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THE THIRD TERM SPECTER

Representative Humphreys stirred up things a little in Congressional circles Friday of last week when he made an anti third term speech which will awaken many echoes. The tradition against a third term is strong although the argument on which it rests was strained in the case of Grant, in 1880, who sought a third nomination after having served two terms, and of Roosevelt in 1912, who obtained a second nomination after having served a term and three quarters. Neither of these was a candidate for a third successive term. No American statesman ever has been.

There was some talk in 1874 of a third successive term for Gen Grant. In a history of the Republican party by Francis Curtis, this is found "From a letter written by Mr. Grant to General Harry White, president of the Pennsylvania Republican convention, it was evident that a third term would not be refused, although it would not be diligently sought. President Grant remained in a receptive frame of mind throughout 1875, but in December of that year the House of Representatives passed a resolution expressing the opinion that the precedent established by Washington and other presidents in retiring from office after a second term had become a part of our republican system of government. The resolution goes on to say, "Any departure from this time honor custom would be unwise unpatriotic and fraught with peril to our free institutions." The vote on the resolution resulted in an overwhelming majority in favor of its passage—234 to 18. That vote settled the third term movement by Grant's supporters.

Representative Humphreys doesn't charge directly that President Wilson is seeking a nomination for a third successive term. But he complains that President Wilson's failure to say, one way or the other, inevitably creates the belief that the President is willing to set aside the ancient precedent and it painfully embarrasses the avowed candidates for the Democratic nomination. Naturally one of these aspirants does not want to do anything to antagonize the Administration and Mr. Wilson's silence tends to make most of them hesitant about permitting their names to be placed on the list of candidates in the state primaries.

As one of the Metropolitan dailies has it "President Wilson's reticence has put the soft pedal on all candidates likely to interfere with his own, should he desire to become a candidate. And his treaty policy has left open an issue on which he alone could adequately lead the party in the next campaign. If that campaign is to be—as he wants it to be—a great and solemn referendum appeal to the people to vindicate his demand for ratification without reservations annoying to him, who could direct the Democratic campaign as well as he could?"

"A great many Democratic politicians are aghast at the idea that Mr. Wilson may feel it his duty to run again. Mr. Humphreys undoubtedly speaks for a large majority of his party in the House of Representatives. Will he and his sympathizers have the courage to introduce in the House a duplicate of the Grant resolution of 1875?"

Even leaving out the question of whether the President should seek the nomination for a third term, we do believe that it is high time he were either announcing his intention to

lay aside the precedent if he is intends, or else clearing the field as much as is possible for those Democrats who wish to try their mettle.

THE PENMANSHIP OF DOCTORS

A physician in one of the large cities recently wrote a prescription calling for the drug laxol, a comparatively harmless preparation. The prescription clerk read it, and, misinterpreting the word, substituted ysol, which is, as everyone knows, a poison. The patient is dead and the drug clerk is under arrest, charged with homicide.

It may be true, as the physician in this instance claims, that the error was a piece of stupidity; but the moral is none the less obvious, nor is the patient any the less dead. All physicians should be required by law to have their prescriptions type-written, a practice which is followed today by many of the most progressive. At any rate the names of the drugs should be written in printed capitals. A few months ago a medical association conducted an experiment to show the likelihood of error in filling hand-written prescriptions—a likelihood which is much increased by the feeling which many physicians seem to have that it is somehow more "professional" to write a crabbed, cryptic, hieroglyphic hand than to use a legible orthography. A number of prescriptions, neither better nor worse as to legibility than the average, were handed to a group of physicians. Each was asked to make a copy of the list of drugs, and the results were then compared. It was found that hardly any two doctors made the same interpretation of the hieroglyphics on the original prescriptions.

That fatal accidents do not occur more frequently is a deserving tribute to the intelligence and discretion of the pharmacist. But we are certain that the best pharmacists do not care to add to their efficiency by their ability to decipher the scrawl of some doctors. And the matter is too important to be left to the discretion of the drug clerk.

NEW AGREEMENT FOR COAL MINERS

New York, March 31—The negotiations for a new government for the bituminous coal miners were brought to a close this afternoon when the general scale committee of operators and miners of the central competitive field ratified a contract embodying the award of President Wilson's coal commission.

This new agreement which involves a wage increase of 27 percent, becomes effective tomorrow morning and will continue in force for a period of two years.

