named.

There certainly can be no opposition in North Carolina to an amendment providing for such reform. The Republican minority would have their votes count as something more than a gesture in the national picture, and the heavy Democratic majorities in this state would increase the voice of North Carolina in national policies of the majority party.

The cause is just, and the time is propitious. Let us hope that our Tar Heel congressmen will take the lead in this election reform; let us urge them to do so.

Zebulon Has a New Look

The true Christmas spirit, preachers and editors are fond of saying, comes from within the individual and not from outward manifestations of the usual types, the "usual types" including decorations, Christmas cards, and enormous quantities of gifts.

But psychologists tell us that external surroundings affect materially the inner workings of man, and we conclude that the "usual type" of Christmas atmosphere helps us to arrive at that inward state so much desired by the press and clergy.

Hence we can enjoy without even an occasional twitch of conscience the Christmas decorations in our home town. Zebulon has never been prettier in December. The homes—thanks to Mr. Edison and the Carolina Power & Light Company—are aglow with colored lights, and the evergreens in local yards are far more beautiful than the composer of "Tannenbaum" ever dreamed a tree could be.

Merchants hereabouts have taken pains with their store windows as never before, and their labor is justified by the close inspection of hundreds of persons who pass our store windows by with a casual glance eleven months of the year.

All in all, Zebulon has managed to achieve a Yuletide appearance, and we are proud and happy to see it.

The Farmer Needs a Friend

American farmers are already beginning to appreciate what their election of a Democratic president and congress, pledged to retain price supports for farm products, will mean to them. Many farm commodities have already slipped below the support price, and many farmers would now be bankrupt had it not been for the guaranteed bases.

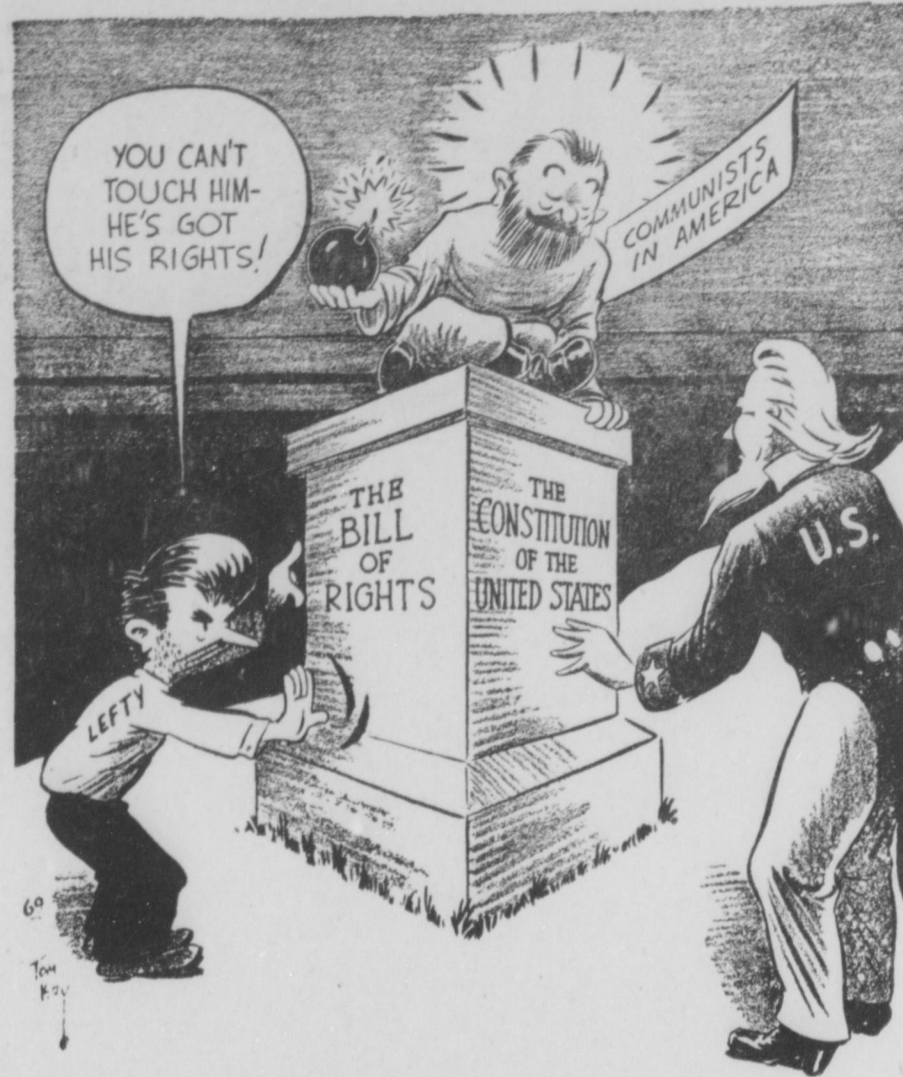
The blow that might have proved crippling without a price support plan have largely come this year. A comparison of top prices this year with current averages indicates the terrific impact of a buyer's market on agriculture.

Product	1948 High	Current
Wheat, bushel	\$ 3.07	\$ 2.34
Potatoes, 100 lbs.	5.00	3.25
Hogs, 100 lbs.	31.20	22.75
Corn, bushel	2.81	1.45

Compare those drops with prices of the steel from which farm machinery is made, the coal farmers burn, the other products they must have to live.

