

Contempt Of The People

A most important nail in the structure of government was hit squarely on the head Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. Bryan said in his address before the Jane Jefferson club: "There is such a thing as contempt of the people and while it can not be punished as summarily as judges can punish contempt of the court, still it really deserves severer punishment."

Contempt for the sovereigns themselves he deemed a more serious offense than disrespect for the will of those whose power was conferred upon them by the people. In this lies the peculiar enormity of offenses committed in this state during recent years.

Mr. Bryan was right. The first of this series of crimes lay in the refusal of the legislature of 1903 to enact a law which the people of the state had demanded by 40,000 majority. The mandate of a constitutional amendment was defiantly disobeyed in the matter of an eight-hour law.

In this one unquestioned fact lay hidden enough of dire prophecy to have made all that has followed a matter of slight surprise.

To defy an explicit mandate of the constitution and to ignore the popular will expressed by an overwhelming vote—when such a thing is possible on the part of men elected to represent the people and make the laws of the state—gives reason to fear the worst.

Such a situation would have been impossible without concerted, extensive and atrocious corruption. This corruption must have entered not only into the legislature after it assembled, but must have penetrated the machinery of the prior election throughout the state. This is merely typical of the evil which is the supreme menace to all government and especially to republican institutions.

When the people lose faith in gov-

ernment as the source of justice and equity, as the embodiment of the common interests and of law which applies equally to all, then indeed is the crisis serious.

Officials who use the machinery of government for the private interest of but part of the people are assuming a responsibility of awful import.

Do they realize the arguments urged by those who seek to alter the basis of society, of those who insist that revolution is necessary before good can be accomplished?

"What folly it is," they say, "to talk of improvement through the government and laws you have today! The officials of government are but the paid tools of corporate wealth. If not paid outright, they are so infected with the prejudices of property interests, are so impregnated with the passions of capitalistic partisanship that they can not even pretend to do equal justice to all. Yet you continue to trust to such seeds as constitutional rights and equality before the law."

Such arguments have little weight when incorruptible legislatures pass laws for the weal of all the people; when executive officers enforce the laws without passion or prejudice, with equal justice to all parties concerned; when courts evince absolute superiority to partisan or corporate bias.

Then the loyal citizen who seeks to improve present conditions by earnest effort for gradual reform can denounce the sceptical with confidence.

But let the time ever come when the average citizen can not trust his government, whether of city, state or nation; trust it to be true to organic law, to equity and to impartial justice between man and man, and the foundations will rock beneath this republic.

The desire to purge the electorate of this city and state from fraud is one which should be encouraged.—Denver News.

"Tory Democracy" in America

"A surprising, indeed, a startling phenomenon," was the increased socialist vote and the abstention from voting of more than a million radical democrats at the last election, remarked President Schurman of Cornell university to the merchants of Fitchburg Monday night. "Is it not," he then inquired, "in its quiet, peaceful way, just as significant as the red flag which waved last week in the streets of St. Petersburg? Is it not, like that, a protest of good and honest citizens against what they believe to be injustice and the violation of the rights of man?"

It is interesting to find a college president taking this view and proceeding, as Dr. Schurman does, to advocate substantial concessions to the radical sentiment of the country. The democratic stay-at-homers seem to have had their votes counted, unofficially, without going to the polls. They are being taken into account by thinking men, and their influence probably is being felt today, as they had not dreamed that it would be, in the government of the country and in the formulation of the policies of the ruling party. Dr. Schurman is chiefly worthy of attention at this time because he represents a certain class that will never openly train with radical elements in politics, especially in elections and campaigns, and that always supports the candidates of what may be called the vested ruling power of

the land. Yet his utterances are probably representative in a peculiar sense of that section of opinion in the republican party which has the most presence, intelligence and freedom from the domination of selfish and monopolistic interests. It is the shrewd, far-seeing opportunist attitude of the old-time statesman who was the first to learn from the experience of mankind that "if there be not revolution there must be reform."

And so we find the president of Cornell speaking favorably of just so much socialism as may be embraced in the municipal ownership of water-works, gas works, electric lighting plants, the telephone system and street railways. He demands public protection from monopoly and, especially, government control of transportation rates on railroads. He calls for tariff revision in the downward direction, and he concedes the justice of the income tax that Mr. Bryan insists upon. "In any event," says Dr. Schurman, "I beg you to remember that if you would check the development of radicalism and socialism now so imminent, you must satisfy the demands for justice in taxation which are made by the supporters of Mr. Bryan, Mr. Watson and Mr. Debs." Nor does Dr. Schurman fail to advocate the independence of the Philippines—here again speaking for those who think as he does on that question, yet who have invariably voted for the party that was responsible for the conquest of the islands.

