

GEOGRAPHY-SOCIOLOGY

Politics Called Accidents Of Birth and Environment

Geographer Shows How Geographical, Economic and Social Forces Influence Voting Habits of People

POLITICS, like shapes of noses, color of skin and language, are still accidents of birth and early environment for many of the millions who will cast their ballots on Nov. 8. Many will vote the Republican or Democratic tickets because their fathers did so.

In the South, voting Democratic is just as indigenous as growing cotton. In rural New York, Republican votes are picked with the autumn apples.

The political habits of the nation are the subject of scientific study in a monumental work resulting from twenty years of original research by Dr. C. O. Paullin. Published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the American Geographical Society, the "Atlas of Historical Geography of the United States" contains among its maps a series illustrating the votes in all Presidential elections.

That the prevailing voting habits of any region spring from a complex interplay of geographical, economic and social forces is observed by Dr. John K. Wright, librarian of the American Geographical Society and editor of the atlas.

As all know, the outstanding contrast in the East is between the Democratic South and Republican North. Between the eastern and western halves of the country there are pronounced differences. In the East lies an intermediate zone of doubtful states where the outcome of elections is often decided. In this borderland of wavering loyalties are small areas that persistently show majorities for their favorite parties.

To the west Republicanism prevails along the Pacific Coast, the mining counties of California, Nevada, Idaho and western Montana tend toward the Democrats, and there is a generally Republican belt in eastern Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.

A permanent political complexion was carried on the flow of settlement in many cases. Those who settled Oklahoma from the North brought Republi-

canism with them to the northern counties, while the southern and southeastern counties were settled from Texas and other states and have remained Democratic.

In western North Carolina, northern Georgia and the Cumberland plateau region of Kentucky and Tennessee, where small farmers worked poor land without slave help in the early days, Republicanism is ingrained. The Republican character of the Ozarks of southern Missouri has similar origin. But in richer agricultural land of the Appalachian Valley of Tennessee, the elephant also grazes peacefully today because the area was settled by non-slave-holding farmers from Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Deeply rooted in such facts of geography are party politics that will influence this November's voting.

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STATISTICS-PUBLIC HEALTH

Cancer More Prevalent Among Industrial Classes

CANCER is more prevalent among the industrial class than other classes of society. Deaths from cancer are continuously increasing. The increase during the past two years has been unprecedented and is greater among men than among women. Cancer deaths are increasing more rapidly among Negroes than among white people. Overweight persons past middle age succumb more readily to cancer than do men of average weight.

These facts, based on current statistics and a careful statistical study of the records of industrial and ordinary policyholders for 20 years since 1911 were presented to the New York Academy of Medicine in a paper by Dr. Louis I. Dublin, third vice-president and statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

His records showed that the death-rate from cancer of the mouth is about twice as high among the industrial

policyholders as among men in better economic circumstances. That from cancers of the stomach, liver and esophagus is about one-third higher in the industrial class.

Cancer mortality formerly was considerably higher for women than for men, but due to the more rapid rate of rise among males, the cancer deathrates are now practically the same for both sexes. Among men between the ages of 45 and 74, cancer of the stomach, liver and esophagus constitutes the largest single group of malignant growths, being responsible for nearly half of all cancer deaths in the period 1927-1931. Among women of the same ages cancer of the stomach and liver constitutes the largest single group.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

SEISMOLOGY

Submarine Quake Reported Off Coast of Alaska

THE BOTTOM of the sea off the coast of Alaska was shaken by an earthquake on Sunday morning, Oct. 16, seismologists of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey announced after examining data transmitted from nine observatories through Science Service. The epicenter, or point of greatest motion, was located in latitude 54 degrees north, longitude 158 degrees west. This is south of the Alaska peninsula and east of Kodiak Island. Time of origin was 7:08.1 a. m., eastern standard time.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Wonders of Medicine

SEVEN WONDERS of modern medicine were listed by Dr. Bowman C. Crowell, associate director of the the American College of Surgeons, during the annual session of the College in St. Louis.

1. **IMMUNITY or RESISTANCE to diseases.**
2. **ANESTHESIA and ANALGESIA giving relief from pain.**
3. **ANTISEPSIS and ASEPSIS preventing wound infection and blood poisoning.**
4. **VITAMINS and FOOD VALUES.**
5. **LIGHT and VENTILATION.**
6. **ORGANOTHERAPY such as feeding liver to pernicious anemia patients, giving insulin to diabetics and thyroid gland extract to cretins.**
7. **PERIODIC HEALTH EXAMINATIONS to prevent the effects of certain diseases such as cancer.**