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WILSON W. HARRIS
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THE PRIMARY SYSTEM OF ELECTION

A monkey-wrench was thrown into the Democratic primary machinery works last Thursday evening when a motion was made to discontinue the primary and dissolve the club. The motion was carried we are informed by a vote of seventy to forty. The action came as a surprise since there had been no agitation for the abolition of the primary system of election and no intimation had been made that the meeting was designed to kill the system of election that is practiced in all Democratic communities. In fact, the meeting was called by the president of the club to reorganize and elect new officers and put the machinery in motion for the approaching municipal election this summer. We did not attend the meeting but am informed that the attendance was slightly over one hundred, and while the resolution to abolish the primary prevailed, it does not mean that the people of the community who favor such a system of election are to be deprived of it. Any body of men and women may get together and organize a Democratic club, elect officers, adopt a constitution and by-laws, and pledge their support to the nominees of the primary. Those who desire to go into such an organization have a perfect right to do so and those who favor a plurality vote in a general election instead of who do not favor the Democratic primary method have a perfect right to stay out. That is Democracy, it is the theory of our government by which as citizens we are unrestricted in our political and religious rights. The opposition in a community therefore to a Democratic primary does not keep others who favor it from organizing, nor does it prohibit candidates from announcing themselves for any office subject to the result of the primary. The man or woman voting in a primary takes an oath to support the nominee in the general election and with loyal Democrats this is expected and is always the procedure.

We have never yet heard one plausible reason why there should be opposition to a primary system of election. In fact, it is the mode of election that is practiced the world over from our United States senators and congressmen down to the humblest offices. Some people may not understand the primary system, others may attempt to confuse the people's minds as to its purpose and wisdom, but when it comes to the final analysis, what is a plausible reason to oppose it? If it is unfair, unsafe, and frightens people like a ghost, why is it so universally popular in the election of public officials?

What is a primary anyway? It's the Democratic doctrine of majority rule for which we have been fighting as a people all our lives, its the form of election used in selecting our national, state and county officials, and the plan adopted and favored by people everywhere in the selection of public officials. It gives every citizen an opportunity to express his or her choice for all municipal offices and insures a larger interest in all political questions on the part of the people. It doesn't benefit, neither does it harm any candidate—it's fair to voters and candidates, it is the only system of election by which the voters may be assured that the officials elected (regardless of the offices) are the choice of the majority of the people. That is Democracy and with a Democratic citizenship, it's almost unbelievable that it should have opposition.

Any candidate offering for office and desirous of election, undoubtedly finds satisfaction in the fact that he is the choice of the majority of the people over his opponents. If our good friend and county treasurer

er Ross D. Young, in the coming primary this summer should be declared elected with a vote of 3,000, a second opponent receive 2,700 votes, and a third receive 2,400 votes, he would not feel satisfied in having received 3,000 votes while 5,100 were cast against him for his two opponents. He could not be elected, he must go on the hustings again with his closest opponent and receive a majority of the votes cast before he can duly be declared the nominee. That is a Democratic primary, the system by which we elect our public officials. Why does it start a great panic and fight when it is applied to municipal politics in a little country town like ours? Is there a prospective candidate in the community for any office that opposes such a system of election?

The Chronicle is a candidate for no office and has no candidate in the field for any office, but in the Democratic principal of majority rule government, we are vitally interested because we believe it is right. We take to ourselves the inalienable right of voting for whom we please, and to every other man and woman we accord the same privilege, whether their views coincide with ours or not. But we are opposed to any man being elected to any office, whether it be school trustee, mayor, alderman or what not, unless he or she is the choice of the majority of the people. That's Democratic government as we understand it, the theory in which Thomas Jefferson believed and for which he fought. It's what the majority of the people in Clinton, or any other community for that matter, are in favor of.

The theory upon which our government is founded is that of majority rule.

The primary system is the only form of election by which the people may be insured that the officers elected are the choice of the majority of the people.

The primary takes the election machinery out of the hands of office holders and office seekers and places it in the hands of the people.

The primary makes it easy for men and women to express their opinions at the ballot by the elimination of the general election requirements, which when enforced, disfranchise many voters.

The people in the community who believe in such a form of government are at perfect liberty to have it. One of the unsolved local puzzles is why a Democratic community should be opposed to a Democratic form of government when it comes to the election of its municipal officers. A primary in Laurens, Greenwood, Chester, Newberry, Rock Hill, York, or anywhere else attracts little attention. It merely sets in motion the machinery by which it is insured that the men elected to office are the choice of the majority of the people. In Clinton—a primary to some folks, is a nightmare.

SEEING FLORIDA

In company with Dr. L. Ross Lynn, president of the Thornwell Orphanage, it was our privilege to spend the past two weeks in Florida in the interest of that institution. The trip was made by auto and there were no mishaps or troubles to mar the journey. The roads were good (after we got out of South Carolina) and the weather was ideal. Everywhere we went we were most cordially received and showered with many kindnesses and an abundance of real, Southern hospitality.

Dr. Lynn is no stranger in Florida, having served two pastorates there covering a period of fifteen years. He is well acquainted with the State and people, and this made the trip all the more enjoyable and satisfactory. For our part, we had never been in the State and were very much impressed with all we saw.

Florida is a great State as one readily sees as soon as you get within its gates. The climate is wonderful and due to its highly desirable advantages from a health standpoint, this winter's tourist crop is described as the largest in the history of the State. It was Spring when we arrived there and the passers-by were wearing straw hats, palm beach suits and other summer togs. We won't attempt to describe the women's apparel.

