

**PRIMARY
ELECTIONS
IN IOWA**

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Primary Elections in Iowa by Frank E. Horack

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FRANK E. HORACK

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IOWA APPLIED HISTORY SERIES
EDITED BY BENJAMIN F. SHAMBAUGH

PRIMARY ELECTIONS
IN IOWA

BY
Edward
FRANK E. HORACK

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THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA



EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Anal. 4-23-36

AMERICAN democracy seems inclined to reject any intermediary between itself and the government. In Iowa the caucus system of the early Territorial days soon gave way to the delegate convention system of nominating candidates for elective offices. And now, in our own time, the convention system promises to be all but completely supplanted by the more direct system of the regulated party primary.

Moreover, it is not altogether certain that the present party primary will long endure as the nominating system of democracy. Indeed, a non-partisan primary has already been provided for the commission governed cities of the State. Will this method of nominating candidates be ultimately extended until all party primaries are fused into a single State-wide non-partisan preliminary election?

It is evident that in the regulation of primary elections three points at least are pressing for immediate attention: (1) the enactment of a measure (similar to the bill passed by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly, but vetoed by the Governor) embodying the principle of the Oregon plan in the selection of United States Senators; (2) the enactment of legislation providing for an adequate presidential

preference primary; and (3) the enactment of comprehensive corrupt practices legislation which will be applicable to primary elections.

To fully understand the place of the primary in our system of government and to intelligently direct its course of development requires a knowledge of its history as well as of its purpose.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND EDITOR
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY 1912

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

To make popular government really democratic is one of the great political problems of the present age. It matters little that strict election laws are on the statute books if the foundation upon which popular government rests, the primary, is not adequately regulated. Whatever promotes the participation of the masses in political affairs awakens and keeps alive their interest in government, and should on that account be encouraged. The direct primary has been found to meet a real political need: indeed, the demand for comprehensive primary laws is as great to-day as the demand for the Australian ballot was twenty-five years ago.

In the following pages it has been the writer's purpose to give a brief historical analysis of American political methods in the nominations of candidates for elective offices and to discuss briefly the problems of nomination by direct popular vote in the State of Iowa.

FRANK E. HORACK

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY

