

THE CARROLL RECORD.

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ENTERED AT TANEYTOWN POSTOFFICE AS SECOND
CLASS MATTER.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19th., 1904.

All advertisements for 2nd. and 3rd. pages
must be in our office by Tuesday noon, and
week otherwise, insertion cannot be guaran-
teed until the following week.

The Scheme Unveiled.

While it was generally known, both
before and after the election, that an
effort would be made, through Amend-
ments to the Constitution, to disfran-
chise the Negro voters of the state, it
has been more quiet rumor, that, in
advance of the submission of the
Amendments to the people, there had
been certain changes made in the
registration and election laws which
would practically include all the pro-
visions of the Amendments, thereby
rendering their defeat by the people
next to impossible. At the time of
the writing of this article, no bill has
been presented embodying these
changes, but it is authoritatively
stated that such a bill is in course
of preparation, and will likely be pre-
sented before the outside pages of this
issue are printed.

According to our present informa-
tion, no chances are to be taken. The
adoption of the Amendments is not to
be left to the vote of republicans,
weak-kneed democrats and negroes,
to accept or reject. This year there
is to be an entirely new registration,
consequently no better time could
possibly be presented in which to try
the new requirements of citizenship;
but, before the way is clear to do so,
several things remain to be done, one
of which is to get rid of that relic of
Republican legislation—bi-partisan
election boards.

As it now is, the election machinery
made by bi-partisan—equally demo-
cratic and republican, both for regis-
tration and at the election. As the
Poe amendment, which proposes to
get the Negro out of the way, depends
upon the feature which gives to the
registration officials "discretionary
power" to decide whether the
applicant gives an intelligent explana-
tion of a section of the Constitution
of the state, and is therefore entitled
to register, it is easy to understand
that while democratic registrars
might prevent negroes from regis-
tering, republican registrars might re-
late by declining to accept the ex-
planations offered by democratic
board members and abolished, and in
stead, boards composed of two demo-
crats and one republican be legalized.

In addition to changing the political
complexion of election boards, it is
probable that the ballot will also be
made more highly "educational," and
other precautions taken along the
lines indicated. Whether all these
carefully laid plans will be carried
out remains to be seen; if they are,
it would seem that the independents, as
well as Negroes and republicans, will
be "outside the breastworks" and
everything will be in first-class shape
for establishing "ring" and the ramifi-
cations of which will be more impre-
nable than any which has heretofore
existed in the state.

The Baltimore News, commenting
on the subject, says:
"Should the democratic managers
attempt to push through their present
program, the opposition, in the
election bill, admittedly for the
purpose of disfranchisement, they will
meet with opposition which will
astound them. It is doubtful if they
can pass such a bill, even with their
overwhelming majorities of 41 in the
House and 11 in the Senate.

The opposition referred to here is
solely within the Democratic party, as
the Republicans will, as a matter of
course, line up solidly against any
change in the present law. The ma-
jorities mentioned above are more ap-
parent than real; for, no matter how
much the Democrats outnumber their
opponents, they must have constitu-
tional majorities in each branch of
the legislature to pass a bill, and
the division in the House is 51,
and in the Senate 14.

The Democrats have 71 members in the
House and 19 in the Senate. There-
fore, 121 Democratic Delegates or five
Senators in either House fail to vote
for a measure, either by voting against
it or by remaining away, the measure
must fail. And even if such a bill
should pass the Legislature it must
be signed by the Governor. And Gov-
ernor Warfield is a very doubtful
quantity in this case."

Power of Party Fealty.

Party fealty, "sticking to" the or-
ganization, partisanship, or by what-
ever name it may be called, the fact
of the power of party over individuals
—over their inmost souls—has again
been demonstrated by our legisla-
ture. We go over this time worn
ground without any particular object
in view; regretfully, perhaps, that a
man is not always a man—that some-
times he is a politician, and, in a
sense, inhuman, forgetful of his con-
science and better nature.

Many a vote is cast, many a decision
rendered and action taken, in blind
obedience to partyism, regardless of
even the strongest of the virtues
which influence men in their action,
on questions aside from the political.
Indeed, there are cases in which it
is considered preferable to sin
against God than against party, and
results leave no other conclusion
possible to those not entirely blind
to the true inwardness of events, and
who make an effort to differentiate
between cause and effect.

That one man, in the same day and
in the same place, can act as a man
of independence and honesty, and also
as a servant doing the bidding of a
party, or boss, either without question
or knowingly wrong, is one of the
situations to be met with nowhere,
possibly, than among subservient politi-
cians. Truly, it is not difficult to un-
derstand why many prefer to "stay
respectable," and out of politics,
rather than indulge in the doubtful
experiment of trying to do duty as
part of the government machine, and
at the same time keep conscience clean.

While it has been true for ages, al-
most, that men are servants of party,
rather than of the people, this truth
does not excuse the fact. "Sticking
to party" has many sins to answer

for, but, it is not the party, but the
individual, which will eventually
pay the score, for there is a time com-
ing, from which there is no escape,
when standards will be changed and
parties so powerful now will be as
weak and powerless as the most in-
significant atom in the composition
of the world. Then, the individual,
minus his party affiliations, and alone,
will have to square accounts.

Congressional Influence.

The investigations of Mr. Bristow,
of the Postoffice Department, which
apparently involve members of Con-
gress of both parties for attempting
to bring influence to bear on heads of
departments for the securing of
"allowances" for postmasters for rent,
clerical service and other extras, are
receiving much more serious atten-
tion than they deserve, and place our
representatives in a false light before
the people.

There may have been cases in
which Congressmen have used undue
influence, and received allowances
for which no real need existed, and for
which little or no service was rendered;
but, we are of the opinion that such
cases were the exception. We know
from our own experience. In the past,
Postoffice matters, how, in the past,
extra pay for extra service, and it may
be set down as a fixed fact that this
increase is rarely granted by the de-
partment, through ordinary request
by correspondence, from a Postmaster.

Very naturally, Congressmen have,
in many cases, presented such claims
in person, for their constituents, be-
fore the proper department official,
and in our judgment it was not only
their privilege, but their duty, to do
so; and, unless the present investiga-
tion can show that Congressmen have
participated in a division of the al-
lowances which have been made, or
known to have been made, and only
forwarding the same to the de-
partment of unearned stipends, it is
doing them unwarranted injury and
placing them in a false light before
the country.

It is not to be held for a moment
that a Department official is an all-
wise and unapproachable individual,
who knows the needs of every post-
office in the country, and should not
be approached in reference to increas-
ed pay; indeed, a Congressman who
looks after the interests of his district
with an eye to securing for it its just
dues, is the very natural go-between
in such cases, and he could no more
be censured for acting in the capacity,
than in trying to secure desirable
legislation for his district—justice for
the whole community, in the other.

The Philadelphia Press gives the
summing up of the whole furore, as
follows:
"What is the essence of the matter?
In three cases members of Congress
leased their own property for the use
of the postoffice in technical viola-
tion of the law, the Government
desiring the property for the purpose
and the rent being paid by the Gov-
ernment. In the remainder of the 191
cases the members recommended an
increase in rental or an increase in the
allowance for clerical services ranging
from the most part from \$50 a year up
to \$200 or \$300. In a few cases the pro-
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