One of the features of the new contract is a clause which provides that all "internal differences" in the various districts of the bituminous coal fields will be settled by the district officers of the mine workers and operators. There must be nothing done, however, in adjusting these matters that will increase the earning capacity of the mine workers. The new agreement also "condemns" the bonus system now used by operators in competing with each other for employees. The contract provides that all agreements in the various district should contain a "penalty" or unauthorized strikes. The international officers of the United Mine workers also agree to make the agreement binding in every detail.

The eight hour day as now in effect in the soft coal regions is continued by the new agreement.

Immediately upon adoption of the contract by unanimous vote of the members of the scale committee it was signed by the international officers of the United Mine workers, Jno. L. Lewis, President, and William Green, secretary and treasurer, and by two operators and two miners, of each of the four states of the central competitive field—Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

Representatives of the mine operators and other outlying districts not included in the central competitive field immediately announced that they also would put into effect the new contract in their territory.

HOME AND COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS NEED CARE

Peaches and Small Fruits to Help Fight the Boll Weevil.

Clemson College, Dec. 22.—It has been conclusively proved that the soils of South Carolina are more than ordinarily adapted to the growing of fruits, both for the home and for markets. Under our present boll weevil conditions, the home orchard and the fruit garden must play an even greater part in reducing the cost of living than it has played heretofore. The amateur fruit grower blazes the way, as it were, for the larger operations in this industry; and it is in the commercial production of peaches and small fruits that the cotton farmers will find a field rich both in returns and in enjoyment, suggests George P. Hoffman, Extension Service Horticulturist.

The Site and Soil Selection.
It is urged that the most careful consideration, combined with the best judgment, be used in selecting the orchard site and soil. In the home orchard the site is fully as important as the soil.

The home orchard site should be chosen for the following points: easy reach and protection; sufficient size to prevent divided plantings; situation to add to general attractiveness of the home grounds; air circulation and atmospheric drainage. The soil should have good surface and subdrainage, medium fertility and freedom from diseases and insect-infested trees.

The commercial orchard site should be chosen for accessibility and market outlet, community production and good air circulation and drainage. The soil should have drainage, fertility and physical condition, and proved field trial of fruit grown.

Fruit and Variety Selection.
Careful consideration should be given the purpose for which fruit of the proposed orchard is being grown—home, local or commercial consumption. In the commercial orchard both the fruit and the varieties should be narrowed down to a minimum, and greater areas planted to those best adapted to the immediate section and particularly suited to the market conditions.

Many orchards are unfruitful failures as a result of unwise selection and poor sources of the trees and vines. To safeguard against this, farmers and amateur orchardists should consult with their county agricultural agent, or write to the Extension Service, Clemson College, S. C.

Care of Nursery Stock When Received.

Immediate planting on arrival of nursery stock insures greater success, and every effort should be made to have things in readiness. However, if the soil and weather conditions do not permit immediate planting, dig a trench of sufficient size and depth, remove the wrapping material from the bundle and completely cover the stock with soil. It is very essential that special attention be given to all shipments of trees and vines ordered or received during severe weather, as, in many instances, such shipments are necessarily subjected to frost injury, either in transit or before being planted, and may be damaged to such an extent as to make them unfit for planting.

If trees are frozen upon arrival, completely bury both roots and tops in moist earth, or allow them to thaw slowly in a cellar.

If trees have dried out in transit, open the bundle, cut the bottom band, carefully spread the roots and completely bury both roots and tops. Allow to remain several days and they may resume their natural condition.

Laying Out the Orchard and Preparing the Soil.

Usually the lay of the land predetermines the method of laying out the orchard. In all instances, such methods should be employed as will prevent soil washing and accommodate as many trees per acre as possible. The soil should be broken deeply, subsoiled (where a hard pan is present) and thoroughly harrowed. This work should be done during the fall and early winter, at which time a cover crop of rye, clover or vetch, depending upon the fertility and physical condition of the soil, may be sown.

The holes in which the trees are to be set may be dug, dynamited or plowed out. However, plowing is more economical and is recommended, as more thorough cultivation between the trees can be given. In the use of dynamite, which is recommended in some cases, care should be taken not to plant the trees too early after dynamiting, and to stir the soil well before setting.

Planting.

Time, Depth and Fertilizing.—Late fall and early winter planting offer decided advantages over spring planting, and there is no danger from cold injury in this state.

The planting depth of the trees and vines should not be more than two inches deeper than when standing in the nursery, and one pound (about one quart) of any good balanced commercial fertilizer or one forkful of well rotted stable manure should be thoroughly mixed with about a bushel of top soil and used in filling in around the roots. Thorough mixing of the fertilizer and soil, and packing the latter is very essential; otherwise, injurious effects might result from burning and drying out.

Preparatory to planting, the roots of the trees and vines should not be

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