

LET US BE CALM

Theodore Roosevelt has for two or three years enjoyed a popularity with the American people of a kind which we may fairly say is unique in our history. The proportion of the citizenship that is convinced that he is its best representative in public life seems to be larger, as shown by election returns and otherwise, than the proportion that has felt a similar conviction with reference to any former leader. Herein lies the president's great strength as a man, a politician and a statesman.

But in the last few weeks we have witnessed a phenomenon of a very different nature. As the result of the peace conference there has risen an hysterical admiration for the president which is a phenomenon not at all unique. It has been paralleled repeatedly before in recent years. And unfortunately the parallel shows that each time the hysterics have appeared they have been followed sooner or later by a reversal of feeling which has turned the hero into a victim. Admiration, by its very excess, is transformed into ridicule, and hero worship, ashamed of itself, becomes scorn.

Admiral Dewey is the great exemplar. After our fit of national hysterics had lasted a year or two we had a revulsion of feeling. The unfortunate admiral may have made some errors of judgment, but they did not affect the question of his service to the country, and merely gave an opportunity for us to show that we were ashamed of our former spasms. We degraded the admiral in proportion to the heights to which we had previously raised him.

In another field of life there is the case of J. Pierpont Morgan. Three or four years ago the world shuddered at his name. There was nothing which was not possible to him, according to common belief. The spasm passed, and the name of Morgan has lost its startling pre-eminence.

Again, to come down to very petty things, there is the case of Hobson. His triumphal tours over the land were followed by much ridicule, and now even the ridicule has become tiresome and the man is simply ignored.

As long as our admiration of Roosevelt rested on the direct basis of our confidence in him he was safe. But now, when we begin to lose ourselves in the raptures of adoration, which are showing themselves everywhere, we place Roosevelt himself in peril. When adulation at length cloy and brings us nausea, Roosevelt will suffer, though the fault is not his own.

For Roosevelt's sake his admirers should calm themselves at once. In his coming battles he needs all the strength the support of the people can

give him. It will be a great loss if his power for good suffers by the recoil of an overwrought public opinion.—Chicago Record-Herald (rep.).

OFFICE BOYS EXAMINED

"Hully gee! Look er all de comin' politicians!" said Slasher Dick, the kid, as he swung around the corner into Lexington avenue at Forty-third street yesterday forenoon and saw 288 boys, from fourteen to eighteen years old, fighting for a place in the line in front of the Grand Central Palace.

"De line forms on de right!" one young fellow shouted, whose examination papers in the Belmont school at One Hundred and Eighty-third street entitled him to speak better United States. And the crowd surged over to the right of the big barn-door entrance of the Palace.

It was the civil service examination for the position of office boys under the municipality of New York, and the brightest boys from Coney Island to Mount Vernon were struggling to get into line.

The office boy is the first step in the line of promotion under the civil service rules. The examinations, presided over by Chief Examiner F. G. Ireland, of the Municipal Civil Service commission, began at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The street was full of boys. Out of 340 who made application 288 took the examination, and the questions asked, incidentally, might have puzzled many a gray head.

When the doors of the Grand Central Palace opened there was a rush, despite the line which formed, and the upstairs room was carried by assault, but when the examination room was entered and the atmosphere of law and order prevailed, every boy melted into the most proper young gentleman, and each sat quietly at a desk to wrestle, with knitted brow, over the questions that were to make or mar him. There were eight general questions in history, geography, etc.; six in arithmetic, and the writing of two letters.

All day the young fellows struggled, some with ready skill and careless ease and others with more deliberation. When the examination was over and the boys filed out there was a comparing of notes outside, and one big fellow read from the official list of questions to the crowd:

Question.—Different parts of the present United States were originally settled by the English, the Dutch, the Spanish, the French. Name an important city of each class and state accurately where it is.

"The English settled Brooklyn where it is still spoken; the Dutch settled Fifth avenue, where the Vans still live; the Spanish settled St. Augustine, Fla., but were driven out by alligators and the walls of the city still stand; the French settled New Rochelle, which is up beyond Harlem, and use the overhead trolley to get in to civilization," was the prompt answer of one ambitious youth.

Question.—A person wishes to go by water from the state of Pennsylvania to the Gulf of Mexico. Starting from Pittsburg, by what streams would he make his journey and through or by what states would he pass?

"By the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence, Long Island sound, the Narrows and the Atlantic ocean. He wouldn't miss New York on the way of course, and the other states don't count."

Question.—Suppose there is a dull season in the office where you are employed. What, in your opinion, would be the best way for you to occupy your time?

"Go to the ball game," was the prompt answer in chorus.

"Taken as a lot," said Chief Examiner Ireland, "the boys who were examined today are as bright a lot of lads as have been here for years.

The answers to the questions will be carefully examined, and if the boys pass they will be put on the eligible list. The number who pass will be greater than one might think.—New York World.

DEPEW DISCREDITED

Senator Depew has made a tardy refund of the sum lost to the Equitable Life Assurance society through a loan to the Depew Improvement company—a concern which carried out a land scheme near Buffalo, N. Y. When the loss to the society first became known to the public Mr. Depew insisted that it was none of his affairs; that the loan was made to the Depew company before he became connected with the company, and that the alleged guarantee which he had given to the Equitable was not binding upon him in law.

The merits of that defense need little discussion now. The senator has drawn his check for the amount, thus confessing that his earlier story was untrue and was given out in the

hope of protecting him from the payment of the money and from the public condemnation which he deserved.

Depew's connection with the Equitable society, including the \$25,000 a year retaining fee which he received from it, was wholly discreditable to him. He was paid the retainer and given a high place in the councils of the company because he was a handy tool for bigger men and to pay him for his services to them.

No wonder there are cynics when such a man has posed for decades as a teacher and leader of the young people of the land.—Denver News.

THE SENATOR'S JUDGMENT

"Do you mean to tell me you offered that played-out ward heeler a thousand dollars for his influence?" asked Senator Sorghum.

"Yes," said the willing but inexperienced worker. "I was afraid you would call it political corruption."

"My friend, that isn't political corruption. That's frenzied finance."—Washington Star.

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