Product	1948 Low	Current
Brick, 1,000	\$27.50	\$33.00
Steel, ton	45.00	58.24
Coal, ton	13.70	15.10
Electric refrigerators	228.00	240.00

With price trends like these, the farmer needs above all a government friendly to agricultural interests—the big manufacturing interests are doing all right already.



Sunday School Lesson

Next Sunday we study apocalyptic literature in the Bible; that is, we study literature of prophecy as given in the New Testament.

Apocalyptic literature abounds in the era covered by the Old Testament, but little of it is considered sufficiently inspired to be included in the Bible. Why then is the Revelation of St. John considered divinely inspired?

There are three good reasons for believing St. John was under divine influence when he chronicled his revelation on the island of Patmos, to which he had been exiled because of his devotion to the spread of Christianity.

The first reason concerns the question of why God permits evil to befall the faithful, the age-old question of why rain should fall alike upon the just and the unjust. John tells us that God permits persecution of his followers in order that they may work out their own destiny. A practical secular application of this principle is the training of troops for battle. Some troops are injured in maneuvers, but when they enter battle, they are trained—and lives are saved.

Through trial by evil, we are hardened to the effort of remaining true to Christ throughout our lives.

The second great theme of the Revelation is that good shall ultimately triumph over evil. The victory of evil is always a fleeting or superficial event, we are told, and if we maintain our faith, our own triumph shall be certain.

Finally the chief prophet of the New Testament, in the sense of foretelling future events, tells us what happens to the faithful dead: John declares that they receive their reward in heaven.

All in all, John's message is that if we are to have a successful life, we must keep our faith. Strangely enough, this is exactly what twentieth century psychiatrists tell us.

The most pitiful sight in this world is not that of a person bereaved of a loved one, but that of a person bereft of faith and hope. Let us maintain faith in our future, physical and spiritual, by works that will nurture the trust in our fate so necessary to profitable Christian living.

Farm Home Hints

By Ruth Current

Don't spend too much on macaroni, spaghetti, white rice, grits, and corn meal. They are poor in minerals and vitamins. We might cut down on these foods and use more whole wheat products, enriched grain products, oatmeal, soybean products, and fresh fruits and vegetable. Variety is the spice of good eating.

Buy carefully. Look before you buy; compare prices of different foods of the same type. Some foods are cheaper if brought in large quantities. Tomato and citrus fruit juices and evaporated milk cost less per serving if you buy them in large size cans.

Read labels—they have an educational value. They list all materials used to make the packaged food and tell how much the package holds. Sometimes surprising and interesting information is tucked away in fine print. Remember that a package which looks large may hold less than one that looks smaller. The weight is what counts.

Hot Spiced Cider: 4 inches stick cinnamon, 6 whole cloves, a dash of nutmeg, sugar if desired, 1 gallon of cider, 4 tablespoons butter, 1 orange sliced. Tie spices in bag and place in kettle of cold cider and bring to boil. Sweeten the morning before stirring. Dried 16 cups.

Ironing hint: Starching will cut the ironing time in half. It means that dresses, skirts, shirts, and blouses stay cleaner longer, shed dirt and dust more easily and keep that crisp look TWO days instead of one.

Do you always eat breakfast? You need breakfast if you expect to do your best work and be bubbling over with energy for the day's work. Prepare slow cooking cereals the night before, cover with a thin film of water, and reheat in the morning before stirring. Dried fruit juices may be bottled, stoppered, and stored in the refrigerator.

A merry Christmas to you all.

Seen and Heard

Zebulon farmers are really being hard put to save their meat this fall, with all the recent unseasonably warm weather. The freezer locker plant, we are told, is full of meat, and hundreds of pounds of pork are being lost hereabouts.

Of course all this warm weather is saving us a lot of money in heating costs, but we'd rather pay a little more out for oil and have the cold weather necessary to save meat. (Not that we're asking for anything quite so cold as last winter.)

Pat Farmer says that pancakes are like love: if they grow cold, no amount of sirup can revive their appeal.

One of our local farmers believes in giving help to indigent transients, but he believes also in getting something in return. "It's the principle of the thing," he says.

The other day a tramp approached him in his backyard and said, "Mister, will you give me something to eat?"

"See" that pile of wood over there?" asked our farmer friend.

"No."

"Why, I saw you see it."

"Well," the tramp said as he started out of the farmyard, "maybe you saw me see it, but you won't see me saw it!"

Vance Brown says that the reason people are patient with politicians is that they don't know what to do either.

Chief of Police Willie B. Hopkins says that "Highpockets" is the first colored man he ever saw not afraid to climb the water tank. "Highpockets" mentioned climbing the tank with the painters the other day, and Willie B. thought the worker was joking. But when he needed him, "Highpockets" was atop the tank, grinning like a 'possum.

Carver Seawell sent us another twin banana week before last. It seems that twins just naturally gravitate to Carver—banana twins, that is.

Mr. Willie Moss brought us a couple of over-sized turnips the other day. At least they looked over-sized to us.

But Mr. Moss says they are just average for his crop this year. A check showed they weighed eight pounds each. They were good, too.

Farm Futures

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings during 1948 will total slightly larger than last year, according to present estimates.

California has a wider variety of agricultural production than any other state.

The "drink more milk" idea which made progress during the war, is holding its gains and becoming established as a good habit, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Three rats will eat as much grain as two laying hens.

Durocs are the leading swine breed in the United States.

First aid kits are essential equipment on every farm, say specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Such kits need not be expensive. They may be made up at home.

American farmers broke all fertilizer consumption records again in 1947 for the ninth consecutive year.

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