To the visitor going to Florida for the first time, the great orange groves present a striking appearance and immediately win your interest and admiration. This year's crop is still largely on the trees and the ground is covered with spoiled fruit. The crop has been the largest in the growers' history and the market prices have been unusually low, in fact, there has been practically no market and this has brought heavy losses to the owners. Their crop this year is estimated at twenty millions of boxes with probably half still on the trees. One is immediately struck with the cheap prices for which oranges and grapefruit sell compared

to the prices that must be paid here. Enormous grapefruit can be bought for twenty-five cents per dozen, while fancy oranges may be had at the price of ten cents per dozen or a dollar a box. All along the road there were fruit stands and people anxious to get rid of their fruit regardless of the price.

The trucking business in Florida has reached large proportions and it is hard for one to comprehend what is being accomplished there in this direction. On all sides we saw great fields of cabbage, beans, Irish potatoes, celery, lettuce, strawberries and other crops. The celery and strawberry crop was being gathered and shipped while we were there, and by this time the great Irish potato crop in the Hastings section is moving. In this community there are eighteen thousand acres planted in Irish potatoes yielding an average of from forty to sixty barrels per acre. It was estimated that the opening price for the crop would be around fifteen dollars per barrel, with an average for the season of from eight to ten dollars. You never see an acre of cotton, only a little corn, but everywhere as far as the eye can see it is truck. We didn't hear the word boll weevil mentioned, nobody said a word about "hard times" or "back to normalcy." One can therefore readily see that it was invigorating and refreshing to get into such an atmosphere and for a brief season at least enjoy some of the prosperity that is apparent on all sides. In the real estate world, and buyers are becoming rich over there. New towns are springing up here and there and enjoying prosperous and continual booms. Millions upon millions of dollars is being spent in the development of suburban and city property. To the casual observer, trying to take in the sights that are seen there, the admonition to the young generation would be paraphrased—"Go South Young Man."

One is immediately struck with the beauty of Florida and the neat and attractive surroundings. The people take great pains in their yards and premises and everywhere you find lovely grass lawns, clusters of roses and other flowers. The same applies to most of the cities, they are clean and well kept. They are especially well lighted at night and this attracts and pleases the thousands of tourists that are to be found there all through the winter. Our trip carried us down through the Central part of the State and then to the western coast, and as you visit such towns as Orlando, Daytona, St. Augustine, Lakeland, St. Petersburg and scores of others, you are impressed with their beauty and the spirit of individuality and attractiveness that characterizes the various communities.

We were especially impressed with the fine spirit of interest manifested throughout the State by the Presbyterians in behalf of the Thornwell Orphanage of this city. Everywhere we went to tell the story of Thornwell, there was a cordial welcome and an evidence of sincere interest and love for the great institution. In talking of the proposed Baby Cottage to be erected at the orphanage this summer, we were impressed with the deep interest being manifested by the ladies of the various auxiliaries. Florida's quota of seven thousand dollars was adopted by the Presbyterian women and with probably one exception, every town we visited found the ladies already "over the top" with their quotas. One soon saw that the cottage is assured and that the people there have a deep and abiding interest in the orphanage. Upon our visit to the First Presbyterian church of Jacksonville, we found that they were just in the midst of raising their budget and that it carried the Thornwell Orphanage in its printed assessment for benevolent purposes. What was true of this church was true everywhere we went. Dr. L. E. McNair, pastor of this church, upon being invited to deliver the baccalaureate sermon for the orphanage commencement in June, stated that he had informed his congregation that he would not be absent from his pulpit this year for a baccalaureate sermon anywhere, and had already turned down several invitations. But he stated when the Thornwell invitation came, "If I broke over and intend going for I know no place anywhere that appeals to me so strongly as our institution at Clinton." The Presbyterians in the State have no orphanage but give their interest and support to the institution located here of which they are joint owners. The interest being manifested in the orphanage does one's heart good and these people are to be commended for their love and generosity towards the institution.

We met many delightful people while away and were entertained in the homes of several. Many kindnesses were shown us, all of which were appreciated. The trip was a pleasure from start to finish, and

while we enjoyed it and all that we saw, honesty compels us to say that we were glad to get back home and that we didn't see any place we liked better than Clinton.

Florida is a wonderful country and well worth going to see. One cannot appreciate its beauty until he goes. Not half has ever been told of its great possibilities. At the rate it is now forging ahead along educational, religious, agricultural and manufacturing lines, as well as the favored winter resort, it is destined to become the leading State of this whole section.

Poem by Uncle John

Old Thomas Trett would stew and fret, and toil and crave and borrow
... He wouldn't stop if he should drop—but said he'd rest tomorrow!
Folks said he never went to bed—so hard he pined for riches. He wasted time—an' called it crime—by puttin' on his breeches! He fed the stock an' watched the clock—he put up hay on Sunday. ... "The world is mine," he would opine—and every day was Monday. ... The neighbors guessed he'd have to rest if sickness overtook him—but, neither health nor sordid wealth neglected or forsok him! Some called it pluck, and, others, luck—but all pronounced it slav'in'—because his life 'was' endless strife of garnerin' and savin'. ... One eventide he up and died—which left us steeped in sorrow. ... Above his head, a tablet read, that he would rest tomorrow! We hope it's so, though we dunno—he's too fur gone to foller—though some surmise he'd farm the skies—if he could make a dollar!

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