

The Theory of our Government

Every citizen an equal partner in
power, opportunity and privilege.

As in a partnership also equal in respon-
sibility.

Partner bound to exercise skill
diligence in promoting the commu-
nity ^{ness}
not merely for his own advantage
for the advantage of his partners also.

So the citizen becomes a partner charged
with a public trust for the benefit and
advantage of every other citizen.

izenship. Its answer must depend upon
the view he takes -

- 1- Of each party's professed object
- 2- Of the controlling forces which
rule and animate each, as judged
of by its history and record and
- 3- Of the means by which each pur-
poses to effect ~~its~~ the result
professed to have in view -
avoids its contradictions.

Human men will ever find a party
is exactly all they would wish it to be.
The ^{instinctive} desire for something better is all
that keeps every human institution from

The question then shapes itself in some-
what different form and the query of
the good citizen is, "Which of these two
contending forces do I believe will
be most likely to promote the moral
and material welfare of the state
and nation by shaping its course
and ~~at~~ administering its forces per-
during the ensuing period of rule?"

This is a question every honest man must
ask and answer for himself before
exercising the formal function of cit- =

ire of farm ~~is~~ ^{is} little better than the
mercenary whose sword is at the beck
of the highest bidder. Men intuitively
perceive that in order to be of any
practical account they must be upon
one side or the other.

Unfortunately the question ~~of~~ ^{to} which party
a man will give his strength is rarely asked
except when the battle between them has
already been joined. In some respects
it cannot be decided before.

So that the first question the honest citizen will ask himself is, What party shall I become an integral part of — an active force in?

As a rule he will ally himself with one or the other of the two great parties who so nearly divide the country. Very few men like the role of the independent — on the look of overthrowing both. There is an inherent ~~not~~ appreciation of the fact that a man or a clique who that is brought and sold by the prom-

never unless by gradual disintegration
one is destroyed and a new party con-
tinuing the protesting elements and their
affinities is builded on its ruins. In
any event the first duty of the man
who would do his share in govern-
ment and discharge weight the duties
of citizenship is to become a partisan
to associate himself with others like minded
with himself to ^{accomplish certain spe-} ~~do his political~~
cific results;

resolution either standing alone or
in some minority organization.

In either case, he becomes in effect
a part of one party's ^{forces} or of the other — the
ally of the one or the other. He does
~~the~~
the securing for one set of ideas —
for one combination of men on the
other. In this manner he may perhaps
defeat and demoralize both each in
turn but it is very rarely that he
accomplishes the results at which
he aims by such methods perhaps

men have neglected their duty and
left the work of government to unworthy
hands.

Independents - Curious - patriotic
and usually brave.

Objection - no suggestions on practical -

tributory forces - how Rep. now
democratic.

Two great parties must always exist -

One or the other must shape the policy
of state and nation. Which?

Every man who desires to do his politi-
cal duty must ally himself with one
of these parties or have an independent

They are disgraceful, we hear the cry
on every side that decent men cannot
engage in politics. It is termed a dirty
pool in which men of character and
reputation cannot properly engage. The
almost universal voice declares politics to
mean treachery, violation of the law and
perstitution of the ballot for the accom-
plishment of party purposes or individ-
ual aims.

What does this show? Simply that
the wise, the true, the honest and the

governmental factor.

Our government has become a government by parties and that man who desires to do his duty as a citizen must not only be faithful in the use of the ballot but active in shaping the policy and character of his party.

There has grown up among us and especially in the minds of many of the most cultured earnest and highminded of our young men the idea that politics or partisanship is an

evils brought about by many malignant
activity and permitted by your culpable
slight.

Now is the mere act of voting a
discharge of this duty. In fact it is usu-
ally the smallest part of that duty. The
first and highest duty of the citizen is
to see to it that he has a chance to
express his will by his vote. A man
may vote early and often from the
cradle to the grave and yet except
by accident never become an admini-

away be false; you may be wise and
I may be foolish. In that case, I have
every citizen has
a right to demand that you should
use your wisdom, your strength your
courage to defend them from my ruth-
less ambition, my sordid lust, my
perblind folly, and when disaster
comes by your neglect you cannot
excuse yourself by pointing to my
evil acts. My children even will have
the right to rise up and curse you
for failing to save them from the

Our government is founded upon the wisdom and patriotism and honesty of the majority. We say there are more good than bad, more true than false, more honest than dishonest, more wise than foolish. But unless each one thinks and speaks and acts, the result is not the verdict of the people or a majority, but only of a part.

A man cannot at will excuse himself from this duty. You may be right and I may be wrong; you may be true and

as if my right hand held the sword.
This responsibility is not ~~lessened~~ affected
by rank or ability. A strong man
may do more but the weak is not
thereby excused from doing. It is not
leaders or statesmen who make the fate
of the country insure its prosperity and
guarantee its safety, but the people. Gener-
als and armaments cannot insure vic-
tory if a picket sleeps upon his post.

Efficiently performed.

This is a duty that cannot be shirked. The man who does nothing is as responsible for misgovernment as the man who actively corrupts. No man can be a good citizen who is not an active political force. Our nation is a compact for good government between each one of her fifty millions and every other one. My rights and the rights and liberties of my children are in your keeping. Your rights and the rights and liberties of your children are in my keeping. By my slothfulness or my silence I may destroy as surely

In theory we are a race of uncorrupted kings.
On every brow is the circle of authority and
every hand holds the truncheon of command.

This joint power and several responsibility
imposes on every man the duty of studying
not merely political questions but
his own relations to political facts.
In other words it requires every man to
be a practical politician so far as to
see to it that his portion of this
collective rulership, is rightly and