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The Presidential Candidates.

"World's Work," a leading independent United States magazine, has the following to say about the two leading presidential candidates: The Republican candidate selected from the standpoint of the men who selected him, is ideal. His outstanding quality—if such a quality can be said to be outstanding—is utter commonplaceness. To the mass of American voters Warren G. Harding is hardly even a name. His Ohio career had been so conspicuous that, until his election as Senator his name had not even appeared in "Who's Who." His remarks in the Senate, for the last five years, have seldom been printed anywhere except in the "Congressional Record." When great public questions have appeared no one has ever thought of seeking the opinions of the Ohio Senator. No popular magazine, scanning the horizon for possible Presidential material, has ever considered presenting to its readers a sketch of the life and character of Warren G. Harding.

The biographical details which newspapers patiently unearthed were scanty and not inspiring. It appeared that Senator Harding was a genial, respectable, hard-working American and that no scandal attached to his private or political life. Almost his whole career had been spent as the proprietor and editor of a country newspaper; as a country editor he had necessarily figured in Ohio politics; he had served as Lieutenant-Governor of the State before winning his election as Senator. In the Senate his companionable personality had made him popular with his associates, but he had never been a leader, his name had never been associated with important legislation—he was simply a good-natured, well dressed member of the Republican majority who could always be

depended upon to vote as party discipline directed.

The Democrats have followed the example of the Republicans and nominated one of their most commonplace men for the highest office in the nation. Apparently the greatest strength of Governor Cox is that he comes from Ohio. The great political importance of this state was emphasized in 1916, for the change of its twenty-four votes from the Wilson to the Hughes column would have given victory to the Republicans. It was therefore inevitable that, in the Presidential struggle of this year, the utmost attention would be paid to Ohio. The determination of the Republicans to "redeem" this state was one of the several reasons which caused the nomination of Senator Harding. The fact that the voters of Ohio had refused to make Mr. Harding Governor while they had elected Mr. Cox to this office three times by great majorities, has been accepted as an assurance that the Dayton newspaper editor has a greater following in this "pivotal" state than his fellow journalist of Marion.

Thus, from the standpoint of the practical politician, the nomination of Cox seemed to be the indicated course. And politicians of an eminently practical kind are responsible for his selection. The San Francisco Convention marks a new date in our political development; it is the first time in the memory of the present generation when Tammany Hall has exercised any affirmative influence in the selection of a Presidential candidate. For fifty years the support of Tammany has always been a liability in a Democratic Convention. Grover Cleveland was nominated three times against the howling protests of the Tammany delegates. One of the strongest arguments in favor of Mr. Wilson, in 1912, was that the Tammany braves were fighting his nomination. Yet at San Francisco Mr. Cox, from the beginning,

was the favorite son of Tammany Hall. Only the support of Tammany, and the Tammanies of Indiana and Illinois, made him possible as the Presidential candidate. Charles F. Murphy and his followers selected Mr. Cox not only because he was regarded as a "wet" candidate but because he was the most available instrument for striking at the Wilson Administration. Whatever may be Governor Cox's personal qualities, however able and well intentioned he may be, he starts his presidential campaign with the heaviest burden of any candidate for a generation—the indorsement of Tammany Hall.

American politics so far as Presidential candidates are concerned, have settled down once more to the dead level of "availability." Only the mere accident that they were residents of Ohio makes Mr. Harding and Mr. Cox the candidates of their parties. Their selection represents no higher aspirations than the desire to win. The back wards forces in both parties are now in control; the elements which have made for progress, for idealism, for the general betterment of political life, have suffered a temporary eclipse. It is one of the ironies of history that the least worthy should have gained the upper hand in both parties at the very moment when the nation needs its best, its ablest, and its most unselfish men in high places.

Hidden in a Cupboard.

ARTILLERYMAN DISAPPEARED FOR TWELVE MONTHS.

Looking thin and pale, a man, who had been concealed for over twelve months in a cupboard formed of a dummy chest of drawers, appeared in the dock at Exeter. Beside him was his wife, and they were jointly charged with defrauding the Postmaster-General of £290.

They were Charles and Sarah Holland, and the story told by prosecuting counsel was that when the man came home in December, 1918, from France, where he was serving with the Garrison Artillery, he did not return. He and his wife then planned, it was alleged, that he should remain at home. Mrs. Holland was receiving 34s. 6d. a week for herself and two children. The officer in command of Holland's battery failed to notify the Post Office that the man had not returned, and the separation allowance went on as usual. With her husband's assistance, Mrs. Holland hollowed out a chest of drawers in a bedroom, and into this the man crept whenever there were callers in the house.