Now speeches like this from a republican furnish considerable insight into political conditions in America. It is remarkable how far the admission goes that much of the great pro-

test embodied in Bryanism is founded on truth and justice. Dr. Schurman shows, too, how much more real sympathy there is between certain features of Bryanism and certain features of republicanism than there is between the radicalism and the conservatism of the old democratic party. We get a hint, finally, of the enormous political strength a combination of the radical elements of the two parties would possess if those elements could be consolidated in one party and so led as to command the support of the middle as well as the lower economic strata of our population. But the fact that the radical democrats are separated from that portion of the republican party most in sympathy with them is a cardinal feature of the political situation, and illustrates once more the force in practical affairs of the old Latin proverb, "Divide et impera."—Springfield Republican.

Calling a Halt on the Usurer

The supreme court of the United States has struck a blow at usury, on a case coming up from a Missouri court, that will doubtless have its effect so far as banks are concerned. The case as we find it stated in a contemporary is one that was brought by the bank to collect a note of \$20,000, with interest at 8 per cent., and was resisted on the ground that the principal of the original note, which was for \$15,000, but compounded interest on the first note and also interest charged on an overdraft, a new note having been made to include all these charges. The court held that the bank must forfeit all interest since the making of the new note and could collect only the original \$15,000 and interest.

This may have a deterrent effect on those banks which charge and try to collect usurious interest, but there are worse sinners in this respect than any of the banks are. If some way can be found to suppress the loan sharks who flourish in every community it will prove a blessing to many an unfortunate. When one of these gentry lends money on good security, charges 10 per cent a month as interest, and after most of the principal has been paid takes the property pledged as security—that is the kind of business that needs to be taken in hand. It is going on all over the country, and though the operations may usually be conducted on a comparatively small scale they are none the less burdensome on those who are forced by necessity to submit to them. As a general thing those who borrow from banks are not forced to accept any conditions imposed on them, but the poor borrowers are often so hard pressed that they must accept any terms and then the blood is squeezed out of them without mercy.

In all ages the usurer has been unpopular, and in all ages he has flourished. The great cause of complaint against him is that he takes advantage of the necessities of his fellow beings. There have been Shylocks at all times and in all countries. Even the savage practices the art and squeezes his fellow savage. They are a class who belong exclusively to no country and no sect, for they are in all of them and of all of them. When a man is prosperous he can afford to laugh at them. When he reaches his last penny, when he has exhausted the last resource he finds some one ready to help him—for a consideration. The pound of flesh must be the penalty, and few escape its payment. If the law can reach the banks it ought to reach the lesser offenders.—New Haven Union.

Why We Grow Old

Bitter memories of a sinful life which has gone all wrong make premature furrows in the face, take the brightness from the eyes and the elas-

ticity from the step, and make one's life sapless and uninteresting.

We grow old because we do not know enough to keep young, just as we become sick and diseased because we do not know enough to keep well. Sickness is a result of ignorance and wrong thinking. The time will come when a man will no more harbor thoughts that will make him sick or weak than he would think of putting his hands into fire. No man can be sick if he always has right thoughts and takes ordinary care of his body. If he will think only of youthful thoughts he can maintain his youth far beyond the usual period.

If you would "be young when old" adopt the sun dial's motto—"I record none but hours of sunshine." Never mind the dark or shadowed hours. Forget the unpleasant, unhappy days. Remember only the days of rich experiences; let the others drop into oblivion.

It is said that "long livers are great hoppers." If you keep your hope bright in spite of discouragements, and meet all difficulties with a cheerful face, it will be very difficult for age to trace its furrows on your brow. There is longevity in cheerfulness.—Success.

The American Eagle

Our bald-headed eagle, so-called because the feathers on the top of his head are white, was called the Washington eagle by Audubon, the great naturalist. Like Washington, he is brave and fearless, and as his name and greatness are known the world over, so can the eagle soar to heights beyond others.

The eagle was adopted as the emblem of the United States in 1785, since when it has been used on the tips of flagpoles, coins, United States seals, and on the shield of liberty.—Globe-Democrat.

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