

The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5, 1890.

THE STATE ELECTORATE.

In the course of a long experience in the receipt of election returns, THE DISPATCH has never known such remarkable features in the way in which the news of a State election came in as those which appear up to this writing, at 2 A. M. Special telegrams from Republican leaders making claims early in the evening of 20,000 majority for Delameter, gradually diminished until, at one o'clock now, it had gone down to 15,000, and finally an admission from Senator Quay that it required 20,000 in Philadelphia and 5,000 in Allegheny to the State.

In the meantime reports from the smaller cities and the counties throughout the State continue to show a stream of gains for Patterson, largely exceeding even the prior estimates of Patterson's supporters. Concurrently with this was the singular, and what Democrats assert, is a sinister, absence of returns from Philadelphia past the hour in former years when the result in that city has been practically known, and two hours beyond the time when nearly all the results in Pittsburgh were reported. When the sparse returns from Philadelphia did come in, generally at a very late hour, they failed in most cases to show any such Republican advantage which was cast against it yesterday. The burden of patronage has lost votes instead of gained them. But beyond that the automatic attitude of the Republican leaders in the House, their determination to push the force bill, and their blind partisanship in unseating Democrats of whose election there was little doubt, has had the effect of repelling popular support rather than gaining it. There is little doubt that if Republican management had carefully adhered to the lines of honesty and fair respect for the rights of the minority, a great many votes might have been saved to the Republican party, which were cast against it yesterday.

The election, if the current reports are correct, is a not undeserved reproof to the idea that party is above principle.

It must also be recognized, if the results are as indicated, that they are partially due to popular prejudice against the tariff in sections where that measure was not fully understood. This, of course, is to be regretted, but it is not a fatal disaster. There is little doubt that, when the people come to see by actual experience that the effect of the new tariff is not what has been represented by its enemies, this unfavorable verdict will be reversed. There will be plenty of time to secure this result. A Democratic House cannot disturb the Senate, which has already passed the bill.

The result according to the indications, though by no means absolutely conclusive, to the effect that the Democrats have the next House by a fair working majority, is susceptible of a variety of explanations. Some force is no doubt due to Mr. Blaine's pre-election theory, that the causes which generally operate in the second election of a term of office have worked unfavourably to the Republicans this year. The burden of patronage has lost votes instead of gained them. But beyond that the automatic attitude of the Republican leaders in the House, their determination to push the force bill, and their blind partisanship in unseating Democrats of whose election there was little doubt, has had the effect of repelling popular support rather than gaining it. There is little doubt that if Republican management had carefully adhered to the lines of honesty and fair respect for the rights of the minority, a great many votes might have been saved to the Republican party, which were cast against it yesterday.

The Silvers of the reports up to this hour with the indications of a heavy reduction of the Republican majority in Allegheny, the general gains for Patterson in oil and coal districts and throughout the rural counties, and the absence of any compensatory gains for Delameter so far as the deficient Philadelphia returns show, make one conclusion possible, even from the most cautious point of view. That is, either that Patterson is elected, or that he has made such a severe lurch on the large Republican majorities which he had to overcome, as to make the result a practical protest against the features of Republican management which produced the independent movement. The undoubted close result shows that a large element of the Republican party are ready to disregard party lines for the sake of independence and clean administration. That so many people are ready to jettison the bonds of party for the State issues involved in the campaign is an indorsement of the position which THE DISPATCH has taken from the first in support of Patterson and the principles he represents.

Whether we have Patterson or Delameter in the gubernatorial chair for the next four years the election will show that the supremacy of the Constitution and the public interest cannot be disregarded by any party, however strongly it may itself be entrenched behind a large majority of national issues. At least these principles cannot be ignored without invoking disaster, or such an approach to it as must answer the same monetary purpose.

From whatever standpoint it is viewed, and whatever narrow margin the final figures may show, the result is an emphatic vindication of the independent movement.

A DOUBTFUL DISCOVERY.

The statement from Dr. Koch that he succeeded in discovering a successful cure for consumption would be great news for humanity, if it were not somewhat seriously discredited by the recollection that a few years ago, Dr. Koch had developed a system of successful inoculation for Asiatic cholera. The allure, as well as success of a new method of treatment, or the cure, or a fatal disease, often requires years of demonstration; and it may not be quite certain that Koch's cholera inoculation was a failure. But so little has been heard of it recently that its apparent demise will greatly shake faith in the new remedy for consumption.

The course of investigation taken by the German physician reproduces the recent experience with other diseases. As in yellow fever, hydrocephalus and typhoid fever, the study of consumption vindicated the existence of the usual microbe or germ of disease which propels the damage in the lungs. Koch's investigations point to the conclusion that tuberculous disease is contagious rather than hereditary, although no doubt, qualities may be transmitted which render the child either susceptible to or proof against the ravages of the germ. After establishing to his satisfaction the existence of the germ, Dr. Koch departed from the usual conclusion of inoculation and sought rather the remedy which will kill the germs without injuring the patient, leaving to nature the work of healing the damage already done. He asserts that he does this by treatment with a lymph bearing metallic salts in solution. But further details than this are carefully withheld from the public.

It seems almost too much to hope that this great enemy of human life has been conquered by science. There is no doubt that the medical discovery which can insure the cure of consumption would be one of the greatest benefits that could be conferred on humanity in higher temperate latitudes. Cures for cholera and yellow fever attract our attention on account of the sensation caused by those epidemics; but the deaths

from such violent, but intermittent attacks on human life are probably not half of those caused by the quiet, steady, but remorseless, progress of pulmonary diseases. The mind would gladly assert the truth of the report that Koch has made the discovery; but reason will still make us incredulous as to any other means of getting rid of it than to stop its reproduction in future generations.

THE RESULT IN OTHER STATES.

The returns from the elections in other States, up to this writing, are not sufficient to warrant a complete estimate of the results; but so far as the reports afford any indication of the results they are in the direction of a decided back-set for the Republicans.

ELQUET FIGURES.

Crawford, Erie, McKean, Allegheny, Westmoreland, Clarion, Beaver, Venango and Butler counties exhibit in their returns the state of local feeling as between Patterson and Delameter. Like, as was generally and strikingly the case in all Western counties, the gains for Patterson reached figures which are strongly instructive of the public state of mind as between the two candidates. How a public servant who serves the people is appreciated in the West is splendidly shown by these returns.

FULL OF SIGNIFICANCE.

The vote of yesterday in Pennsylvania is an avowal of the power of the voter who makes up his mind for himself from the best data before him, in place of being swayed and determined absolutely by the force of partisan associations or by autocratic dictum.

It need only a comparison of the vote of yesterday with that which was previously cast in Pennsylvania for thoroughly acceptable Republican party candidates to show that party managers can no longer with impunity ignore and set aside the responsibility of giving to the rank and file both platform and candidates upon whom the party as a whole can heartily vote.

What was a few months ago but a protest storm yesterday into the proportions of a typhoon. It will be well to remember that those who embark in a movement such as that which was expressed yesterday at the polls in Pennsylvania do not withdraw until conditions change.

The result according to the indications, though by no means absolutely conclusive, to the effect that the Democrats have the next House by a fair working majority, is susceptible of a variety of explanations. Some force is no doubt due to Mr. Blaine's pre-election theory, that the causes which generally operate in the second election of a term of office have worked unfavourably to the Republicans this year. The burden of patronage has lost votes instead of gained them. But beyond that the automatic attitude of the Republican leaders in the House, their determination to push the force bill, and their blind partisanship in unseating Democrats of whose election there was little doubt, has had the effect of repelling popular support rather than gaining it.

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