For more than a year Holland remained in his place of concealment, and during that time his wife received nearly £100 in allowances. A remark made in the street by a little child of the Hollands' to a companion led to inquiries and a visit by the police. Mrs. Holland, however, evaded the inquiries, but later, in consequence of information given by the family, Detective Edwards saw Mrs. Holland, and demanded he search her house. The husband was discovered in a cupboard of a recess, hidden behind some clothes. This formed an alternative place of refuge.

Mrs. Holland broke into tears in the dock during a part of her evidence, and Holland also seemed to feel his position acutely.

The magistrate committed for trial both husband and wife, but granted bail.

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A Bible Prophecy About to Be Fulfilled.

One of the most momentous events which have happened as a result of the war is the decision of the Peace Conference to hand over Palestine to the Jews.

Thus is the old Biblical prophecy that the Jews would one day return to the land of their forefathers about to be realized.

At the present time Britain is administering and policing the country. Since the Armistice we have given Jerusalem a much-needed water-supply and a complete drainage system, built railways and roads, thrown bridges across the Jordan, and generally opened up the country.

Now, as time and conditions are ripe, Palestine will gradually pass over to Jewish control. Already a powerful Zionist Commission is sitting in Jerusalem, discussing ways and means.

The extremists among the Arabs do not like the idea of the country passing under Jewish domination. But just as Belgium is the cockpit of the Western world, so in olden times was Palestine the battleground of the old empires. Here they met and settled their differences. It was this succession of wars that drove the Jews out of their land, and thus they were scattered over the face of the earth.

Although no larger than Belgium, Palestine is one of the most remarkable tracts of territory in the world. It boasts every kind of soil, from sand and broken limestone to rich red and chocolate loam. Every variety of climate, too, may be experienced. You can indulge in a game of snowballs on Mount Hermon, and an hour or two later be baked in the tropical heat of the Jordan valley.

"Flowing With Milk And Honey."

As a result, every kind of temperate and tropical produce can be grown. Joshua described Palestine as a land flowing with milk and honey. In the production of the latter commodity it has no equal. At Jaffa a hundred hives have been known to yield six tons of honey in a season, nearly three times as much per hive as the maximum yield of the great honey farms of Australia and America. Some of the finest wine is that made from Palestine grapes; while the best oranges are those obtained from the groves that have sprung up around Jaffa and Gaza. As a wheat-growing country Palestine cannot be beaten.

The Jews are aware of its unique possibilities, and even under Turkish rule many of them were settled there. When war broke out there were some fifty Jewish colonies scattered throughout the land, owning between them about eleven per cent. of the cultivated area of the country. This land had been purchased by Baron Rothschild and other wealthy Jews and given to their co-religionists. They established agricultural schools and various industries, such as wine-making, silk factories, glass works, perfume distilleries, soap and candle works, butter and cheese making, and the like.

But the Turk gave the colonists little encouragement. Instead of encouraging the development of the country, he only hindered it. Nevertheless, the annual trade of Jaffa rose from £760,000 to £2,000,000 between 1904 and 1912. Less than forty years ago there were 20,000 Jews in the country; in 1904 there were 170,000. The total population of the land to-day is about 680,000, against 3,000,000 in Bible times.

By adopting more modern methods, Palestine should become one of the richest agricultural countries for its size in the world. It is desirable, too, to create a harbour at Jaffa for the encouragement of shipping. At present steamers have to lie over a mile off the shore and load and unload their cargoes in small boats. Then the minerals of the Dead Sea region should prove a veritable Klondike if properly developed. This region is rich in oil, coal, sulphur, salt, and other valuable commodities.—Tit Bits.

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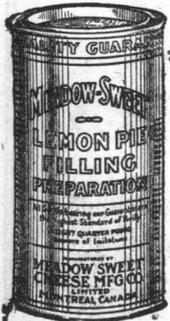
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The Cedars of Lebanon.

The wholesale destruction of art during the war brought forth protests from all parts of the world, but the chopper's axe has nearly destroyed the cedars of Lebanon, and there has been little comment. According to the Argonaut, the cedar forests that were historic when the armies of Sennacherib laid waste about 700 B.C., as recorded in the Bible and mentioned

in the Psalms of David, were raised during the war by the Turks. Individual trees produced a profound impression. There were many that were forty-two feet in height and often the spread of the branches was greater than the height.

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